

# Scriptural Truths

## E-Mail Meditations

The Lord May Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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### The Things God Cannot Do

#### Introduction

One of the great blessings of the revealed knowledge about God is the truth that there are things which God cannot do. We normally think of that which God can do, and I am aware that little children sometimes sing: “My God can do anything”, but it is not an accurate statement for the scriptures reveal a number of things God cannot do. In some cases the word “cannot” is used, and at other times it is the truth being taught. For the unsaved, it is a truth which ought to cause trembling and fear, for death is never an escape from His judgment (Heb 9:27). There is an afterlife (Lk. 16:23) and a place of eternal punishment (Rev. 20:10). For the believer, it is a cause of thanksgiving to know that because the scripture cannot be broken (Jn. 10:35), we are assured of eternal life (Jn. 3:16).

Of course, throughout life there are those who are skeptical. Others, in genuineness, may ask, “If God is so powerful, why does He not do something about the mass shootings, or the natural disasters, or is it that He just does not care?” There is an explanation. The truth is there are things God cannot do! This is based on several observations which are supported by the scripture of truth.

Reasons for this are:

- a) Because they are His declarations of His purposes which cannot be changed. These are commonly called His decrees.
- b) Because He has given man a free will and not made man a robot.
- c) Because to do them would be against His moral judgment.
- d) Simply because He is God.
- e) There are things God could do but won't.
- f) There are things God cannot change or do because to do so would be to call His own character or being into question.

#### The “Cannot’s” of God

1) **There are things God cannot do because they are His declarations of His purposes which cannot be changed. These are commonly called His decrees.**

- a) Since this is not a paper on the doctrine of the decrees of God, it will not be dealing with the matters of sin, free will, etc. A verse from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament will supply the evidence for the truth of the decrees or declarations of God's unchangeable purposes.
  - i) “The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand. (Isa. 14:24)

- ii) “Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ.” (Eph. 1:9-10)
- b) Some of His purposes are:
- i) To predestinate us to the adoption of children: “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.” (Eph. 1:5)
  - ii) To: “Make him my Firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.” (Psa. 89:27)
  - iii) “And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.” (1 Cor. 15:28)
  - iv) “Him (Christ), being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God.” (Acts 2:23)
  - v) To exalt and glorify Christ: “Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.” (Isa. 52:13; 1 Cor. 15:25)
- 2) **There are things God cannot do because He has given man a free will and not made man a robot.**
- a) He cannot make man accept His offer of salvation.
- i) “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden.” (Matt. 11:28)
  - ii) “Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.” (Jn. 4:48)
  - iii) “And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.” (Jn. 5:40)
- 3) **There are things God cannot do because to do them would be against His moral judgment.**
- a) He cannot be anything other than holy:
- i) “There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.” (1 Sam. 2:2)
  - ii) “God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.” (1 Jn. 1:5)
  - iii) “Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool; for He is holy.” (Psa. 99:5)
- b) God cannot be prejudiced:
- i) “For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward.” (Deut. 10:17)
  - ii) “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.” (Acts 10:34, 35)
- c) God cannot break a promise:
- i) “My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.” (Psa. 89:34)
  - ii) “For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.” (2 Cor. 1:20)
- d) God cannot abandon the individual in life who trusts in Him:
- i) “He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” (Heb. 13:5)
- e) He cannot change an individual’s destiny after death:
- i) “But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.” (Lk. 16:25-26)
- f) He cannot look on iniquity:
- i) “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity.” (Hab. 1:13)
- g) He cannot ignore sin:
- i) “Thus saith the LORD unto this people, Thus have they loved to wander, they have not refrained their feet, therefore the LORD doth not accept them; he will now remember their iniquity, and visit their sins.” (Jer. 14:10)
- h) He cannot forgive sin without recognition of the seriousness of the crime committed. Sin must be judged and only then can forgiveness be granted.
- i) “In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” (Eph. 1:7)

- i) God cannot stop loving His own:
  - i) “The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.” (Jer. 31:3)

**4) There are things God cannot do, simply because He is God.**

- a) God cannot grow weary:
  - i) “Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding.” (Isa. 40:28)
- b) God cannot be frustrated, but he can bring the devices of men to nought:
  - i) “The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect.” (Psa. 33:10)
  - ii) “Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us.” (Isa. 8:10)
- c) God cannot die for:
  - i) “The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms” (Deut. 33:27)
- d) He cannot be limited in His sovereignty:
  - i) “Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.” (1 Chron. 29:11-12)
- e) He cannot be limited in any way, He is the Almighty:
  - i) “Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee.” (Jer. 32:17)
  - ii) “But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.” (Matt. 19:26)
- f) He cannot answer every prayer I make, they must be according to His will:
  - i) “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us: And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” (1 Jn. 5:14-15)
- g) He cannot be wrong, a matter is not right because He did it, but because He did it, it is right:
  - i) “As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.” (2 Sam. 22:31)
  - ii) “The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.” (Psa. 145:17)
- h) He cannot do that which is unbecoming to Him:
  - i) “For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” (Heb. 2:10)
- i) He cannot be satisfied with anything less than that which is less than perfect:
  - i) “I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.” (Ecc. 3:14)
- j) He cannot learn anything for that implies ignorance:
  - i) “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.” (Rom. 11:33-36)
  - ii) “In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” (Col. 2:3)
- k) He cannot change:
  - i) “For I am the LORD, I change not.” (Mal. 3:6)

- l) He cannot be tempted:
  - i) “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil.” (Jam. 1:13)
- m) He cannot deny himself:
  - i) “If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.” (2 Tim. 2:13)
- n) He cannot lie:
  - i) “That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie.” (Heb. 6:18)
- o) He cannot faint or be weary:
  - i) “Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding.” (Isa. 40:28)

**5) There are things God could do but won't**

- a) He will not remember your sins:
  - i) “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.” (Isa. 43:25)
  - ii) “And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” (Jer. 31:34)
- b) He will not send another flood:
  - i) “And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.” (Gen. 9:11)
- c) He will not let sinners into the city foursquare:
  - i) “And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.” (Rev. 21:16; 27)

**6) There are things God cannot change or do because to do so would be to call His own character or being into question.**

- a) He cannot change the fact of:
  - i) The “Judgment Seat”, for he says:
    - 1. “For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” (Rom. 14:11)
  - ii) The earth being filled with the glory of the Lord:
    - 1. “But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.” (Num. 14:21)
- b) He cannot change the Melchisedec Priesthood of the Lord for it is recorded:
  - i) “The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.” (Psa. 110:4)
  - ii) “For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.” (Heb. 7:21)
- c) He cannot let His word be ineffective for He says:
  - i) “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” (Isa. 55:11)

In concluding, we can in sincerity thank God for His grace toward us in delivering us from idols incapable of functioning, and to know the living God who can and cannot do things according to His own perfections and character.

... Rowan Jennings