

How Big God Is
March 4, 2018

I was watching a nature show one day about a bear cub, and the adventures he was having. One of the adventures had to do with being chased by a mountain lion who wanted to make a meal of the cub. After quite a chase the bear cub was finally cornered by the lion at a stream. The young bear cub, seeing no way to get away, turned toward the mountain lion and roared. The mountain lion stood there watching him roar, turned and ran off. What the bear cub did not see was that momma bear had come up behind him, stood on her hind legs and was also roaring at the lion. The lion had great faith in the ability of the mother bear to defeat the lion.

A missionary was once asked, "How can I have greater faith?" The missionary answered, "You don't need greater faith. You need a greater God."

The main point this morning is this:

Who your faith is in is more important than the size of your faith.

Who your faith is in is more important than the size of your faith. You can have great faith that a mouse will save you. But the mouse can't help you at all. Or you can have small faith in a great God and you will find the help you need. Jesus said if you only have faith the size of a mustard seed you can accomplish great things. He was speaking of small faith in a big God.

So how big is the God you are trusting in? There are many people today who believe in a small god. You can hear them say things like,
"God can't forgive what I've done." or
"God can't do anything about my problem." or
"God isn't even aware I'm alive."

Some believe God is too weak to solve the world's problems. Others believe God doesn't know enough to solve the world's problems. Still other people believe that God isn't good enough to want to solve the world's problems. All of these beliefs are in a small god.

That isn't the god I believe in. Let me tell you about my God. I believe in the God of Genesis, the God revealed to us in the Bible. I encourage you to... **Believe in the God of the Bible.**

Genesis 1:1 (NIV) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

It takes a big God to make a universe. There is a story that Sir Isaac Newton made an elaborate clockwork model of the solar system. **(PICTURE)** When someone remarked on how clever he was to construct such an intricate mechanism Newton replied that the Good Lord must be a lot cleverer still to have constructed the real thing. Indeed, it takes a big God to create a universe.

How big is the God you are trusting in? God reveals to us in the Bible what He is like and expects us to believe Him. He reveals that He is a big God.

The God of the Bible is all-powerful.

Genesis 17:1 (NIV) ... the LORD appeared to him (Abram) and said, "I am God Almighty...

This is one of the names of God. In Hebrew it is *El Shaddai*. Translated it means God almighty or God all-powerful.

A young boy traveling by airplane to visit his grandparents sat beside a man who happened to be a seminary professor. The boy was reading a Sunday school take-home paper when the professor thought he would have some fun with the boy. "Young man," said the professor, "If you can tell me something God can do, I'll give you a big, shiny apple." The boy thought for a moment and then replied, "Mister, if you can tell me something God can't do, I'll give you a whole barrel of apples!"

God Almighty can do anything. He can meet any need you have, for...

Luke 1:37 For nothing is impossible with God.

Since God created all the power in the universe, God's power is much greater still. People balk at the miracles in the Bible. But if God created the universe, then healing someone is only a minor miracle by comparison. Walking on water or changing water into wine would be very simple for such a God. Just because He does not do them everyday does not mean He cannot. He created a universe. There is nothing He cannot do.

You may face a problem this week that is too big for you to solve. But its not too big for God. You may face a people problem, a relationship problem this week. Maybe there is someone you have trouble dealing with. God can help you with that. Or maybe you will create a problem for yourself through your own sin. God can help you there too. You may come to the end of yourself in this problem, But there is nothing you will face this week that is too big for God to handle. God is almighty. Nothing is impossible for God.

God expects you to trust in Him as God almighty. So... **Believe in God's ability to meet your need.**

The God of the Bible is all-knowing.

Imagine what problems in your life you could solve if you knew everything. You don't know everything, but God does.

1 Chronicles 28:9 (NIV) ... the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts.

If you knew yourself as well as God does you could battle sin with more success. If you knew the people you are dealing with as well as God does, you would understand their point of view and be able to relate to them better. If you knew what events were going to happen around you, you could avoid problems like traffic backups and accidents. You would know exactly when to leave so that you would never be late.

Well God DOES know everything. And that is part of how God can help you. He can give you direction and help to face whatever you will face this week. He has all knowledge.

I know some of you have heard this story before. Children were lining up for lunch in the cafeteria of a church school. At the head of the table was a bowl of juicy apples. A teacher wrote a note and placed it next to the apples: "Take only ONE. God is watching." At the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate cookies. Someone had written another note and put it next to the cookies. It read, "Take as many as you want. God is watching the apples."

It is a funny story. But it views God as small. A god who can only watch one thing at a time, like a human, isn't a very big God. Such a God is limited in knowledge. The God of the Bible is no such a God. Our God is big. He knows everything.

Hebrews 4:13 (NIV) Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight.

The All-Knowing God can help you make better decisions. So...
Believe God knows everything.

All power and knowledge are dangerous things unless one is good. And I believe this too about my God.

The God of the Bible is good.

Paul, the missionary, reveals this truth about God.

Romans 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him...

Everything God does for us is for our good. God does nothing that is not good for all His creation. He is not a kill-joy. He is a protector. Every time my God tells me not to do something, it is to protect me. Every time my God tells me to do something, it is for my good. He has only my best interests at heart. Always. Always!

When you give your children rules, the rules are to protect them. "No running in the house" is to protect them. "Stop and look both ways before crossing the street" is to protect them. "Don't play around the stove" is to protect them. Even such things as "do your homework before going out to play" is to protect them. These things are all for their good.

Trust God because He loves you. This kind of love always does what is best for the one loved. People today use the word love in lots of ways. Some, when they tell you they love you, are only thinking of themselves. They are not thinking of what is best for you. They are only thinking about what they want.

God tells us He loves us too. But His love is focused on what is best for us. To believe that God is good is to believe that He has our best interests in mind always. This is reflected in His actions, like sending us a Savior. God so loved the world that He sent us the savior we needed.

The God of the Bible is faithful.

I have been through some tough times in my life. But God has never let me down. God has been faithful to provide guidance and help when it was needed. God has kept His promises to me. We learn of God's faithfulness in passages such as Joshua 21.

Joshua 21:45 (NIV) Not one of all the LORD's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.

Most all people will let you down sooner or later. No one you know is perfect. They will forget they had something else to do when they promised to meet you. Or they will be prevented by circumstances from keeping their promise. They will change their mind. Or they will lie. Everyone will let you down sometime... except my God.

God knows all things and has all power. So when He makes a promise, He knows He can keep it. And He always does. God never lies, never forgets, never changes His mind about a promise He has made.

And God has made some great promises to us. He has promised to forgive us, to put His Spirit in us, to preserve us, to train us in righteousness, to make us holy, to give us glory and eternal life. And all of these are promises to us who serve Jesus.

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NIV) For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ.

If you want to experience the promises of God. They are yours when you live by faith in Jesus.

Trust that God will keep His promises to you.

The God of the Bible is all-present.

Have you ever gotten separated from your parents when you were a little child? Scary isn't it? Maybe you were in the woods, or at the mall, or at the carnival. You started whipping around trying to look in all directions at once. You started calling out. You were frightened.

Well that kind of thing will never happen with the all-present God. God is always present with His people whom He has given the Holy Spirit. King David was one of the few in the Old Testament that had the Spirit upon him. This is what he wrote in Psalm 139.

Psalm 139:7-10 (NIV) Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

By the Holy Spirit Jesus promised to always be with His followers. God is never far from you. It only feels that way when we are far from God, when our hearts and actions are

not pursuing fellowship with God. It isn't that God has left you. It is that you have drifted away from God.

But you can change that today. **Believe that God is always with you.**

You can turn things around today. Turn back to God. Turn to Him in prayer. Tell Him you feel the distance and know it is your fault, not His. Renew your commitment Him, to your relationship with Him.

Choose to believe the truth of God as He has presented it to us in the Bible. And start reading it, praying it, fellowshiping with God. Learn who He is, what He is like, and how He wants you to live. Today, you can return to God. I encourage you to do so. Come to Him, now, in prayer.