

Counting on Character  
May 26, 2013

The movie, Iron Man 3, has been in theatres now for most of a month. My youngest son saw it on Mother's Day and was telling me a little bit about it. He said it was a good movie. Iron Man, for those who don't know, is a super hero. Super heroes are people with exceptional skills or abilities that far exceed those of normal people. They can fly, or are super strong, or can manipulate their body in some way. One of my favorites was **Elongated Man**. You may never have heard of him. He wasn't one of the more popular super heroes, but I liked him. There was a good bit of comedy involved in that comic.

Maybe you have dreamed of being a superhero. I did when I was growing up. I imagined myself with superpowers, able to help fight crime and rescue people and such things. Our world is so messed up with sin it is natural to want some kind of supernatural help in dealing with our problems.

The truth is, we do have a super hero. We have a superhero God. The creator of heaven and earth has super powers. And we can take comfort in His powers this morning as we face life in a difficult world. I want to share with you, this morning, the super powers of God.

**God has three super powers. The first one is this: God is all powerful, or omnipotent.**

**Luke 1:37 (NIV)** ... nothing is impossible with God.

(Genesis 17:1; Isaiah 45:11-12; Ephesians 3:20-21)

God is super powerful. There is nothing God cannot do, except the illogical. For instance, God cannot make a square circle. There are also things God chooses not to do. God gives mankind freewill, and God will not force man to do anything. But beyond these there is nothing God cannot do. Nothing is impossible for God.

God uses His power to accomplish His goals. God uses His power to fulfill His plans. When the Israelites were slaves in Egypt, God purposed to rescue them. He used His power to do so. He said He would show His glory, that is, His power, to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, so that Pharaoh would let the Israelites free.

There have been many times over the centuries that a man or men have attempted to prevent God's revealed will from being accomplished. Some of these times are recorded in the Bible. For example, when King Herod found out that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem, he had all the children two and under killed in hopes of preventing this future king from taking the kingdom away from his family. But what God chooses to do, no one can prevent. God used His superpowers to thwart Herod's plan.

God uses His power to accomplish His goals. That includes all the goals God has for us. God uses His power to keep all of His promises to us. God uses His power to protect us.

Jesus protected His disciples. On the night before His death, He prayed, telling God that He, Jesus, had protected all of them. None of them was lost except Judas who was destined to betray Him.

**There is nothing that God determines to do that He cannot do. Let every Christian be comforted by this. Put your faith in the power of God. Make this part of your prayers. ("Lord, I believe You can do anything in my life.")**

The second super power God has is this: **God is all knowing, or omniscient.** This means that God knows everything.

**1 John 3:20 (NIV)** ... God... knows everything.

(1 Chronicles 28:9; Psalm 147:5; Matthew 6:8; Hebrews 4:13)

Imagine what problems in your life you could solve if you knew everything. If you knew yourself as well as God does, and knew the other people you are dealing with as well as God does, how much more successful you could be in communication? You could know if they understand your message. You could make sure you communicate your message until they fully understand it. You could make sure you understand what they want to communicate to you. While you and I do not have such ability, our God does.

God know what is in every person's heart. He knows everything that has happened in history and what is taking place today. He also, I believe, knows what will take place in the future. For example, on His last night with His apostles before His death, Jesus predicted that they would all desert Him. They all disagreed, especially Peter. And Jesus said that Peter would deny Jesus three times that night before the rooster crowed twice. That is exactly what happened. Now God could not make that happen without tempting Peter to lie, something God would never do. So God could not have orchestrated Peter's denial. A few weeks ago I told you about Cyrus. God could have orchestrated Cyrus. God could have purposely given a Persian couple a baby boy, convinced them to name him Cyrus, pushed the boy to become a leader and general, and helped him defeat the Babylonians so he would become king. God could have done all of that in order to proved Isaiah's prophecy 200 years before. But God could not have orchestrated Peter's denial, not without sinning. So I believe that God knows the future as well as the past and present.

Like the infinitely best chess player, God can look at all the possible moves in the future and know what is best for Him to do and when it is best for Him to do it. Having such knowledge gives God a great advantage. God uses such knowledge to accomplish His plans. God uses such knowledge to know what to promise. God knew He could keep all the promises He has made to us. That is why He promised what He did. He did not make to us any promises that He cannot keep. We can have great faith in God's promises.

One of those promises has God using His knowledge to help us live in daily life.

**James 1:5 (NIV)** If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God... and it will be given to him. (Read James 1:5-8)

The all-knowing God, because of His knowledge of all things, can help you make the right decisions in keeping with His purposes for you. Seek from God wisdom for living. Trust in God's instruction. And do what He tells you to do.

**There is nothing that God promises to do that He cannot do. Let every Christian be comforted by this. Put your faith in the knowledge of God. Make this part of your prayers. (*"Lord, I believe You can and will keep all of your promises to me."*)**

The third superpower of God is this: **God is all present, or omnipresent.**

**Jeremiah 23:23-24 (NIV)** "Am I only a God nearby," declares Yahweh, "and not a God far away? Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares Yahweh. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares Yahweh.

**Matthew 28:20 (NIV)** "...I am with you always..." (Psalm 139:7-8; Acts 17:27-28)

Have you ever gotten separated from your parents when you were a little child? Maybe you were in the woods, or at the mall, or at a carnival. You started whipping around trying to look in all directions at once. You started calling out. Maybe you were frightened, and cried. You thought they were with you and now they were not.

That kind of thing will never happen with the all-present God. Jesus is always present with His followers. So as you face problems this week, know that God is with you. Know that God's Spirit is in you and be comforted. Even when you cannot see or feel Him or what He is doing, believe that you are not alone.

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 mountain 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 bear cub did not see the mama bear, but the enemy lion did.

Because of your faith in Jesus, you can know that He is always with you. Even when you don't see Him, He is with you. Even when you feel weakest, He is with you. Even when things look darkest, He is with you. Take great comfort in the fact that you are never alone.

**There is never a time that God is not with you. Let every Christian be comforted by this. Put your faith in the presence of God. Make this part of your prayers. (*"Lord, I believe You are always with me."*)**

If you are not yet a Christian these are just some of the blessings that await you putting your faith in Jesus. The most important one is that God will forgive your sins. That is because Jesus died to pay the penalty of your sins. Put your faith in Jesus as your rescuer from sin, turn your life over to Him, to live in obedience to Him.