



Daily Devotionals: God Is Able | September 19, 2021

Day 1

Anyone who has seen *The Karate Kid* can easily see that Mr. Miyagi is the best martial artist in the movie. He knows how powerful, skillful, and wise he is. He knows his abilities are far beyond anyone else's, and in his confidence, he never feels the need to show his power—except when he's protecting Daniel, the boy he's guiding and taking care of.

This week, we're going to look at what it means to say God Is Able. Dictionary.com gives these definitions of able:

- having necessary power, skill, resources, or qualifications; qualified
- having unusual or superior intelligence, skill, etc.
- showing talent, skill, or knowledge
- legally empowered, qualified, or authorized

It also says that 'able' implies power equal to the effort required. When I hear that God is able, I immediately think of his power on display. Creation, the flood, plagues, miracles, and resurrection are just a few examples that come to mind. God is able because his power is equal to the effort required to be God.

Create a universe in a week? Easy.

Split a sea or stop a river so his people can walk through it? Piece of cake.

Heal a leper or paralytic? No problem.

Martin Luther says, "The God whom we worship is not a weak and incompetent God. He is able to beat back gigantic waves of opposition and to bring low prodigious mountains of evil. The ringing testimony of the Christian faith is that God is able."

Here's where it gets interesting: he's not only able, but he is also willing. If God was powerful but didn't intervene in our lives, he would still be worthy of our devotion due to his might. But, the fact that he loves us, wants what's best for us, and has the power to make it happen makes



him the only one worthy of everything we are and everything we have. We can give him our whole lives because we can trust that he knows what's best for us and is able to give it to us. We can see God's ability on display in Exodus 3:7-8, when God called Moses to deliver the Israelites from Egypt, he said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So, I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey..."

As you read the story of the deliverance from Egypt in Exodus 6-12, you see God using his power, not just to convince Pharaoh to let his people go but to show his dominance over all the Egyptian gods. Each plague was a judgment against a god of Egypt. And each one reminded Moses and the Israelites that God was coming for them and was not ignorant of their pain. It's like the scene where Mr. Miyagi fights to save Daniel times infinity.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21

God did immeasurably more than Moses could expect. He still does the same for us today.

Author Priscilla Shirer says, "Now is the time to know that God is able. To connect your current reality with God's present ability." Let's connect our reality with God's ability this week.

Reflection questions:

1. What is your first impression of God's ability? Where have you seen his might on display?
2. What questions do you have about God's willingness to deliver us and his ability to do so? Have you always trusted that ability?
3. What does the promise that he can do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine? When has God exceeded your expectations or done more than you can imagine?



Day 2 – Look at the book

For today’s work, let’s look at God’s power in **Exodus 6** and his concern for us in **Ephesians 3**. Exodus introduces the story of how God delivered his people from Egypt through signs and wonders, what we call the 10 plagues. Ephesians is a prayer that we, as God’s people, would know his love for us.

As you read, do three things:

1. Star anytime an aspect of God’s ability or willingness comes up
2. Circle anytime you see a promise of what God will do for his people
3. Underline any personally significant words or phrases

Exodus 6:1-8

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country.”

God also said to Moses, “I am the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself fully known to them. I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they resided as foreigners. Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant.

“Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.’”



Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Questions for reflection:

- What has reading through these verses done to your sense of God being able?
- What invitations do you sense God giving to you after this reading?



Day 3 – Scripture Survey

As we look at God’s ability this week, we want to see what the whole story of Scripture has to say about this particular topic. Where else in Scripture can we go to read about God’s ability and his willingness to use that ability for our good?

Take a few moments to slowly read through the passages below. As you read, take some time to ask yourself these three questions:

- What does this passage teach me about God’s ability and his willingness?
- What questions do I have about this?
- God, what are you inviting me into as I read and look through these verses?

Romans 8:26-39

Job 26:7-14

Matthew 8:1-3

Psalms 121

Isaiah 40:10-31



Day 4 – Story

As we continue to see our own stories through the eyes of God, looking for his intervention and seeing how we fit in his larger, continuing story, let's focus on God's ability. Let's investigate our stories to see how he has been able to meet our needs.

To begin, spend a few moments silent in God's presence. Take a few deep breaths and ask him for help to see your story through his eyes.

1. First of all, think about God's might, on display in creation. Think of the world he made for us to live in—the beauty, the variety, the vastness. How have you interacted with God's ability in the world he made? How has that impacted your life over time?
2. Think about times in your past when God has been faithful to deliver you. How were both his willingness and ability on display during those times?
3. When have you experienced what seems like the opposite of an able and willing God? When have you asked for rescue, but it didn't come in the way you hoped? What emotions did you feel? What were your impressions of God in those moments?
4. How has God invited you into a deeper trust of him, both when he delivered you from trouble and when he allowed you to stay in those dark places?



Day 5 – Response

For this last day, let's slow down and pay attention to what God has been inviting us into as a result of our work this week. Find a quiet space. Silence any technology around you. Spend some time reviewing your devotions this week. Jot down your thoughts to the following reflection questions:

As you look over this week, what words, phrases, Scriptures, etc. have stood out to you? What was the most significant thing? Why?

How have you experienced God's ability over the course of this past week?

What is God inviting you to DO as a response to this week's reflections?



Consider some of these suggestions as possible action steps as you step into living this week's truths:

- Go on a walk through nature or watch a sunset and thank God for his ability and power on display through his creation.
- Confess to a trusted Christian friend any areas you have doubted God's abilities or his willingness to care for you.
- Write a prayer thanking God for his intervention in your life and asking him to grow your trust that he is willing and able to help you every day of your life.