

Title: Christ is Able
Text: 2 Tim 1: 12
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2 Timothy 1: 12...For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Proposition: What does true, God-given faith believe? When God has given his child faith, what do we believe? Faith believes “[*Christ*] is able.”

Do you believe God our Savior is able to save you? Do you believe he is able to save all his people? Do you believe he is able to perform all his promises? Paul said, **“I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”**

FAITH BELIEVES GOD IS ABLE

Romans 4: 18: [Abraham] against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. 19: And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara’s womb:20: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21: And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. 22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

God saves by promise. Faith believes God is able to perform all that he promised.

God promised Abraham that Abraham would be the father of many nations—the father of an elect people who Christ would redeem and call out of many nations. But Abraham had no child when God made that promise to him. Abraham was old and Sarah was past the age of child bearing. But Abraham was *“fully persuaded that, what he had promised, HE WAS ABLE ALSO TO PERFORM. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.”*

Notice, how God links Abraham believing God concerning God giving him a son with God imputing the righteousness of Christ to Abraham. In the trial, attempting to save ourselves and our brethren out of it is attempting salvation by our works. It is as truly us trying to save ourselves by our own hand as if we looked to our own obedience to make us righteous under the law. Faith which believes Christ was able to justify me from all my sins, also believes Christ is able to save me from the present affliction.

The God of the Bible is able to perform all his covenant promises. God promised to send forth his Son and redeem all his people from the curse of the law. Abraham believed God was able to perform what he promised. And in the fulness of the time, Christ came forth and accomplished the redemption of his people. He did it!

Let’s see an example in Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. They were taken captive in Babylon. We know them by their other names. But it was the Babylonians who changed their names: “unto Daniel *the name* of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego” (Dan 4: 7). Imagine being taken captive by an enemy nation. Then imagine the most powerful king in the world threatening to execute you. Nebuchadnezzar threatened them that if they did not bow and worship his false god then he would cast them into the fiery furnace. He said,

Daniel 3: 15...Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

At that time, Nebuchadnezzar did not believe God was able. But they did. They answered,

Daniel 3: 16...O Nebuchadnezzar, we *are* not careful to answer thee in this matter.¹⁷ If it be *so*, our God whom we serve IS ABLE to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver *us* out of thine hand, O king.

After he cast them into the fire, Nebuchadnezzar looked and said, “Did we not cast three men in the fire?” He said,

Daniel 3: 25...Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

They came out of the furnace without any hurt, not a hair singed, neither were their coats changed, not even the smell of smoke on them. Our Lord Jesus suffered the fiery furnace of God’s wrath with his people in him. He delivered us from the curse without even the smell of smoke upon us. Christ justified all God’s elect when he suffered the fiery furnace of the cross and we in him. Christ is able to deliver us from anything and everything we go through in this life!

We find another example in Darius. Darius loved Daniel. They tricked Darius into passing a law so that they might charge Daniel. Daniel bowed and worshipped the Lord contrary to that law. So they brought Daniel to king Darius and declared him guilty. Darius labored all night trying to figure out how to make mercy and justice meet in harmony. He could not figure out how to uphold the unchangeable law of the Medes and Persians and yet have mercy on Daniel. So Darius executed justice without mercy. He threw Daniel into the den of lions. Those lions represents the justice of God against all who break his law. But Christ satisfied the law, making his people perfectly innocent, so that God is just to show his people mercy. Christ shut the lion’s mouth for all God’s elect on the cross. Christ is Wisdom in whom God was able to be a just God and a Savior. We see in Daniel being thrown into the lion’s den—justice. The justice of God fell on Christ Jesus. But we also see in Daniel being saved by Christ while in the lion’s den—mercy. Christ Jesus fulfilled the law of God in justice—all God’s elect died in him. And our Savior justified us—all God’s elect were justified in Christ. Only in Christ has God made justice and mercy meet in harmony.

Daniel 6: 20: And when [Darius] came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: *and* the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? 21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. 22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions’ mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. 23...So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

For the sake of Christ, God promises “*I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*” (Jer 31:31-34) Christ has put away the sins of his people. He cast our sins into the depth of the sea. God said they shall not be found. The Holy God forgives the iniquity of his people and remembers our sin no more because Christ honored justice so God is just to show us mercy. He was able to perform that promise.

Faith believes God is able to perform all that he promised (Gen. 3:15; 2 Tim 1: 9; Ti 1:2).

FAITH BELIEVES GOD IS ABLE TO RAISE FROM THE DEAD

Hebrews 11:19: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

We are all spiritually dead sinners by nature. But faith believes God is able to regenerate and raise up his people from the dead, giving us life and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Abraham believed God was able to perform his promise. God gave him a test. After God gave Isaac, God told Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. That is the son through whom God promised to call out his elect people in regeneration. In his heart, Abraham sacrificed Isaac. How so?

Hebrews 11:19: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

God had raised up Abraham from the dead. God regenerated Abraham and gave him life and faith in Christ. Of course Abraham believed God was able to raise his son from the dead. God does it for each of his elect. God was able to raise up Isaac from the dead when God produced Isaac in Sarah’s womb. So Abraham believed God was able to raise up Isaac from the dead after Abraham had slain his son on the

altar. Was God able to perform that promise in you and me? Faith believes that what God promised he is able also to perform. That is faith which glorifies God.

Christ is God. He is able to heal his people. Christ gave us sight to behold Christ by faith. So whatever we need, faith believes Christ is able. When we a child of God is blinded by this world, faith believes Christ is able to give sight to the blind. When those two blind men followed our Savior crying out for mercy,

Matthew 9: 28: Jesus saith unto them, BELIEVE, YE THAT I AM ABLE TO DO THIS? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. And their eyes were opened.”

Faith believes he is able raise up from the dead. Faith believes Christ is able to heal them that are his.

FAITH BELIEVES CHRIST ABLE TO HUMBLE AND TO MAKE STAND

When we become lifted up in pride, God is able to humble his child. We see the Lord is able to do this by looking to what our Lord did in Nebuchadnezzar. He was boasting about how he built his mighty kingdom. God took his mind from him for a season and made him go on all-fours like a beast of the field.

Daniel 4: 30: The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? 31: While the word *was* in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, *saying*, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. 32: And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling *shall be* with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. 33: The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles’ *feathers*, and his nails like birds’ *claws*.

34: And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom *is* from generation to generation: 35: And all the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and *among* the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? 36: At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. 37: Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works *are* truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride HE IS ABLE TO ABASE.

What about when his child falls? Is Christ able to make us stand? James talked the apostle Paul into coming under a legal, Nazarite vow. Christ has fulfilled the law. Paul knew that. He believed on Christ. But James and Paul were trying to make the Jewish believers receive Paul by Paul coming under a legal, Nazarite vow, to show them Paul was not against the law. Paul and James fell from faith by doing that. They leaned to their own understanding and tried to constrain their brethren to stand by the work of their hands. Instead, the Lord Jesus forbid Paul and James. He had Paul arrested. In all of that, it was James and Paul who had fallen. But Christ was able to make James and Paul to stand. Paul was taught to trust Christ alone to make his brethren stand. He wrote,

Romans 14:4: Who art thou that judgest another man’s servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

Faith believes Christ is able to make his servants stand. So faith glorifies Christ by committing a fallen brother to Christ.

FAITH BELIEVES CHRIST IS ABLE TO PROVIDE

When Amaziah was King of Judah, he hired 100,000 men of Israel—giving them 100 talents of silver—to help him fight against the Edomites. God sent his prophet telling Amaziah not to take the children of Israel with him into battle because God was against the children of Israel because they had committed apostacy in

worshipping golden calves. If Amaziah took the children of Israel, God would cause him to be defeated in this war. Amaziah asked the prophet, “But what about all this money I have already given them?”

2 Chronicles 25: 9:...And the man of God answered, THE LORD IS ABLE TO GIVE THEE MUCH MORE THAN THIS.

Amaziah lost his money by obeying the Lord. But the LORD is able to give thee much more than you lose. Money is not our salvation, the Lord is!

Ezekiel 7:19: They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumblingblock of their iniquity.

We worry and fret over our daily needs. But the Lord taught us that God is able to provide our daily needs.

Luke 12: 25: And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? 26: If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? 27: Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 28: If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more *will he clothe* you, O ye of little faith?

2 Corinthians 9: 8: AND GOD IS ABLE God to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work: 9: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. 10: Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for *your* food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) 11: Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

FAITH BELIEVES CHRIST IS ABLE TO COMFORT

What about when we are in the trial and sorrow fills our hearts? Faith believes Christ is able.

Hebrews 2:18: For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Our great High Priest is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. Christ our Savior has suffered every trial we suffer so much more than we. He knows what we need and is all powerful and able to give us comfort and strength in him.

FAITH BELIEVES CHRIST IS ABLE TO SAVE TO THE UTTERMOST

Hebrews 7:25: Wherefore HE IS ABLE TO SAVE TO THEM TO UTTERMOST that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

This is the sum of all we have been seeing throughout the scriptures. Christ is the great, eternal, immutable High Priest of his people. He laid down his life and purchased his people with his own blood. Our Redeemer arose triumphant with all power over all. He ever lives to make intercession for those he redeemed—both for those he is drawing to himself and for us who believe.

He has made us to know we have no power and might. We are unable. But faith believes Christ is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by him by his effectual atonement, by his infallible grace, by his prevailing intercession Christ is able to save from the guttermost to the uttermost!

Paul was in prison when he wrote to Timothy. But Paul said he was not ashamed of Christ nor of the gospel. Paul wrote, “*I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that HE IS ABLE to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*” Faith believes that Christ is able to keep us unto the end while providing everything we need between here and there. Faith commits ALL to Christ believing he is able to keep us unto the end.

Christ is able to keep us by his word, his gospel.

Acts 20:32: And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, WHICH IS ABLE to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

We may fall. Scripture declares that plainly. We see it in many of God's saints throughout scripture. But faith believes God is able to keep us from falling away in apostacy. Christ is able to present us faultless to the Father in the last day.

Jude 24: Now UNTO HIM THAT IS ABLE to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, 25: To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Faith believes Christ is able to subdue all things to himself and by that same power shall one day raise us glorified.

Philippians 3:21: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby HE IS ABLE even to subdue all things unto himself.

Brethren, do you believe Christ is able to do all these things to save us and not lose one? Truth is he is able to do far more than these things. Paul declared,

Ephesians 3: 20: Now UNTO HIM THAT IS ABLE to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21: Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

I pray God would settle our hearts upon Christ our great Shepherd. Our Savior is able to bring us to resign all into his hand, both our own selves and to commit one another to his care. May God give us grace to say with Paul, *"I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."*

Amen!