

Defining and Defending the Faith 5: I believe in God the ... almighty.

I. God as Almighty.

A. Key Texts:

1. Jer.32:17 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:
2. Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.
3. Rev.19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
4. Dan.4:34 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?

B. That God is almighty is also demonstrated by observation of God's works of creation, providence, miracle, and redemption.

C. Key concepts:

1. Omnipotence:

- a. Children's Catechism: "God can do all His holy will."
- b. Watson: "Though God can do all things, he cannot do that which stains the glory of his Godhead. He cannot sin; he cannot do that which implies a contradiction."
- c. God's omnipotence is limited by his character and will.

2. Sovereignty:

- a. God is in absolute control of all his creatures and all their actions.
- b. Hodge: "The Lord God omnipotent reigneth, and doeth his pleasure among the armies of heaven and the inhabitants of the earth, is the tribute of adoration which the Scriptures everywhere render unto God, and the truth which they everywhere present as the ground of confidence to his people."

D. Conclusion: God is infinite, eternal, and unchanging in His power, thus He alone is the almighty God.

II. Uses of this doctrine.

A. Let this doctrine terrify you who live in rebellion against the Lord.

B. Let this doctrine teach you to fear the Lord alone.

C. Let this doctrine embolden your prayers.

D. Let this doctrine encourage you in spiritual battle.

E. Let this doctrine comfort you in times of trouble.

F. Let this doctrine drive you to your knees in worship and awe.

G. Conclusion: "Therefore, you who are ungodly should fear, for you have such an omnipotent God against you! You cannot prevail against Him. There is neither a hiding place or refuge, nor is there anyone who will be able to offer you protection

against Him and deliver you out of His hand. 'It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God' (Heb. 10:31). 'Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty' (Isa. 13:6). And you, children of God, let the omnipotence of God encourage your hearts. If God is for you, who will be against you? Do you have any corporal needs and know not how to meet them? Even if there are no means available, God has the answer. He requires no means, and if the Lord desires to avail Himself of means, He will bring them about and make them available to you. Insignificant means are sufficient for Him for He is the Almighty One. He creates light out of darkness in order that the movement of His hand may be observed that much more clearly. In all your perplexities confess with Abraham, 'The LORD shall provide.' Does your soul stand in need of light, comfort, a change of heart, and strength against sin? Even if you see no solution, He is able to give you the desire of your heart with one word. Seek to maintain a lively perception of the omnipotence of God. This will strengthen you in all things, causing you to take refuge with Him and be free from concern, fear, and terror. 'He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty' (Ps. 91:1)." (a'Brakel)