

BLESSED ASSURANCE OF SALVATION PT. 12

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“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.” 2 Tim.1:12

We return again to our studies this morning on Blessed Assurance of Salvation, this will be part 12 of our series. We have already established that the Apostle Paul wrote this epistle from prison. He was put in prison for preaching the gospel and now encourages Timothy and those of us who follow Christ in regards to that great hope we have in Christ, namely, that all God’s children can experience a Blessed Assurance of Salvation.

We set forth these seven things from this text:

- I. Blessed Assurance in Persecution:** (For the which cause I also suffer these things...)
- II. Blessed Assurance in Passion:** (...nevertheless I am not ashamed...)
- III. Blessed Assurance in the Person:** (...for I know whom I have believed...)
- IV. Blessed Assurance in Persuasion:** (...and am persuaded...)
- V. Blessed Assurance in the Power:** (...that he is able ...)
- VI. Blessed Assurance in Preservation:** (...to keep that which I have committed unto him ...) perseverance is meaningless without preservation.
- VII. Blessed Assurance in Preparation:** (...against that day.)

Paul writes to validate and reassure the hearts of God’s children that when we encounter trials and tribulation we can continue to persevere because we have the promises of God to help sustain and grace us in those turbulent times. We have the tender mercies of God to carry us, that is, we can depend on His power and strength to aid us when we go through difficult times. To know with great confidence in our hearts that no matter what comes against us He is able to keep us now and also until that day. This brings us to our 5th point in our outline:

V. Blessed Assurance in Power: “...that he is able ...”

Paul with this 4 worded phrase gives the foundation, yea the essence of the whole text, THE POWER OF GOD! This whole verse, yes this whole chapter is contingent on this phrase, ‘that He is ABLE,’ as a matter of fact the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation depends on this great attribute of God, the POWER OF GOD! Remember Peter tells in us in his epistle in 1 Peter 1:5, “*Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to*

be revealed in the last time.” As a matter of fact in this same chapter look at verse 8, “Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel **according to the power of God.**” All of our Christianity is contingent upon the POWER OF GOD! As a reminder when we speak of the power of God we are speaking of the blessed attribute, the OMNIPOTENCE of GOD! If you want the best definition of the omnipotence of God, here it is: GOD IS ABLE! Because of this truth Paul knew he could make such a bold and powerful statement as this, “For the which because 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.” This is why Paul can be so bold and confident in saying, I KNOW, I HAVE and I AM PERSUADED, because He knew His God in a personal way and knew that HE was well ABLE to KEEP his soul against that day or any particular day! Paul knew in doctrine yea in practice that GOD IS ABLE! In another place Paul with the same boldness and confidence says, “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.” Eph.3:20. Can you imagine this, we serve a God who is ABLE TO DO exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think! Wow what a mighty God we serve, yea what an OMNIPOTENT God we serve! Oh let us shout like those in Revelation 19:1-6, “And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, **Alleluia**; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: 2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. 3 And again they said, **Alleluia**. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. 4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; **Alleluia**. 5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. 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.**” From this text is sung the famous Halleluiah Chorus for Handel’s Messiah.

Turn to Jeremiah 32 with me and let’s read a particular blessed text that hopefully will encourage you this morning. Verses 17 – 19 is one those texts that I enjoy reading and rereading and rereading as it lifts up my soul as I meditate upon the LORD, “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** (too difficult) **for thee**: 18 Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: **the Great, the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts, is his name**, 19 **Great in counsel, and mighty in work**: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.” Oh my dear brethren, the same power that created the heavens and the earth is the same power that saves the soul. The same power that said to the earth that was without form, and void; which was full of darkness upon the face of the deep, **LET THERE BE LIGHT** is the same power that says to the sinner who is void and full of

darkness, **LET THERE BE LIGHT!** This is the Might God of Jacob who speaks with great power and sovereign authority to sinners dead in trespasses and sins, LOOK and LIVE, thou dead carcass **RISE UP TO NEWNESS OF LIVE!** This is the idea of Paul in 2 Corinthians 4 when he makes this blessed application regarding regeneration or if you wish being born again, verse 6 & 7, “*For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, **that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.**” This is the same idea of Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:18, “*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved **it is the power of God.**” This is set forth so clearly so the true child of God can say with great assurance in regards to salvation, I KNOW, I HAVE and I AM PERSUADED! In other words our salvation is not in ourselves or our power or our will, our wisdom, no but solely upon the POWER OF GOD! Again this why Paul write in 1 Corinthians 2:5, “*That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, **but in the power of God.**”***

You see there was no doubt in the mind and heart of Paul when he said with great boldness and undeniable confidence, “*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.” Yes, Paul no question knew something of the power of God, for one day it raised him up from his dead religion and dead soul and literally knocked him of his high horse in Acts 9. Paul had no doubt or second guessing in his soul, for he knew that that God was ABLE to keep his soul which he had committed unto Him. Peter also says the same thing in 1 Peter 4:19, “*Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God **commit the keeping of their souls to him** in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.”**

Therefore Paul says with great confidence, I KNOW, I HAVE and I AM PERSUADED that **HE IS ABLE** to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day! The Greek word for ABLE is ‘***dunatos***’ which means to be powerful, able, mighty, to excel with strength, be strong. Notice how this Greek word is first used in the New Testament, turn to Matthew 19:26 with me, “*But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are **possible.**” Again, this word ‘***dunatos***’ means to have power by means of inherent ability, that is, to possess the capacity to perform. This again is the concept of Jeremiah 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** (too difficult) **for thee.**” There is nothing too difficult or too hard for God. One of the blessed examples of God performing in great and mighty power is in the life of Abraham. Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old. Genesis 21:5, “*And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.*” I believe that in Romans 4 we have the story of the faith of Abraham that**

sustained him during this time. Abraham faith was in the power and might of God. Turn with me to Romans 4:17-21, *“(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. 18 Who 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.**”* Abraham was not just hoping that God would do something; no Abraham was fully persuaded that God was able to do exceeding abundantly as to what he had promise. This basically reiterates what is said in Genesis 18; turn there quickly in verses 9-15 in particular verse 14, *“**Is any thing too hard for the LORD?** At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.”* Notice the verse in the prior chapter 17:1, “Almighty God,” that is El Shaddai. This is the whole essence of our Christian faith which we have to come to grips with, is anything too hard or too difficult for the LORD? This is the place where Abraham was brought to; by faith he had to trust the promise and power of God. Again Romans 4:21, *“And **being fully persuaded** that, what he had promised (This was Abraham's faith in the promise of God), **he was able also to perform.** (This was Abraham's faith in the power of God.)”* Matthew Henry says of the phrase, that we was able to perform, *“Our waverings rise mainly from our distrust of the divine power; and therefore to fix us it is requisite we believe not only that he is faithful, but that he is able, that hath promised.”* Paul had to do the same thing, he had to believe the PROMISE of God and he had to believe the POWER of God. Notice again 2 Tim.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 (This is Paul's faith in the PROMISE of God.) **that he is able** to keep that which I have committed unto him (This is Paul's faith in the POWER of God.) against that day.”* Amen and Amen, how about you, do you have faith in the promise of God? Do you have faith in the power of God? One writer says, *“God's power ought to be a strong comfort to us in trouble or danger. He is able to deliver us—there is no doubt about that. No combination is too strong for Him. He can easily do whatever He pleases. Men say there are no miracles in these days—but God can always find a way to work any deliverance He desires to work for His people. He is never handicapped in His own world. And since He is our Father, and loves us and is taking care of us—we should know that if it is best that we should be delivered—He will surely do it. If He does not deliver us—we should know that it is because it is better for us and for His glory that we should suffer. True Christian faith is willing to leave to God—just whatever He shall do, confident in God's power and in God's love.”*

This reminds me of one of my favorite stories in the Bible in Daniel chapter 3:14-18, *“Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up? 15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick,*

*ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, 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. 18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”* There is so much here but in verse 17 the three Hebrew’s answer Nebuchadnezzar, if we are thrown in the fiery blazing furnace, the God whom we serve, notice, not could, or I guess or I hope, but IS ABLE to deliver us from it. You asked O king Nebuchadnezzar, what God will be able to deliver and rescue us from your hand, well our GOD IS ABLE! These 3 believed in the PROMISE and POWER of God! They knew without a shadow of doubt that they served a God who was ABLE TO DO, yea able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think! They were absolutely certain that God had the strength, the power, the might to deliver them completely from this sure doom. They were able to stand before King Nebuchadnezzar with unshakable faith and trust that their God was ABLE TO DELIVER and yes, we know the rest of the story, not only was God ABLE, HE DID IT great OMNIPOTENT POWER!

This again my dear brethren is Paul’s idea in 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 (This is Paul’s faith in the PROMISE of God.) **that he is able** to keep that which I have committed unto him (This is Paul’s faith in the POWER of God.) against that day.”* Paul mixed his believing with faith and was able to embrace the promise and power of God, that is, he was fully persuaded that God was ABLE to do what he had promise to do. There was no room for doubting or second guessing the things of God, no by faith he clearly embraced the promise of God and the power of God. Therefore in this text he has given us a glorious blessed confession of faith. He sets forth for us in clear cut language what was in his heart regarding his faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul confesses with distinguished certainty His confidence and dependence in Christ, that is, in His Promise and in His Power! Paul’s hope is anchored and fastened in great conviction. In other words Paul without great confidence confesses his Blessed Assurance in the Power of God, that is, he was fully persuaded, completely assured regarding his trust in resting safely in the arms of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let’s look at a few verses in Job in understanding the omnipotence of God: In Job 42:1 & 2, it says, “*Then Job answered the LORD, and said, 2 I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.*” In other words what Job is confessing is that, LORD I know you can do anything and everything and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted by man. Job 36:5, “*Behold, **God is mighty**, and despiseth not any: **he is mighty in strength** and wisdom.” Job 9:19, “**If I speak of strength, lo, he is strong**: and if of judgment, who shall set me a*

time to plead?" Thomas Watson says, "His almightiness lies in this—that he can do whatever is feasible. Divines distinguish between authority and power. God has both." What glorious words by Job about the Living and True God, what a description, Lo, He is strong and He is mighty, these words strong and mighty give the connotation of a powerful, conquering and prevailing strength, in other words, He is SUPREMELY STRONG. This is the idea of the Old Testament name of God, El Shaddai, that is, GOD ALMIGHTY, Thomas Watson again says, "**He has a sovereign right and AUTHORITY over man.** He can do with his creatures as he pleases. Who shall dispute with God? who shall ask him a reason of his doings? "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?" Daniel 4:35. God sits as judge in the highest court; he calls the monarchs of the earth to the bar, and is not bound to give a reason of his proceedings. "He puts down one, and raises up another." He has salvation and damnation in his power. He has the key of justice in his hand, to lock up whomever he will, in the fiery prison of hell! And he has the key of mercy in his hand, to open heaven's gate to whomever he pleases! The name engraved upon his vesture is, "King of kings, and Lord of lords!" He sits Lord paramount, and who can call him to account? The world is God's house, and shall not he do what His will desires in his own house? "...I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy." Romans 9:15-16. My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please because "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: 11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it." Isaiah 46:10 - 11. "Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth!" Revelation 19:6. "But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased." Psalm 115:3. "Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places." Psalm 135:6. It was God who made King Nebuchadnezzar to eat grass; and who threw the angels to hell when they sinned. "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!" Isa 14:12. "He sets bounds to the sea, and bridles the proud waves." God is the supreme monarch, all power is seated originally in him. "The powers that be, are ordained of God." Kings hold their crowns of him. "By me kings reign." This is the God you will face when you die, not some weak impotent sentimental God, no but a mighty powerful omnipotent, yea HOLY GOD who has the authority and power to say to you depart from me thou worker of iniquity if you die without Christ or enter thou into my blessed kingdom if you die in Christ. What will He say to you when you die? He has power to save and He has power to condemn!

In Hebrews 7:25 it says that "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." This is hope for you this morning if you are outside Christ, He is ABLE to save you to the uttermost, if you but come and bow the knee to Christ and own Him as LORD. Come in repentance and faith and lay hold of the Lord Jesus Christ. But if you die in your sins this same Jesus is ABLE to put you in hell.

Let us conclude with this fearful text in Matthew 10: please turn there with me, let's read verse 28, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him **which is able** to destroy both soul and body in hell."

The same power which Paul confides in that is able to keep his soul against that day is the same power that is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Again Jude tells us in verse 24 & 25, “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.”

Yes, the same power that is able to keep those whom He saves from falling and will present us faultless before Him is the same power that is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Oh my dear friends I plead with you, come to Christ this morning because He is able to save you to the uttermost, come in repentance and faith.

Let's pray.