

Russell Kelfer

**Because
He Is...
Omnipotent**

#1239-A

Series: The Character of God

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INTO HIS LIKENESS RADIO

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The skies above were so still no one could even imagine what might be coming next. It seemed as though the heavens were frozen in suspension while the earth below waited in huddled expectation for the worst. The word was out that a fierce hurricane was approaching the coast with incredible fury. All of the technology, all of the energy, all of the miracles of mass communications and computerization could improve our ability to see it coming, but they could do nothing to lessen its blow.

As the storm approached the coastline, it was as though death rode on the crests of the waves as they began to beat against the shore leaving their calling cards of destruction, as if to say, "I'm the advance crew bringing a preview of what lies ahead". What was ahead was a torrential outpouring of rain from the heavens, and 80 miles per hour winds that gusted up to 100 plus miles per hour, leaving in its wake a sea of wreckage akin to a nuclear explosion. Lightning flashed from one end of the sky to the other. Thunder shook the heavens and left a hollow awe on earth below. What was to happen next was an explosion of power over which man had absolutely no control and from which man's only refuge was to flee.

Trees were helpless beneath the invasion of the fierce winds. Houses submerged themselves in hiding beneath the rising tides that overcame them until they disappeared. Automobiles were picked up like little toys and cast aside. Roofs disappeared from houses as though they were made of straw. Boats were washed ashore and then to sea as though they were being prepared for an oceanic burial. And when it was over, the devastation told a tale of utter ruin.

What had happened? Man had witnessed a fraction of a fraction of a fraction of the power of God. He had seen enough to realize his helplessness, but not nearly enough to get a glimpse of the awesomeness of his Creator. Man, you see, has no concept of how powerful God is. Even believing man, who has tasted of His miraculous grace, only sees experientially enough of God's strength

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to draw grossly inadequate conclusions about what God can do. In the physical realm and in the spiritual realm, man has no idea of the power of God. He only takes what he has seen and marvels, but what he has seen is nothing compared to what is in store for him and for mankind.

The power of God! The very words ought to drive us to our knees. At the thought of the magnitude of the energy resident in God's nature, we as believers ought to be so overcome with awe that we bow in meek submission and worship. Every time the wind blows, every time the thunder rolls, every time the lightning puts its electrical light show on display for planet earth, we who have experienced a touch of God's power in our lives ought to hear a clarion call to praise Him. That great power that will one day be released in greater measure upon this world is being displayed for our benefit to remind us what our God has done for us, what our God has planned for us, and most of all, and best of all..who our God is.

Our God is...omnipotent! What that means and how that translates into practical conviction and encouragement for us are the issues before us. Our outline is as follows:

I- God Is...Almighty

II- God's Power is Infinite

III- God's Power is Subordinate to His Wisdom

IV- God's Power is Expressed through His Word

V- God's Power is Ours!

GOD IS...ALMIGHTY

God is...And all that God is we cannot comprehend. The degree to which we are able to grasp who He is, is the degree to which we can appropriate the benefits that accrue when our eyes are opened to His nature and being. In no arena is this more true than in the arena of His magnificent power.

Power! What an active word. It means "authority accompanied by the ability to achieve your objective". It is "the release of energy in such a way that it accomplishes the purpose for which it is intended".

We read in Scripture that God is all-powerful. When God appeared to Abram, He introduced Himself this way:

"I am Almighty God..."

(Genesis 17:1 NKJV)

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The word “Almighty” means “one who possesses all might.” In Exodus 6 God leaves His calling card again. He says:

And God spoke to Moses and said to him: “I am the LORD.

I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name LORD [Jehovah] I was not known to them. (Exodus 6:2,3 NKJV)

Before God revealed Himself by any other name to man, He revealed Himself to be...the Almighty One...the One whose power was unlimited. In Revelation 4 we envision a scene where the four beasts are gathered around the throne of God, and here is their anthem:

“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!” (Revelation 4:8 NKJV)

After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunders, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! (Revelation 19:1,6 NKJV)

In Luke 22:69, we read of God’s name this way:

“Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.”

Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, who is described by the name, “The Power of God.” In Matthew 28 Jesus leaves us with these concluding remarks:

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

“Go therefore...” (Matthew 28:18,19a NKJV)

There is no doubt in Scripture of the omnipotence of God. He is the one who possesses unlimited authority and energy. His very name means “All-mighty”. So the issue will never be whether or not God is omnipotent, but rather what that term really means.

GOD’S POWER IS INFINITE

God is the possessor of infinite power...not because of something He did, but rather because of who He is. God, by nature of His being, is the Almighty One. As such, infinite power is the essence of who He is. He cannot be God and not be omnipotent. It is not an addendum to His nature, but a part of His nature. Jesus assured

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us in Matthew 6:13 that:

For Yours [God's] is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever. Amen. (NKJV)

Infinite power! What a thought. Let's divide that into six workable statements so that we can worship Him yet the more.

1- His power does not need to be replenished. It is self-contained. A. W. Tozer in his book, The Knowledge of the Holy, describes God's power this way:

"He expends no energy that must be replenished. His self-sufficiency makes it unnecessary for Him to look outside Himself to renew Himself. All the power required to do all that He wills to do lies in undiminished fullness in His own infinite being."

A familiar passage to many of us, Isaiah explains the strength and power of God in just that way:

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting
God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither
faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

(Isaiah 40:28 NKJV)

God never gets tired. He never gets weary. His energy is self-contained. His batteries never need recharging. You may run and expend energy, then need to rest or take nourishment to replenish that energy. Not God. His power does not come from a diminishing source. If you drive a car, you must refuel it or it will stop running; but God's divine power supply doesn't discharge when in use. Therefore, there is never any time when the power of God is unavailable, or at less than 100% of capacity. The enemy cannot catch God off-guard in a weakened moment the way he does with us. The power of God is infinite. It has no need to be replenished.

Any moment you call upon God for encouragement, deliverance, or grace, rest assured that "He that hath begun a good work in you will complete it." He will, at any time you call upon Him, be at full power. Rest assured of that fact.

2- He does what He does without effort or difficulty. Not only does His divine power never diminish, never is the task of releasing that power difficult for God. Never does it tax Him to release it. Here is a good verse to memorize:

"Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the
earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is
nothing too hard for You."

(Jeremiah 32:17 NKJV)

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When you exercise power, not only do you need to replenish that power, the act of releasing it taxes every part of your being. Running a race weakens you and stretches you and tires you until you think you'll drop. Get on a treadmill and try to run, then increase the speed. The faster you run, the harder it gets. Not so with God. He does the most difficult task with as much ease as the least. It did not tax God's being any more to create the world than it did to create a tiny flower. God can deal with the most difficult onslaught of Satan, and it does not weary Him an iota. Nothing is too hard for Him. Don't you see, then, how our faithlessness that does not allow Him to release that power is often built on a false premise? God never tires, never retires, and never, ever will.

3- He needs no matter or material to convert to power. Because His power is self-contained, God does not need something to make something or do something. We read:

He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion [understanding].

When He utters His voice, There is a multitude of waters in the heavens: "And He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth..."
(Jeremiah 10:12,13 NKJV)

God spoke and it happened. God said, "Let there be light and there was light." You may take a piece of wood and fashion it into a beautiful work of art. You may take metal and melt it and bend it and turn it into something marvelous. You may take an instrument and play it and create melodies to thrill the heart, but try speaking a cabinet into being. Try thinking a sculpture into reality. God needs no matter from which to exercise power. He needs no atoms, no fumes, no sparks. He speaks and it is done. The heart of man tries to limit God based on what he sees to be God's tools at hand. God has no such limits. Nothing is too hard for God, because He needs nothing to do anything.

4- He is not bound by time to release His power. You and I live lives bound by the restraints of time. We can run a race, but we must arrive at precisely the moment the race begins or we lose. All of our priorities are governed by the clock. For us, time is running out. We don't have forever to do what we do. Not so with God. If need be, God will make the sun stand still. If need be, God will prolong the night. If need be, God will extend the window of opportunity in your life to best conform to His goal of glorifying His Name. But He is not bound by time. Time is His creation.

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You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

Trust in the LORD forever, For in Yah, the LORD, is everlasting strength.
(Isaiah 26:3,4 NKJV)

Everlasting strength! That's what God has. It has no beginning, no reduction in intensity, no need of material to make it work, and no time frame to limit its fruitfulness. If God needs more time, He takes it. If God needs more room, He makes it. If God needs your heart, He breaks it. He is omnipotent. All power is always His.

5- He needs no outside aid to accomplish His purposes. The head of a giant corporation has great power at his disposal. He can speak a word, and giant machinery goes into action. He can pass a decree, and hundreds of workers concentrate on a new direction. But though the activity originates in his mind, he is dependent upon those who serve under him and alongside him to exercise the power he has called into action. If they don't perform, he has no power. His power is dependent upon those through whom the power functions. A general possesses great power on the battlefield. With one word, he summons thousands into battle and unleashes, if he chooses, millions of tons of explosives in combat. Awesome power is his! But should his soldiers refuse to respond or fail to carry out their orders properly, his power is meaningless. Even in his exalted position, his power is totally useless without others to make it happen.

Not so with God. He needs nothing or no one. Jesus said this, and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

(Matthew 3:9 NKJV)

God doesn't need you to accomplish His purposes. He desires to use you, and you need to be obedient to have His likeness engraved on your heart, and to achieve the rewards in heaven He wants you to have. But He doesn't need you. If He so chose, He could speak to a pile of rocks and say, "Do my will", and His will would be done. It is a blessed privilege to be used of God. But His mighty power is self-existent. It does not need men nor angels to make it happen. That ought to help us see our works from God's perspective; and all of our accomplishments ought to but cause us to fall on our faces and worship Him the more. For His is the power...and ever shall be.

6- God's power knows no bounds. Every other source of power

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known to man has limits. All forms of fuel can empower something, but only for “x” amount of time and with “y” intensity. A bright light can shine, but only so far. A car can run on gas, but only so long. A plane can fly at amazing speeds, but only for a given period of time. Then, either the source must be replaced or re-energized. God’s power, however, knows no bounds, not in time, not in space, not in intensity. Whatever He wills is done. And should what needs to be done require ten million times the power of what He’s done before, it matters not. Ten million times ten million times the power of what He’s done before are nothing to Him. Do you fathom how limitless God’s power is? Memorize this verse:

The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. (Psalm 46:6 NKJV)

Mankind with all its atomic power and technical power can rant and rave against one another and make great noises about being “Superpowers”. But, Beloved, at any moment God chooses, while parliaments and congresses and summit conferences are convening thinking they are determining the fate of the world, all God has to do is whisper...and instantly the earth and all that is in it will melt into nothingness. Kings and kingdoms will vanish in the twinkling of an eye. Arsenals of weapons will dissolve at His voice. All of the strength and all of the influence of all of the kingdoms which have ever inhabited planet earth combined would not so much as create resistance to the power of God when He chooses to act.

God’s power is awesome. It is infinite. It need never be replenished; it never causes God to tire; needs no material or matter to fuel it; needs no time to restrain it; needs no outside aid; knows no bounds. It is limitless, timeless, measureless, and endless.

GOD’S POWER IS SUBORDINATE TO HIS WISDOM

So we have established that there is nothing God cannot do. The question is: Why, then, does He not destroy all of mankind with the breath of His mouth? Why doesn’t God speak a word and abolish sin? Why doesn’t God utter His voice and create a new world that is perfect and sinless? If God is that powerful, what’s keeping Him from bringing about justice in the world?

When we use that line of reasoning, what we are saying is that we believe that God is capable of doing whatever He wants, but something has happened that is preventing His power from accomplishing its purposes. Usually, we assume that either Satan

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has the upper hand, God has grown weaker through age, or the sins of man have rendered God helpless in accomplishing His purposes. Of course, none of those are true. What is true is that there are two kinds of power: absolute power and ordinate power.

Absolute power is that which God could do should He choose to. Ordinate power is that which God is free to do based on His will. His ordinate power is subject to His wisdom. Therefore, while He is able to do certain things, the doing of those things would violate other aspects of His nature, and thus, in His wisdom, He cannot do what He is able to do.

As He faced that cross, Jesus was offered a way of escape. He turned and reminded His disciples that there was no shortage of power to save Him, but the doing of His Father's will precluded exercising that power wrongfully. We read:

Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?

How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"
(Matthew 26:53,54 NKJV)

God could see to it that no one ever died. God has the power to heal everyone touched by disease or pain. God only has to speak and thousands of new worlds would fling into existence filled with life and freed from sin. God's power knows no limits except the limits His nature and His will impose upon it. But were He to violate His own character through the exercise of that power, He would be less than God. Therefore, though He has absolute power, He is free to use that power only as His wisdom, and thus His will, allow.

But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.

(Psalm 115:3 NKJV)

The Lord of hosts has sworn, saying, "Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, And as I have purposed, so it shall stand:
(Isaiah 14:24 NKJV)

All God has to do is will to do something and it is done. Never is His power restrained by anything man or Satan can do. If He chooses (and His choices are always in harmony with His purposes), it is done...in heaven or on earth. He only thinks and it comes to pass.

Our problem, however, is that we see His inactivity as weakness rather than strength, because we forget that He is omnipotent. Therefore, never at any moment is there anything He cannot do.

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His love may not allow Him to do it. His righteousness may not allow Him to do it. His holiness may not allow Him to do it. So He defers to His wisdom and limits His power. We must not, because of that supreme exercise of power by restraint, forget that because God is... He can.

GOD'S POWER IS EXPRESSED THROUGH HIS WORD

So God's power knows no boundaries but the boundaries of His own nature. How, then, does He communicate that power to His children? Acts reminds us that:

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me...

(Acts 1:8 NKJV)

The Holy Spirit is the vehicle by which the power of God is released into the life of the Christian. What we so often miss, however, is that the Spirit has a specific conduit through which that power must flow. Anytime we expect power but utilize the wrong source, we ask for warfare and ultimate defeat. The power is ours, but it is basically found in a specified place. It is one thing to have electricity in a house; it is still another to plug into the receptacle and draw on the power you possess. Having it is of no value until you appropriate what you have.

Let's look carefully at how God releases His divine power through Scripture. In Genesis 1, we take note of a particular verb that denotes action, unusual action.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters."

Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together..."

Then God said...

Then God said... (Genesis 1:3,6,9,11,14 NKJV)

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. (Psalms 33:6,8,9 NKJV)

Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD

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glory and strength.

Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The LORD is over many waters.

The voice of the LORD is powerful; The voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace. (Psalm 29:1-4,11 NKJV)

God's power is released when God speaks. When His Word goes forth, power goes forth. The last great conflict on planet earth will be over in seconds. It will begin and end like this:

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

(Revelation 19:11-16 NKJV)

God will speak and it will be done. Just as He spoke and the worlds came forth out of nothing; just as He spoke, and man was created; just as He spoke, and Satan in the wilderness was defeated by the Word of His power; so He shall one day speak once more, and all of the armies of all of the heathen nations gathered together at Armageddon to defeat the King of Kings will fall down in instant defeat. When God speaks, power flows by His Spirit through the believer into this world.

GOD'S POWER IS OURS!

So our God, in love, knowing the pressures and the problems

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we would face on planet earth on our way to heaven, determined to make that same kind of power available to us on a minute-by-minute, life-changing basis. He took the vehicle of His power, His spoken Word, and made it available to each of us. He gave us His Spirit to interpret it, to apply it, to transmit it, and to internalize it. But the secret to the Spirit's work in our lives is the freedom He has to take the Word and make the Word come alive. That is up to us.

The power we will have in defeating Satan, in witnessing to others, in maintaining a victorious prayer life, and in growing into God's likeness will be proportionate to the degree we have engraved that Word...that essence of God's power imputed to us...on our hearts.

Would you like to be filled with power in your preaching and in your teaching? Then don't just talk about God's Word, use God's Word.

That is why it was said of Jesus,

for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. (Matthew 7:29 NKJV)

Why did Jesus speak with such power?

For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.

And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak." (John 12:49,50 NKJV)

Jesus was giving the secret to a powerful ministry. Use the Word. Don't just talk about it...Share it. Do you want to be a powerful witness? The same principle applies. Don't just talk about the Word. Use it. It says of itself:

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12 NKJV)

That's where the power comes from. The Word of God. When Satan is attacking you and provoking you and tempting you, and you cry out for strength to resist him, what does God expect you to do? Ephesians reminds you:

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; (Ephesians 6:17 NKJV)

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Was that not our Lord's defense when the enemy attacked Him in the wilderness? He simply answered: "It is written; it is written; it is written", till "the devil departed and angels came and ministered unto Him."

Where is our power in prayer? Is it not when we take the Word of God and pray it back to God claiming it as our only authority as we do? Was this not the pattern for Moses' prayers? Are we not promised:

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

(I John 5:14 NKJV)

How do we know His will? His Word is His will revealed, remember? Power! It is ours for the taking, if we are taking the Word of God and allowing it to become our lives, doing what Joshua commanded when he said:

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

(Joshua 1:8 NKJV)

The Word of God. It is the power of God unto salvation. It is the sword of God unto deliverance. It is the authority of God unto transformation. But it needs two things to make it work.

1- It needs our appropriation. If we are not willing to search the Scriptures daily; if we are not willing to memorize and meditate in them day and night, as we walk by the way, as we rise up, as we lie down; if we are not willing to speak the Word of God day by day both to man and to God, we will not possess Calvary power, not because it is not available, but because we refused to reach out and take what is ours.

2- It needs to be surrendered. Self-righteous scripture memory or doctrinal expertise is not enough. The Scribes and Pharisees knew the Word and memorized the Word. They used it, however, intellectually. They never allowed knowledge to be turned into wisdom. As long as we believe that our knowledge of the Word is worthy of praise, we, like the Pharisees, will possess no workable power. The Psalmist said:

Be exalted, O Lord, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your power.

(Psalm 21:13 NKJV)

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It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect.
(Psalm 18:32 NKJV)

The Word of God contains the power of God, but it cannot be free to pour through us until we understand that though the power is ours, it belongs to God. He uses it as He sees fit, when He sees fit, and as it best glorifies His name. Men who stand in a pulpit and dare God to use His power have missed the point. God doesn't need to be dared. He needs to be worshiped. He desires to release His life-changing power far more than we desire to receive it. But if we either fail to see that it is in His Word, or fail to see that it is His to give, and surrender to His sovereignty, we will become either legalistic hypocrites or emotional co-gods. Neither glorifies our Savior. Dependence frees that power.

God is omnipotent. There is nothing He cannot do. But God is God, so there is nothing He will do that will compromise His Name. God has granted to us unlimited power through His Word; power that will change the course of our lives and the course of history, if we remember that the power is inherent in the Scriptures. Because when He speaks, His very nature goes forth to fallen man.

But unless we learn to live surrendered lives, acknowledging, even as Jesus did, that we can of our own selves do nothing, we simply try to appropriate the power while cutting off the source of that power.

God has spoken once, Twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God.
(Psalm 62:11 NKJV)

Power belongs to God. All power. All the time. For all eternity.

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
(Ephesians 3:20,21 NKJV)

And all the people said...Amen.

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For Application Further Study

1- By what name did God introduce Himself to Abram in Genesis 17:1? What did that name mean? What name did Jesus give the Father in Luke 22:69? Why do you think He chose that name?

2- Stop and thank God that His power need not be replenished; that no matter the depth of need in this world, He will never tire, never grow faint, never expend any power that needs replacing. Therefore, He will always have available all that He is to each of us all the time.

3- Memorize Jeremiah 32:17. Pray it back to God in an act of worship each morning for the next week. Ask God to let you rest in that promise.

4- Meditate on Matthew 3:9. Ask God to use it to give you His perspective.

5- Why does God, who has unlimited power, limit Himself? Can you think of 3 places in Scripture where God chose to limit His power in order to accomplish His will? Praise Him for that.

6- How does God express His power to us? What two things must we do to be sure we allow that power to flow? Memorize I John 5:14.

7- Spend a week worshipping God for His omnipotence.

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10602 Mossbank, San Antonio, TX 78230

210-226-0000 or 1-800-375-7778

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