

Who is Able?

It's worse than we think...

And better than we can imagine!

Acts 17:22-31

June 16, 2024

17

DISABILITY
SOUTHWEST



“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”

(2 Cor. 12:9)

“Maybe the truly handicapped people are the ones that don’t need God as much.”

- Joni Eareckson Tada

Moral responsibility... boundaries on ability:

Is it prohibited by God?

Is it loving or beneficial to anyone?

Is it promoting self or the Lord?

Spiritual ability and inability

*What are we able to do,
and not able to do?*

*What is God able to do,
and not able to do?*

*How does God's ability operate in
our daily lives as believers?*

Our 'ability' and 'inability'

The natural human condition...

Sinners by inheritance (imputed) & choice

Lost

Isa. 53:6

Blind

2 Cor. 4:4

Lawbreakers

1 John 1:8, 3:4

Guilty

Rom. 5:12, 18

Enslaved to sin

John 8:34

Morally ruined

Rom. 7:18

Dying

1 Pet. 1:24, Eph. 2:1

It's worse than we think...

Jeremiah 17:9

Romans 3:9-18, 23

Ephesians 2:1-5

Born spiritually dead...

100% disabled

(depraved)

Romans 6:23

deserving death

John 3:18-20

condemned, in darkness

Our natural condition

Love darkness...

John 1:19

Hostile to God

Rom. 8:7

Cannot understand God

1 Cor. 2:14

Do not seek God

Psalm 53:1-3

Deny God's existence

Psalm 14:1

Romans 1:29-32 (if never made alive by Spirit)

Worshippers and workers...

Means to righteous standing before God?

Not by good works

Isa. 64:6

Only from God

Phil. 3:9

By faith in Christ

Gal. 2:16

Not works... it's a gift

Eph 2:8-9

His mercy... Holy Spirit

Titus 3:4-6

'born again'

John 3:3

Narrow gate

Luke 13:23-24

Christ paid the death penalty we deserved!

We are hopelessly disabled... But God!

God's 'ability' and 'inability'

Accomplishing His purposes, always...

Infinitely able

Job 42:2

Established counsel

Prov. 19:21

Everlasting counsel

Psalms 33:10-11

Effective word

Isaiah 55:11

Never annulled

Isaiah 14:27

His salvation plan, keeping the committed...

Able to destroy

Matt. 10:28

Saves & intercedes

Heb. 7:24-25

Establishes us

Rom. 16:25

Completes our rescue

2 Tim 1:12

Strengthens faith

Rom. 14:1-2

It's better than we can imagine!

Sanctifies us by His Word & Holy Spirit...

Inspired & profitable 2 Tim. 3:14-17

Kept from stumbling... Jude 24

Interceding for, works... Rom. 8:26-28

Delivers for His glory Dan. 3:15-18

God is NOT able to do what?...

Never learns or surprised Isa 46:9-11

Never changes Mal. 3:6

No variation or turning James 1:17

Never fails a promise Num 23:19

Cannot lose His own John 10:27-30

Never abandons His own Rom. 8:38-39

How God's 'ability' operates in our lives

- 1. Belief in God's ability must not waiver based on sight, feeling, experience...*
- 2. God's ability does not obligate Him to satisfy the outcome we think is best...*

**God's ability given to us by the Holy Spirit
dunamis (power)**

His ability at work in & through us...

Without Me... nothing	John 15:4-5
Through Christ... all things	Phil. 4:13
Resist evil, temptation	Heb. 2:17-18
Discernment	Heb. 5:11-14

Discipleship

Discernment – ability to understand truth
(to distinguish truth from error)

May be a 'gift' of the HS (...of spirits)

Skill developed by training & practice

Study of the Word exercised daily

Prayer, application or 'constant use'

Evidence of spiritual maturity

True disciples grow relationship to God daily!

Discern where He is at work... join Him

Ministry: wait... obey... give... serve...

God provides ability to willing believers

Serving the body of Christ – the church

God is able...

“To make all grace abound, always all sufficiency in all things, abundance for every good work.”

(2 Cor. 9:8)

To work “mightily” in us as we preach, teach, disciple, labor, strive for Christ, the hope of glory

(Col. 1:27-29)

There’s no limit to what God is able do in & through His people as we pray in His will!

“to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the

power that works in us,... *(Eph. 3:20)*

Closing thoughts

Who is able?

Know God: His power, love, and riches...

Choose life through Christ... keep believing & serving

We can trust God's unchangeable character daily...

His infinite power, knowledge, presence, kindness

We are ABLE because God is ABLE!

Walk in the Spirit's power

Closing prayer: Colossians 1:9-11

