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# Meetings with God

## The Power and Goodness of God

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**Today:** *This is the Third in a Series of Messages on Meetings with God: Holiness, Will, Power and Goodness. What is God really like?*

**Theology is the study of the nature of God... what is true about God.**

- God is Holy — perfect — God is LOVE
- God's WILL must be reflective of Who He is

**Today — the Power and Goodness of God**

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### The Power of God

**The last letter that the Apostle Paul wrote before he was executed** — was written to a young preacher who he had mentored. What was important enough for Paul's final words to Timothy?

- **2 Timothy 1:12-13**  
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. Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

**We project our own feelings on God** — God is not the reflection of us in our carnality.

When all of the world around us is hurting and confused, we think that...

- God is like that...OR
- God is responsible for it

*If one gets to heaven, and wants to ask God about all of the pain and suffering in the world—what will he actually ask God when he arrives and is overwhelmed in His presence — NOTHING!*

We tend to pull God into our confusion — *Presuming to hold God accountable*

We blame Him for what we create — war, pestilence, violence

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### The Challenging Question Remains — **WHY DOESN'T GOD STOP IT?**

**Does God have the power to stop it?**

**Was the power He had in the Old Testament (parting the Red Sea), just for that time, but not for now?**

***We want God to stop all of the sins that outrage humanity*** — genocide, idolatry, corruption, war, natural disaster, diseases

**BUT**

***We want God to let us continue in our own personal sins.***

God DOES have the power to stop EVIL — and He WILL — STOP ALL EVIL — when He returns IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME.

What everyone hopes that is everybody will have a long lingering illness near the end of life, which will give them time to repent — this is not true. Their end may come at any time. GOD DOES NOT OWE US THAT.

**While we wait for Him to return and for the END OF EVIL — on the DAY OF JUDGEMENT, the reality is that it is His GOODNESS that allows us to keep on inflicting evil on each other, to outrage each other — but *IT ALSO GIVES US TIME TO REPENT.***

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***At this time in the service, Dr. Rutland showed a video that portrayed God as a PRACTICAL JOKER — having fun at man's expense.***

- Some think that God jerks the chair out from under us every time we ask for help.
- God allows us to live in humanity as it is.
- We think that makes Him as not watching or not powerful... BUT
- That makes Him dealing with us out of his Goodness

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***At this time in the service, Dr. Rutland showed a video that portrayed God as a COSMIC BELLHOP — at our beck and call***

- We think the grace of God means that He is at our beck and call.
- The Goodness of God transcends our expectations.
- God is not a prisoner of our inadequacy in prayer.

**God is better than the best prayer that you have ever prayed.**

**God is not playing word games with us.**

**He is greater than the greatest good than you have ever seen in humanity.**

**He is God of the Universe**

- God is above and beyond history; He is God of the nations
- He is a dependable (*not predictable*) God

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**Trust**

**Does the fact that he is good and loving mean that nothing bad is going to happen to you? NO.**

- Saul was executed. John the Baptist lost his head. Jesus was crucified.

**God says that I don't have to tell you what I am going to do — you have to commit this moment to Me.**

## **2 Timothy 1:12-13**

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. Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

- This is where you have to learn to put everything into God's hands.
- God loves your children more than you do. Surrender them to Him.
- Release your grief to God.

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## **Proclamation of Faith**

In the midst of all of the pain and suffering in the world —  
**make a PROCLAMATION OF FAITH!**

It may not be well with my body, relationships, finances, or my circumstances... **BUT**

**IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL!**

*When everything in life is going **well** — GOD IS GOOD!*

*When everything in life is going **wrong** — GOD IS GOOD!*

### **It Is Well with My Soul**

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll  
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say  
It is well, it is well, with my soul

It is well  
With my soul  
It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul

It is well (it is well)  
With my soul (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul

~ Horatio G. Spafford

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## Discussion Questions

1. Do you find yourself projecting your own feelings of humanity on God?
2. How do we attempt to draw lines between what we think man is responsible for, and what we feel God is responsible for?
3. How will you respond the next time someone asks you why God doesn't stop violence?
4. Have you ever felt guilty that your prayers have not been answered because you have not prayed the right words?
5. Does the fact that God is good and loving mean that nothing bad is going to happen to you?
6. What will be the hardest thing for you to release to God today?