

Our Awesome GOD

He Alone Can
Turn Around Those
Overwhelming
Challenges

We must come to terms with the fact that God can turn water into wine, give hearing to the deaf, exalt a beggar, revive a dead situation, deliver those who have long been in terrible captivity and defy everything we have come to know as "impossibility."

It is very easy to sing and shout, "God, You are so great!...You are the miracle worker!...You can do what no man can do!" Many of us have proved ourselves to be unreliable witnesses because we say one thing about God but behave in a totally different way when it comes to the daily issues of life. We may not call ourselves atheists, in fact we would feel insulted to be labelled this way but in our minds we have scaled-down God. We have become sophisticated in our understanding and refuse to believe anything that cannot fit into the rules of logic and sound reason. If there is no rational explanation, we stamp it "Not possible. Unbelievable." How can the infinite God be packaged into finite boundaries? This is the captivity that many of us are in and God wants to set us free. We must come to

terms with the fact that God can turn water into wine, give hearing to the deaf, exalt a beggar, revive a dead situation, deliver those who have long been in terrible captivity and defy everything we have come to know as "impossibility." It is high time that we, who profess to be believers, begin to marry our hearts and mouths and honour God with true faith.

2 Kings 6:1-7 is a fascinating account of how God did the inexplicable. Many of us can identify with this situation, a physical limitation of small accommodation. It is normal to wake up one morning and say, "I need a larger house...bigger office space...a higher academic qualification...more children...diversification in business...fresh inspirations, and so on. Contentment is not the same thing as complacency. Let us not be



ashamed of acknowledging our needs because this is what the sons of the prophets did. Our point of emphasis is not that their expressed desire for expansion became a reality but the way in which God moved.

One of these men was using a borrowed implement. Borrowing is not a virtue, but should we not be too proud to borrow if the need arises or there is a genuine need. It is no sin to borrow; the sin lies in refusing to return to the owner whatever we have borrowed and honouring what we had pledged. Borrowing is a commitment that we should endeavour not to default in when we borrow. In this instance, the man of God in training borrowed an axe head. The head sank into the river, lost in the deep waters. Who on earth would have jumped into the Jordan to start groping for a piece of metal?

But the borrower cried out and there was a supernatural response to his need. God performed a miracle. He suspended Archimedes Principle and theories of electromagnetism and caused the iron axe head to float to meet the need of his servant. What a loving God. What explanation can you give for this? For the *empiricists* who always want to work things out and think things through for themselves, I dare you with this challenge: drop a metal spoon inside a basin of water, throw in a piece of wood (make it as big as you like) and see whether the spoon will float!

This is where so many of you stumble. You have accepted the lie that the word of God, the Bible, is merely “fables”, “amusing stories,” “the figment of someone's wild imagination” that can be read but never

believed. "You just don't take these things literally," you say. What makes it idolatry is that you substitute God's word with men's science and elevate it above God's word.

How wrong you are. How deep is your mental bondage. Every word of God is true and this account happened exactly as you read it. There is a science, a reality, a realm of divine operation that no human genius can fathom. What you think in a thousand years can never approximate what God can think in one second! How can wood cause iron to float?! Simple. Through the action of an awesome God whose understanding superlatively surpasses yours and mine.



You are the one with the need and you must be the one to heed whatever God tells you to do; obey God and reach out to receive your miracle.

There is no way to stretch your thinking to match the limitless wisdom and power of the Almighty God. We know in part and certainly do not have all the answers to the issues of life. Often what we think we know becomes and hindrance to faith in God's word.

Job rightly declared in Job 11:7-9 (Amp), *Can you find out the deep things of God, or can you by searching find out the limits of the Almighty [explore His depths, ascend to His heights, extend to His breadth, and comprehend His infinite perfection]? His wisdom is as high as the heights of heaven! What can you do? It is deeper than Sheol*

[the place of the dead]! What can you know? Longer in measure [and scope] is it than the earth, and broader than the sea.

How often have we missed the blessing of experiencing the miraculous because we have tried too hard to bring God down to our three-dimensional level? We must accept that our impossibilities have limitations that do not exist for God; He can do all things and He does not need to explain how or why. Those of you who are believing God for a miracle should be careful not to checkmate your expectations with human reasoning. Can God bring you out of debt? Yea, He

gave us manna, but can He also give meat? Can He promote you to a higher level? Can He change your profile? Can he move specifically on your account? Yes! As you believe God, there are divine potentials He will release into your life. Remember, the son of the prophet cried out when the axe head sank. If he had kept quiet there would have been no miracle, so do not allow pride to disqualify you from crying out to God. When God used His servant to tell the man, "Pick it up for yourself" (verse 7), He was also giving you an important guideline. You are the one with the need and you must be the one to heed whatever God tells you to do. Obey God and reach out to receive your



God performed a miracle. He overthrew the Archimedes Principle and theories of electromagnetism when He caused the iron axe head to float.

miracle. You cannot be waiting for others to do for you what God has given you the power to do for yourself. Your obedient response will enable you to see the provision of God in that area of expectation. Obedience was the key to the first miracle and obedience to God remains the activator of faith for miracles.

There once was a woman who struggled to believe God as so many of us do. Genesis 18:1-15 details a divine visitation and specific promise of God. It is so reassuring that we have a Father who never speaks to us in generalities; His promises are always precise and exact so that we are not confused when the fulfillment comes. And God never makes empty utterances.

Although the angels knew this couple had a need, the promise was directed to Sarah. She was told that she would certainly have a son because God was going to “return to her according to the time of life” (verse 10) – but she could not move beyond the limits of her human reasoning. Does this describe your reaction to God's word? Sarah made the mistake of 'balancing' God's ability with the

physical evidence, and the physical evidence tipped the scales. It was true that she and Abraham were not just old, they were “well advanced in age;” it was true that she was definitely menopausal since she no longer experienced her menstrual flow. Whichever way she tried to look at the promise of God through the eyes of the flesh, she could not see herself becoming the mother of a son. So she did what we often do: she laughed in her heart. And her unbelief grieved the Promise Keeper. She actually hurt God with her reaction. Let us not think that God's heart is so hard that He is unmoved by our unspoken words of unbelief. These things matter to God. Therefore, He queried Sarah, He confronted her and repeated what He had said before. God told her again: “At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life...” (verse 14).

It takes an open mind, a believing heart to look beyond the environment and circumstances we are in and see an awesome God. Without faith, we can never please God; it is our faith in Him that truly delights His heart and opens the door of blessing.



God is too much for any of us. He requires only one thing, that we believe Him for who He is. Believe God! He is truly awesome!

*Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord. **Luke 1:45.***

...Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

John 20:29

Believing God brings its own blessing and this leads to a further manifestation of God's power. Do you realise that it is the physical evidence that makes the miracle of God's intervention more incredible? Thank God that in His mercy, He gave Sarah a better reason to laugh. She laughed the first time because of her spiritual blindness; she laughed once more because the integrity of God's word could not be diminished. Genesis 21:1-2 is the testimony of God's undeniable faithfulness. The full manifestation of the promise came to

Sarah exactly as God had said it would. May this also be your portion as you believe God.

Look again at your present circumstances. Whether they match the 'lost axe head' or 'empty womb of an aged woman' scenarios or neither of these is not the issue. The God who has allowed them to come your way, knows precisely how and when He will turn them around and relieve your anxiety with laughter. He does not owe any of you an explanation of His ways. The truth is this: even if He tried to explain, you still would not be able to come up to His level of understanding because

*“...My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” says the
LORD.*

Isaiah 55:8

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¹When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream. ²Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.” ⁵Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. ⁶He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Psalm 126:1-2, 5-6

This is an adaptation of the Bishop's message, God Can Do What You Think Is Impossible and is available on CD.