

## The Unconfined Power of God

We serve a God who cannot be confined to time and space. He is limitless. He extends beyond our thinking and imagination. His power is such that he brought the universe into existence and by His power all things are held together. God came to earth as a man in Jesus. He limited Himself to the confines human limitations and thus Jesus was 100% God and 100% man at the same time. Even this is a mystery beyond our understanding. We see Jesus as very human but at times we see the power of God being released beyond His humanity into the supernatural – for us – which is quite normal and natural for God.

Jesus as received in Galilee by the Galileans as they had seen all the things that He had done. They probably wanted to see Him do more miracles. They weren't particularly interested in believing in Him as their Messiah, Saviour or Lord. They wanted a show. They possibly just wanted to benefit from the miracle as possibly some of them did at the wedding when they had some of the wine Jesus made. But God's unconfined power isn't for show – it is for compassion and for His glory.

John 4: 43 – 54

### 1) Plead with the Lord for His intervention (vs. 46 – 49)

- The royal official – probably an official of Herod – came to Jesus and begged Him to go and heal his son who was sick and even close to death.
- We must bear in mind that Jesus was in Cana and the official's son was lying sick in Capernaum which was some distance away.
- Jesus responded with an unexpected remark stating: Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders you will never believe.
  - It is possible that people started gathering round Jesus when they saw a possibility of seeing Him do another miracle.
  - Jesus did not lack the power or ability to do any miracle but He wasn't going to satisfy the crowd's lust for the extra-ordinary.
  - It is the faith without seeing that pleases the heart of God. Believing even if nothing extraordinary happens.
- The royal official had this type of faith. He ignored Jesus' remark and again implored Jesus to go down to Capernaum before his son died.
  - He wasn't interested in the extraordinary or the supernatural or seeing great things happen. He was only interested in seeing his son made well.
  - He didn't want to see a miracle for a miracle's sake. His love for his son drove him to the feet of Jesus as he had enough faith to believe that Jesus could heal his son.
  - Maybe this man didn't really know if this was going to work but he had probably tried everything else to make his son well.
  - It was possibly an act of last resort desperation that caused him to approach Jesus in public and beg him publicly to heal his son.
- What does it take for us to be driven to the feet of Jesus?

## 2) The Unconfined Power of God is released (vs. 50 – 53)

- Jesus demonstrated his power to heal that was not confined to place or distance.
- We remind ourselves that Jesus was in Cana and the sick boy was in Capernaum.
- When Jesus said “you may go. Your son will live” he wasn’t speaking prophetically.
  - He wasn’t foreseeing the future and had foreknowledge that the official’s son wasn’t going to die but would recover.
  - Jesus was releasing the power of God to heal the boy irrespective of the place and distance involved.
  - The official begged Jesus to “come down before my child dies”. Jesus wasn’t standing on a pedestal. What he meant was for Jesus to come down from Cana and go to Capernaum.
  - He probably expected Jesus to go and lay His hands on the boy to heal him but didn’t expect that he would just say the word and his son would be healed
  - His son was healed at the exact time that Jesus had said “you son will live”.
- EPH 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine
- The awesome power of God cannot be confined to human limitations
  - In our human weakness we have a tendency to limit what God can do
  - Even our greatest imaginations of what God can do put limits on what He really can do because He can do immeasurably more than that.
- God’s unconfined power was demonstrated in creation of the universe
  - Romans 4: 17 The God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.
  - HEB 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.
- Jesus’ life demonstrated the unconfined power of God:
  - In healing across distance
  - In walking on water
  - In feeding crowds of 5000 and 4000 with a few loaves of bread and a few fish
  - In casting out demons
  - In healing a paralysed man by forgiving his sins
  - And in many other ways
- If we were physically present at each of these times would we have thought that they could be done before Jesus did them?
- We often confine the power of God to our understanding and logic. But God is greater than our understanding.
  - Luke 1: 37 For nothing is impossible with God.
  - Matth 19: 26 With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible
  - Mark 9: 23 Everything is possible for him who believes
- We limit God in so many ways. We confine His power to
  - The physical realm
  - The spiritual realm
  - A certain place and time

- Our understanding and logic
- Our experience
- Our theology
- The natural realm

**3) The outcome is faith in Jesus (v. 53)**

- Even though God is pleased when we believe without seeing a demonstration of His power imparts faith into our hearts.
- The power for salvation however lies in the work of Jesus on the cross
  - <sup>RO 1:16</sup> I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes
  - <sup>1CO 1:18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God

Let us come to God with open hearts and minds not confining His power in any way.  
Let God be God.