

# 40 DAYS OF *prayer*



THE ALLIANCE

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## WEEK 4 THE POWER OF GOD

*Revelation 4:10-11*

Creation is a profound demonstration of God's omnipotent power and His ability to create something new out of nothing. The intrinsic nature of creation not only demonstrates the infinite wisdom of the omniscient God, but also demonstrates the authoritative power of His Word, with which the entirety of creation was made. We read throughout the Scriptures about the manifestation of God's power time after time as He moves to fulfill His plan and purpose for His chosen ones. He is naturally supernatural. His Word reveals that He is above and beyond seasons, circumstances, human realities, and the forces of darkness. His power has no comparison.

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## THE SUPERNATURAL POWER THAT OVERRIDES HUMAN LIMITATIONS

GENESIS 18:14

“Is anything too hard for the Lord?” These are the words of today’s text, Genesis 18:14. In answer to this question, any good Christian would say “No!” But do we really posture ourselves like we believe this?

I think we could rightly say that our best experience of this truth, “Nothing is too hard for the Lord,” is predicated on us most fully abiding in Christ (John 15). Of course, the power of God is complete and is not dependent upon my abiding. However, my fullest experience of His strength is best appropriated as I abide in Jesus.

I was recently in a building that had a problem with pigeons. The owners had placed a realistic looking plastic owl in one window frame. I watched numerous pigeons cluster around the powerless owl and coo songs of laughter and disdain. Why? The owl looked good, it appeared to be real, but it was powerless. It lacked presence. It had no life. The pigeons discerned the truth quickly. Hence, the owl had no power nor effect.

Sometimes, when I fail to abide in Christ, I may look noble and spiritual, but a closer inspection reveals that the “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” presence is lacking from my life. Therefore, at those moments, I am a powerless pretender.

Let’s strive, not to serve more, but to abide more deeply. Then we will hear the echoes of Jesus, “With man this is impossible; but with God all things are possible” (Matt. 19:26).



### REFLECTION PRAYER

*Abba, we are grateful that You are “God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth” who also reigns in and through our lives. Thank You that the tapestry of Your power is woven through with the fullness of love, grace, joy, and goodness. We once again surrender ourselves to You, the Vine, acknowledging that “apart from You, we can do nothing.” Fill us afresh with the fullness of Your Holy Spirit. May our lives, like creation, be a billboard of Your power and presence. Amen.*

## THE MIGHTY POWER THAT ACCOMPANIES UNLIMITED UNDERSTANDING

PSALM 147:5

History seems to confirm the idea that “power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” This adage often rings true whether we’re talking about nineteenth century monarchs, lords, and emperors or twenty-first century politicians, celebrities, and CEOs. However, as Christians, we know that power doesn’t diminish human character but merely shines a spotlight on the incurable wickedness of the human heart apart from its Creator.

Likewise, God’s infinite power isn’t the cause of His incomparable goodness but a platform that showcases it! Creation is magnificent because its Creator is magnificent. His plan is perfect because He is perfect. His love never fails because He cannot fail. Every act of God—from creation to the Cross and from Eden to eternity—is fully and completely good because He is fully and completely good. Even in His silence, He is good. Even in His justice, He is good. Even in the storm, He is good.

If you’re like me, sometimes you wrestle with this. We struggle to resolve the perceived dissonance between God’s power and our seasons of pain. We don’t understand why, if He is infinitely good and powerful, He doesn’t show up in our difficult circumstance like a comic book superhero and save the day.

I’ve learned that those very moments are personal invitations from a loving Abba Father saying, “Come to me”—because it is only in that tension that we can experience the freedom of wholehearted surrender to His will and encounter the beauty of unwavering trust in His goodness.



### REFLECTION PRAYER

*Father, we rejoice in Your omnipotence and sovereignty. We find peace and comfort in knowing that Your absolute goodness holds the reigns of Your infinite power; and that unlike human power, Yours will never be corrupted. Thank You, Lord, for being our Good Shepherd. Help us remember in seasons of difficulty that You love us and are working powerfully on our behalf and for our good, despite what we may see or feel. We choose to surrender our will to Yours and to trust You without reservation. Our hope is sustained, and our strength is renewed in You alone. Amen.*

## THE DIVINE POWER THAT MAKES ANYTHING POSSIBLE

MATTHEW 19:26

It's easy to live our daily lives within the boundaries of the possible. In a world that celebrates the pragmatic and scoffs at the enigmatic, our temptation will be to fall in line.

Jesus meets a man in Matthew 19 who has done well within the boundaries of the possible. He has played by the rules and has carved out a wealthy life. The practical has afforded him comfort. Structure has loved him like a pillow after a long day.

He asks Jesus, "Teacher what must I do to have eternal life?" This man assumes that he just has to play by the right rules, on the right playing field. He quips to Jesus, "All these [laws] I have kept. What do I still lack?" He is asking for logical steps to obtain an eternity that defies logic. He desires the solace of a religious trellis, but Jesus offers the challenge of a relational wild vine. Jesus asks for his heart, not just his head. He tells him, "Sell what you possess and give it to the poor." This is impossible.

As Jesus grieves the chasm that the rich must bound to find surrender and death to self, His disciples interject, "Who, then, can be saved?" To this, Jesus replies, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Jesus makes an offering to those who follow Him. Leave the pragmatic and possible to the culture. Join team Jesus and live your life out of bounds.



### REFLECTION PRAYER

*God, where do You want me to live out of bounds? Where do You want me to step into the impossible? Where can my obedience defy the sensible? I pray that, as Your child, the impossible and wild love that I exhibit would make the world curious. I pray that my faith would create questions so big that only You, God, could answer them. I submit to You that the challenges that stand in front of the Church seem impossible. At the same time, I confess that I serve a God who specializes in the impossible. Amen.*

## THE ETERNAL POWER THAT CREATES EVERYTHING FOR HIS GLORY

ROMANS 1:20

We use Romans 1:20 to point out that those who do not believe are without excuse. But there is also a sense that people who have not heard of Jesus can be drawn to a reality clearly seen. Their hearts can be moved to long for what they cannot fully grasp but know must be real and true. Creator God has “placed eternity in their hearts,” putting them in a position to respond. Ours is the privilege of making Jesus known among them!

Paul says the glory of creation is summed up in the reality that God’s eternal power and divine nature have been fully revealed. God is all-powerful, creating out of nothing. The Father spoke the Word in Jesus, and by the power of the Spirit, there was light. No lesser explanation gives justice to the reality of creation. No other explanation captures the awe of our existence!

God is sufficient. He is more than enough! There is order overwhelming chaos and beauty overwhelming brokenness. Creation is groaning under the curse of sin, but groaning with hope because, through Christ, all will be renewed to His glory!

God is sustaining. He is at work for the good of those who love Him, and the good He is working impacts the whole of creation. The Garden City is coming! The signposts are everywhere! And when we see it, we are overwhelmed with a cry of glorious praise. He is for us. His eternal power and divine nature tell us so!



### REFLECTION PRAYER

*Father, there is much that burdens our hearts. Intercession for others and petition for ourselves is always on the tip of our tongues. Confession and direction come as we listen for Your Spirit’s still, small voice. But foundational to it all is our cry of indestructible praise for who You are and what You have done. Remind us today of specific examples in our lives of Your power, sufficiency, and sustenance. Remind us of Your love, compassion, and grace through creation! Give us a glimpse of worship around Your throne, when all is renewed. Amen.*

## THE LIFE-CHANGING POWER THAT CALLS NEW THINGS INTO EXISTENCE

ROMANS 4:17

Abraham didn't live to see the fullness of it, but he knew God was faithful. So, he believed it until the day he drew his last breath. He trusted the God who "gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not," or, as the KJV says, the God who "calleth those things which be not as though they were" (Rom. 4:17).

We have a sight problem. We struggle to believe God unless we see. But may I remind us today that faith is "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1, KJV).

Often, God speaks something for which He's calling us trust Him, and its fulfillment will come in a future generation. We may not live to see it, but God is true to His word. What He speaks is already done. It is ours to believe and trust Him, even if we don't live to see the fullness of His promise.

We are living evidence of God's promise to Abraham: "And [Abraham] believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness" (Gen.15:6). Aren't you glad Abraham believed God?

Friend, God keeps His word. What has He spoken to you? Is it for now? Or is it for a future yet to be seen? Trust Him for what is not yet as though it already is—even if it is meant for future generations you won't see. They'll be glad you believed God.



### REFLECTION PRAYER

*God, forgive us for being people who walk more by sight than by faith. You are who You say You are. You will do what You say You will do. You speak and it is done. Out of nothing, You create that which we do not have the capacity to imagine. So, we trust You. We remember the ancients were commended because of their faith. And so, we follow their lead and trust the God who calls into being things that were not as we hold onto Your multigenerational promises that advance Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name. Amen.*



## THE RESURRECTING POWER THAT RAISES DEAD TO ETERNAL LIFE

EPHESIANS 1:18-22

A presidential inauguration is a substantial moment because it vests the power of the presidency in one person. You may be anticipating—or fearing—how this president will wield that power.

In his prayer at the end of Ephesians 1, Paul makes clear that the power of presidency pales in comparison to the power of God, which he describes as “incomparable and mighty” (Eph. 1:19). The same power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at the right hand in the heavenly realms is no less active in our world today.

You may be thinking, *but Paul didn't know our situation*. That's true, but he knew the strength of worldly power all too well. He wrote this letter from a Roman jail. He was unjustly imprisoned in the world's most powerful empire based on trumped-up charges brought on by religious leaders who yearned more for worldly power than heavenly connection. Rather than dwell on his circumstances, however, Paul prayed for our hearts to be enlightened so we could know the hope, riches, and power that supersede earthly rulers, principalities, and authorities.

In what power are you placing your hope? The same power that resurrected Christ is reaching into people's lives so that they, too, can experience His resurrection power. The same power that placed all things under His feet may be preparing to renew the Church in ways we don't believe are possible. Let's pray in faith as we anticipate how God might move—and for eyes to see how He is already moving.



### REFLECTION PRAYER

*Lord, You alone are worthy of our praise. I pray that the eyes of my heart may be enlightened so that I may know the hope to which You have called me and the riches of Your glorious inheritance. Help me to focus on Your Kingdom. Guide me to renew my faith and trust in Your incomparable power daily. Amen.*

## THE REIGNING POWER THAT DRAWS A MULTITUDE TO HIS THRONE

REVELATION 19:6

Last year, we lived in an area of our country that experienced the totality of the solar eclipse. By the power of God's Word at the beginning of creation, He set into motion what was revealed to millions of people on that April 8, 2024. People came from all over the country to observe the wonder of God's creation and experience a one-time event in most people's lives. When the time of the totality arrived, it was so awe-inspiring that people began to cheer and shout with great joy. The response of the crowd was, "It was spectacular," "amazing," and "beyond anything I imagined."

In the same way that God's creation drew people to the solar eclipse, Jesus is drawing multitudes of people from all creation to Himself with great praise and applause. People will respond with even louder cheers and greater joy when encountering the living Christ. People traveled many miles to see the eclipse because they heard the stories of what the experience would be like. Our stories of the wonder and truth of Jesus from biblical accounts and our personal experiences with Jesus will draw people from every family, neighborhood, city, tribe, and nation to the throne of Jesus along with the 24 elders and multitudes of angels. Share your personal stories so others will also experience the power, awe, and wonder of the One who created the sun and the moon.



### REFLECTIVE PRAYER

*O Lord, Your Word teaches us that Your creation proclaims Your power, wonder, and glory. As we observe Your awesome creation each day, may we remember Your reigning power is drawing people from all over the world to Yourself. May we be prepared each moment to share our stories about Your presence, Your forgiveness, and Your victory in our lives. Then, we will rejoice when many people we know and when people we prayed for are part of the roaring crowd before Your throne. Amen.*