

Almighty God

"What does it mean that God is Almighty?" Almighty means omnipotent. Capable of doing anything whatsoever. The word God means a being that is holy, divine, or sacred. The Almighty God the perfect and all-powerful spirit or being that is worshipped. In Hebrew, the title "God Almighty" is written as El Shaddai and it means "God, the All-powerful One" or "The Mighty One of Jacob (GEN49:24) God (El) signifies the "Strong One". The title speaks to God's ultimate power over all, that speaks of might in relation to nourishment, strength, power, and sufficiency. God is all Powerful and Mighty to save. We are first introduced to this name in Genesis 17:1, when God appeared to Abram and said, "*I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless.*" Almighty God not only enriches, but makes fruitful. To a man ninety-nine years of age, and "as good as dead". He said: "I am the Almighty God - El Shaddai . . . I will . . . multiply thee exceedingly." Mighty - Hebrew word gibbowr defines as powerful, warrior; as an adjective it means strong or mighty. "*Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite*" (PSA147:5) Psalm 62:11, *I heard this: that power belongs to God.*

God has many names and attributes. He is the Almighty. "*And by the Almighty who will bless you* (GEN49:25), the Creator of heaven and earth (GEN14:19), Builder of everything (HEB3:4), the King of heaven (DAN4:37), God of all mankind (JER32:27), and the Eternal King. (JER10:10). He is the only God (JUD1:25), the Eternal God (GEN21:33), the Everlasting God (ISA40:28), and Maker of all things. (ECC11:5) He is able to do more things than we can ask or even imagine. (EPH3:20) He performs wonders that cannot be measured and miracles that cannot be counted. (JOB9:10) God's power is unlimited. He can do anything He wants, whenever He wants. (PSA115:3) He spoke the Universe into existence. (GEN1:3) He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. God is sovereign over all things, eternal and infinite, all powerful, all knowing, and present everywhere at once. When we see God as the Almighty, we are struck by His power and by the fact that He is indeed a Great, mighty, and awesome God. (DEU10:17) The identity of God as Almighty serves to establish the sense of awe and wonder we have toward Him and the realization that He is God above all things without limitation. God said to Moses, "I am the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and Jacob as God Almighty. (EXO6:2) In the story of Moses and burning bush, God reveals Himself as the Lord. This desire on God's part for a more personal relationship with mankind would conclude when God Almighty sent His only Son to earth--God in flesh--to die on the cross so that a way for forgiveness of our sins. God Almighty would humble Himself in this way for us makes His name remarkable.

In Isaiah 66:2, the Lord says, "*These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word.*" Contrite, "crushed," is only the superlative of "broken"; "a contrite heart" is "a heart broken to pieces." In Holy Scripture, the heart is the seat of all feeling. A contrite heart is one in which the natural pride and self-sufficiency have been completely humbled. The place of contrition is a blessed place to be. "*For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the contrite"* (ISA57:15) In spite of inhabiting eternity and dwelling in high, heavenly and holy places, Almighty God has also chosen to live with those who are meek, and lowly, and humble of heart. The contrite/broken heart promised a dwelling place with God to revive.

"*God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. so that no one may boast before him*" (1CO1:27-29) In Judges 6:11-16, after seven years of oppression by the Midianites, Israel cried out to God for relief. God chose Gideon, a young man from the tribe of Manasseh, to deliver the people of Israel and to condemn their idolatry. Gideon' is where God takes weak, humble, sometimes fearful people and uses them to do wonderful things. During the wheat harvest, Gideon hid in a winepress to remove the wheat from its husks because he feared the Midianites. As Gideon was threshing wheat, the Angel of the Lord appeared to him *and said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."* Gideon took the opportunity to tell the Lord how bad things were in his life. What's more, he told the Lord how wrong He was to choose him. Fortunately, that did not deter the Lord, who went on to reveal why He had come and what He wanted Gideon to do: *Lord said unto him, Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand.* Gideon tried to give excuses. But God assured him saying: "*Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man*" Gideon united the Israelites against enemies and through God's power, defeated Midianites! Gideon had proved his faithfulness to God, his obedience had required him to take a stand against his own father and tribe. Gideon is listed in the Faith Hall of Fame in Heb.11

From Gideon's example we can learn that no matter how great the odds against us may be, our faithful God is sovereign, and He will always see us through whatever battles we face in life, as long as we remain faithful to His calling and obedient to His commands. God can accomplish great things through us if we forget our weaknesses, trust in the Lord, and follow his guidance. "Putting out a fleece," or testing God, is a sign of weak faith. Sin always has bad consequences.

Gideon as weak as he was, timid, from the weakest family, and of the smallest tribe in Israel could be chosen as a deliverer of his nation. God has committed a simple message to simple people so that others may come to know Him. In this life, there will be people who call you foul. Others will say you don't have what it takes. You will feel inadequate, incapable, inferior. But if you bring all that you are to the Lord, He can do great things in and through you. Stop letting the enemy, your flesh, others keep you from achieving all that God has for you. Yield yourself to the Lord and let Him fill you. Your responsibility is response to God's ability. Our sufficiency is with God. We are not sufficient but our sufficiency is of God.