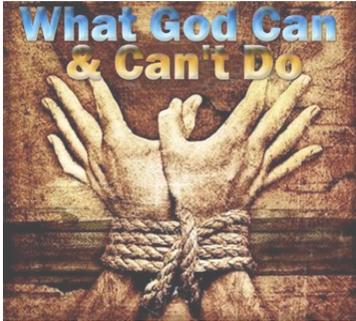


# Glad Tidings

Romans 10:15

September 19, 2021



## What Can God Do?

Brother John T. Lewis used to say, "The Bible was not designed to answer every fool question that some people can think up?" How true!

It is especially true when it comes to questions about the ability of the all-powerful God. There is no end to the questions, some downright foolish and some just speculative, that people raise. Like:

Can God make two mountains without a valley between them?

Can God make an object too heavy for him to move?

Can God perform miracles in answer to our prayers today?

Could God have ordained a scheme of redemption other than the one he did ordain?

Can God save man without faith?

The list can be expanded as far as the imagination can take us? When we have exhausted our imagination of what He may or not be able to do we are still in an area of God attributes "past finding out." If we could answer each of the above questions in the affirmative, the question would still be not what He CAN do but what He DOES do. It's much easier to determine the extent of His WILL toward man than the extent of the exer-

cise of His POWER. “The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.” (Deuteronomy 29:29 KJV) God has revealed his will for mankind, but not the answer to everything we might conceive to be within His power. It is our business to learn, believe, teach and preach the REVEALED will rather than presume what is not revealed and run with that.

Is God ABLE to save one without faith? But is it God’s WILL that man be saved without faith? (Heb. 11:6)

Is God ABLE to save without baptism? But is it His WILL to save men by baptism? (1 Pet. 3:21).

Is God ABLE to save an alien sinner without repentance? But is it His WILL that repentance be a condition of salvation (Luke 13:3,5).

Is God ABLE to forgive a brother before he repents and prays for forgiveness of his sin? But it is REVEALED that he forgives one in answer to repentance and asking for it in prayer (Acts 8:22 1 John 1:9).

It is not our business to hold out hope to anyone based on what we think God might be able to do with His awesome power. It is our business to point them to what is revealed concerning His will for man’s salvation.

**By Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.**

### **Contrary Reality**

There may be a gap between what we think we are and what we really are. I may think I am young, gorgeous, brilliant and wealthy. If I feed this self image long enough, and if I get a little help from flattering friends, I may deceive myself into thinking this is real. Doesn’t change reality does it?

This is common, and especially in regard to religious profession. We may think we are religious over such a long period of time; we deceive ourselves into believing everything is all right. We do what



we have always done and say what we have always said, carrying through life the assumption that we are saved. What we think doesn't change contrary reality.

If your heart hasn't been changed by the gospel of Christ; if your life is not really being lived in Him and according to His teaching, there is a gap between what you think ("I'm saved") and how you are living (the contrary reality).

Or as James said: "If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless," and "...someone will say, 'You have faith, and I have works.' Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works," (Jas. 1:26 & 2:18).

By Warren E. Berkley

### **"God Knows My Heart"**

Sometimes the expression "God knows my heart" is used to justify decisions made that are opposed to His word. Have you ever made that statement trying to justify your actions knowing they are wrong?

1. The truth is that our sins are evidence of an unclean heart.

"What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart...out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander" (Matthew 15:18-19) (see Psalm 51)

2. And, we cannot hide our hearts from God. He sees, knows, and judges our heart.

"If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god, would not God discover this? For he knows the secrets of the heart." (Psalm 44:20-21)

3. So what is the answer? It is not to try and excuse ourselves or our actions. Rather it is to make clean what is unclean. Jesus died not so that we could justify ourselves, but that we could be justified by submitted ourselves to Him.

"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you" (James 4:8-10).

**By Justin Robinson**



## GLAD TIDINGS

**Sermon Notes:** Sept. 19, 2021 Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

### Order of Worship September 19, 2021

Song Leader—AM	Michael Young
Song Leader—PM	Stephen Frazier
Lord's Table	Gary Barber
Sermon—AM—Devin Barber	Sermon—PM—Devin Barber

Continue prayers for those on our list, and for the free course of the gospel.

*1 John 5:14*

Editor: Steve Frazier

### **Marietta church of Christ**

**8150 Driggers St.**

**Jacksonville, FL 32220**

Meeting times of the church

Sunday 09:00 am Bible Classes 10:00 am Worship 05:00 pm Evening Worship

Wednesday 7:00 pm Bible classes

Evangelist: Devin Barber

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**Hebrews 10:24-25**