

Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics

The Doctrines of God: The Attributes of God Part 6

The Heights Church December 13, 2015

God's Communicable Attributes

15. God's omnipotence means God is able to do all his holy will.

'Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. Jeremiah 32:17

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20

With God nothing will be impossible. Luke 1:37

With God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26.

God's Communicable Attributes

15. God's omnipotence means God is able to do all his holy will.

God's power is infinite and therefore God is able to do more than he actually does.

And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Matthew 3:9

Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you. Exodus 32:10

It is not accurate to say God can do anything. For example, he cannot lie Hebrews 6:18.

God's Communicable Attributes

16. God's providence:

- **Preservation:** God keeps all created things existing and maintaining the properties with which he created them.
- **Concurrence:** God cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do.
- **Government:** God has a purpose in all that he does in the world and he providentially governs or directs all things in order that they accomplish his purposes.

God's Communicable Attributes

16. God's providence:

Preservation: God keeps all created things existing and maintaining the properties with which he created them.

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he **upholds the universe by the word of his power.**

Hebrews 1:3

Upholds is a present participle of a Greek word (*phero*) meaning to bear or carry so literally Jesus is continually carrying all things along,

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17

God's Communicable Attributes

16. God's providence:

- **Concurrence: God cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do.**
- **Inanimate Creation (natural occurrences)**

For to the snow he says, 'Fall on the earth,' likewise to the downpour, his mighty downpour. Job 37:6

By the breath of God ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen fast. He loads the thick cloud with moisture; the clouds scatter his lightning. Job 37:10-11

God's Communicable Attributes

16. God's providence:

- **Concurrence: God cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do.**
- **Animals are fed by God.**

Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Matthew 6:26

- **Seemingly Random or Chance Events**

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.

Proverbs 16:33

God's Communicable Attributes

16. God's providence:

- **Concurrence: God cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do.**

- **The Affairs of Nations:**

For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations. Psalm 22:28

He changes times and seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings; Daniel 2:21

God's Communicable Attributes

16. God's providence:

- **Concurrence:** God cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do.

- **All Aspects of our Lives:**

Give us this day our daily bread. Matthew 6:11

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. Psalm 139:16

The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.
Proverbs 16:9

God's Communicable Attributes

16. God's providence:

- **Concurrence:** God cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do.
- **All Aspects of our Lives:**

Because we are fallen we think if our choices are real they cannot be caused by God or if what we do is caused by God then we are puppets.

God causes all things that happen in such a way that our ability is upheld to make willing, responsible choices that have real eternal results for which we are held accountable.

Scripture does not explain this.

God's Communicable Attributes

16. God's providence:

- **Concurrence:** God cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do.

- **Evil:**

God does not do anything directly that is evil but rather brings about evil deeds through the willing actions of moral creatures.

Joseph's brothers were:

Jealous of him (Genesis 37:11); **Hated** him (Genesis 37:4, 5, 8);
Wanted to **kill** him (Genesis 37:20); **Sold** him into slavery (Genesis 37:28)

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. Genesis 50:20

God's Communicable Attributes

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God repeatedly hardened Pharaoh's heart: (7:3, 9:12, 10:20, 10:27, 11:10, 14:4, 14:8)

Pharaoh hardened his own heart (Exodus 8:15, 8:32, 9:34)

For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. Romans 9:17-18