

Series: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

The Power of His Command

July 23, 2023

Dr. Mary Craig

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.



[Click/tap to hear more from the live recording](#)

We have discussed various powers of God relative to the Holy Spirit, who is God. The Holy Spirit commands a situation with supernatural power and who resists His will? Acts 7:51; Exodus 9:12; Zechariah 7:12, 13.

The One, true, and Living God has ultimate authority. Authority is the right to impose obligation directly. When God commands, He speaks will to will; His will to the will of another. I expect you to... But we can resist, refuse, and reject the Holy Spirit to the point that we are deaf to His words and hardened against Him. We can resist the Voice of the Holy Spirit, shut Him off, and move past the point of no return until He turns away. when it comes to hearing and seeing. Matthew 13:13.

Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: (Matthew 13:13 NKJV)

When the Holy Spirit moves in salvation, however, we find that God's grace is irresistible. God turns the heart, opens ears to hear, and opens eyes to see.

The Holy Spirit is the One who calls, convicts of sin, convinces, comes with repentance and faith, and converts. He is the One who applies what Jesus has accomplished in atonement. He is the One whose power "makes it happen." If He is resisted, refused, and rejected, He will not always strive. Like an alarm clock...we won't hear it go off if we repeatedly ignore its annoying wake-up call.

Numbers 27:14; Isaiah 63:10; and Jeremiah 6:10 describe a person who is stiff-necked, rebellious, disobedient, refusing to listen, willful, uncircumcised in heart.

But then listen to Romans 9:19-21 and better yet, read all of Romans 9.

Romans 9:19-21: ¹⁹You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?" ²⁰But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed *it*, "Why have you made me like this?" ²¹Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? NKJV

When God determines to save someone, that person is saved. Neither he himself, nor the devil, nor the wicked world is able to prevent his salvation. Nothing can stand in the way of God's purpose. Not only does God will to save him and work by the power of the Holy Spirit to save him, but He actually does save him, "**For who hath resisted His will?" (Rom. 9:19).**

The ultimate question is, "Can God be resisted?" For example, the grace of salvation is God's grace. Can God, the sovereign God, be frustrated in His will to save even one

sinner? The issue concerns the very Being of God. So we must ask once again, "What do we believe about God?"

God is an irresistible, sovereign, and holy God, infinite and eternal in His Being. His grace is an irresistible and sovereign grace. God and God's grace cannot effectively and ultimately be resisted by the most obstinate of sinners. When the Holy Spirit moves to save the sinner, for example, His grace will triumph in the salvation of that sinner. The elect *will* be saved. God *will* have the victory. Not the power of the devil, not the power of the wicked world, not the power of the sinner himself, shall be able to prevent, overthrow, or frustrate the work of God's grace. The God of the Scriptures is the God Who "... **declares the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.**" (Isaiah 46:10)

He is the God before Whom Daniel says in Daniel 4:35, "... **all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?**"

Isaiah 55:11. So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it.

http://www.reformedalberta.ca/Doctrine/Saved_by_Grace/Saved_by_Grace05.html

The winds and waves obey Jesus' command. Let's look at another angle of the commanding power of God. When Jesus rebuked the waves and winds and commanded that they be calm in Mark 4:39, He was saying something like, "Muzzle your mouth." The winds obeyed Jesus. This, too, is the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit working.

Paul, a commander during a crisis. Paul was on a ship going to Italy. He boarded as a prisoner, but by the power of the Holy Spirit he became a commander during a crisis. A violent storm at sea threatened the ship and everyone's lives. The crew was ready to jump overboard, but Paul began to command the situation by the authority of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 27:23. For just last night an angel of God, whose I am and whom I serve, stood beside me, BSB

Acts 27:21-26: ²¹Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. ²²Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. ²³For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, ²⁴and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.' ²⁵ So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. ²⁶But we must run aground on some island." ESV

Paul received from the angel divine instructions and the power to carry them out. Lives were spared as the Holy Spirit in supernatural power worked through Paul, a human vessel, to do the will of God in the moment.

What about commanding angels? Some today teach about commanding this and that, commanding angels, commanding the morning, even commanding our destiny, but we must remember first, that holy elect angels only do the will of God and we are not to tempt them to do evil. They won't do it, but demonic angels will.

The commanding power of the Holy Spirit is motivated by the heart of the Holy Spirit, by love. Out of His love, the Holy Spirit will fight for the lives of His children and triumph.

What about Isaiah 45:11? In Isaiah 45, the Lord has a message for Cyrus, who is called God's anointed.

We must look at the context. David Reagan

<http://www.learnthebible.org/commanding-god.html> gives us much to think about:

The "implication of the entire chapter is that there is no other god to whom men can go to find help; there is no other source for eternal truth or salvation. The God who created all things is the only true God and there is none other beside Him. Far from presenting God as the servant of men who will do their every bidding, He is shown to be the absolute Lord of all who must be obeyed. So, how are we to take *Isaiah 45:11*? We start by giving the verse the proper emphasis on God. In the following quotation of the verse, all of the nouns and pronouns referring to God are capitalized. Read the verse aloud, giving emphasis to the capitalized words, and you will begin to understand the import of the verse.

Isaiah 45:11

- Thus saith the LORD, the HOLY ONE of Israel, and his MAKER, Ask ME of things to come concerning MY sons; and concerning the work of MY hands command ye ME.

**Isaiah 45:11 ¹¹Thus says the Lord,
the Holy One of Israel, and the one who formed him:
"Ask me of things to come;
will you command me concerning my children and the work of my hands?"^b
¹²I made the earth
and created man on it;
it was my hands that stretched out the heavens,
and I commanded all their host. ESV**

Footnote says: A slight emendation yields *will you question me about my children, or command me concerning the work of my hands?*

That is, if you want to know the truth about the future, then come to the only source that can help you--that is the God of creation--and ask Him. You will get no help from idols, false gods, or false prophets. Also, if you want to influence the events of heaven and earth, then come to the only One who can really make things happen--to the LORD and Holy One--and command Him. He is the only One who can do such things and so He is the One to whom you must go. If He will not do it, then it will not get done.

[How a Command Operates.] In context, we are warned against striving with our Maker (*Isaiah 45:9*). Therefore, this is not any kind of promise to do what we desire on the behalf of God. [We might wonder] why the scriptures use the word "command" if the desired action is not guaranteed. The key is in how a command operates. When we command someone to do something, we are actually accomplishing something through the actions of another person.

**Isaiah 45:9: “Woe to him who strives with him who formed him, a pot among earthen pots!
Does the clay say to him who forms it, ‘What are you making?’
or ‘Your work has no handles’? ESV**

Examples of this are found in scripture. David is accused of killing Uriah the Hittite although he ordered others to do the actual deed--in fact, leaving him exposed to the enemy. When we pray and God answers that prayer, God certainly gets the credit for doing the work. Yet, in another way, we did it through Him. As the missionary William Carey said, "Attempt great things for God; expect great things from God." Jesus told His disciples, "**for without me ye can do nothing**" (*John 15:5*). In this sense, the only way we can do anything of eternal value is to do them through the power of God. Thus we may sound like we are demanding God, as in "Give us this day our daily bread" when in fact we are asking Him to do something. When we ask in faith believing, we are trusting God on the basis of His Word to do something.

Who is the Master and who is the servant? However, this does not mean that we are the masters and God is the servant or some genie in a bottle there to serve our every whim or to fulfill our every desire. Just the opposite. **Our commands are requests and they become commands only when God determines to do them.** Again, the purpose for using the word, command, is to emphasize the way we do things through prayer. **We put in our order (a word related to command) and, if approved, it is accomplished by God.** Sometimes, when someone is especially close to God, these prayers can be quite bold. They can even take the form of a command, as when Jacob says to the angel of the Lord, "**I will not let thee go, except thou bless me**" (*Genesis 32:26*), or when Joshua said to the sun and moon, "**Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon**" (*Joshua 10:12*). But we should never assume that this one use of the word, command, in dealing with our relationship to God gives us the right or power to order Him around. To think so is to think foolish thoughts."

David Reagan <http://www.learnthebible.org/commanding-god.html>

Boldness and brassiness, selfish ambition and counterfeit spiritual authority, carnal desire and desire for personal gain, are not motivated by love.

Dr. Fuchsia Pickett note: "A person with a proud, commanding spirit is usually a person who is very insecure and desires to control others. Anyone who does not display a broken spirit and who is not teachable may simply be displaying a carnal desire to rule when commanding a situation." She also notes that the true commanding mood of the

Holy Spirit comes with the authority and power of the Godhead to change any situation for His glory. God has given us His Word. Today we have tools to study His Word and pray for sound, healthy, correct doctrine. Do the research; learn how to use an interlinear and read in various translations whole chapters. We also need to pray for one another to cling to what is good, stay on the narrow road, and be diligent. Amen.

Bibliography:

http://www.reformedalberta.ca/Doctrine/Saved_by_Grace/Saved_by_Grace05.html

<http://www.learnthebible.org/commanding-god.html> David Reagan

www.biblehub.com

Mary Craig, D. Min.

© 2014-2023 Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. www.marycraig.org www.mcmtffr.org



Thank you for giving to MCM! Donate: Mary Craig Ministries, Inc., P. O. Box 4610, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338-4610 or through PayPal® online at www.marycraig.org. Go to marycraig.org for the latest articles and words received. Take a look and see all that God is doing through this ministry, in world missions, in evangelism, the Barnabas Project, Craighthouse® Christian Fellowship, home visitation, Kinetic Koinonia, media, and more. Worship with us 4:30 p.m. Sundays via teleconference. Reach MCM at 954-491-7270. Send in your prayer requests. Follow MCM Bible teachings and Rev. Jim Craig's sermons; go to www.marycraig.org and click on "Audio Bible Studies" or "*Divine Appointment*" radio ministry; or go to www.mcmtffr.org for audio sermons, teachings, and handout sheets. Free. Go to www.marycraigverses.org for "[Enjoying God for Life](http://www.marycraigverses.org)," daily encouragement and growing in your faith. Go to www.marycraig.smugmug.com for some pictures of MCM world missions.

Visit Mary Craig Ministries YouTube Channel:

www.youtube.com/@marycraigministries or www.mcmvideochannel.com. Subscribe for free.

Free books by Dr. Craig to download, print, or just open and use, here:

www.marycraig.org/Catalog.htm.

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. is a USA 501 (C) (3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1993.
Federal ID 65-0429517