

The Ability of God

by Randall Easter

God's ability to save is not limited by anything, and He is able to save those who come to Him through Christ.

Duration: 42:25

Scripture: Matthew 11:28, Matthew 16:24, John 14:6, Acts 4:12, Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:8-9, Hebrews 7:25

Topics: "Divine Attributes", "Salvation Through Christ"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of coming to God through Christ for forgiveness and salvation. He emphasizes that our self-esteem is not important, but our soul is of great value. The preacher also highlights the extent of the Savior's ability to save, emphasizing that no one can come to God with audacity or self-righteousness. He further discusses the attributes of God, including His holiness, wrath, love, and mercy, and emphasizes the ability of God to sustain the universe and be worshipped by His creation.

Transcript

If you would turn in your scriptures to the book of Hebrews, Hebrews chapter 7, verse 25. I am reading out of the Holman translation and I shall give you my own translation in a moment, but it may read a little different than yours. If you would stand in the honor of the reading of the Word of God this morning.

Therefore, He is, and you can be assured of that. He is, and He is always, through all of time, able. Able to do what? He is able to save.

Able to save to what degree? As the King James would say, He's able to save to the uttermost. If you don't like uttermost, contemporary language would be to save completely. Well, who in the world is He going to save? And those who come, those who come to God, those who come to God through Christ, since He is always living, for what? What is He always living for? Dear Christian, do you find refuge here this morning? What is He always living for? To intercede, to plead, to beseech on your behalf.

Thank you, Lord. Father in Heaven, we ask this morning that you would accompany the proclamation of your Word. For, Father, if you do not come, it will only be a pathetic demonstration of my pitiful flesh.

Lord, please come and speak to us. Stir our hearts. May we catch a glimpse of your glory.

May we never be the same. For, Lord, if we meet with you, I don't know how we can remain unchanged. Amen.

I pray these things by your Spirit, in Christ's name. God's people said, Amen. You may be seated.

I will not try to spend much time talking about the conference, but I spoke upon the attributes of God, holiness of God, the wrath of God, the love of God, the mercy of God, and many other attributes. And I am going to attempt to preach upon the ability of God. Now, let's go ahead and get this out of the way.

And that way I can focus on the text. You don't know me. And if you did, you probably wouldn't have come this morning anyways.

And look, here, you know, in an hour and a half, when I get done, I'm going to leave, and I don't know that I'll ever be back. And that's not important, really. OK? But what I'm going to proclaim to you is greatly important, because it's about the ability of God.

And I care not whether you remember my name or even know where I am from, because that makes little difference in eternity. But if you'll rest on the fact that God is able, you will learn much this morning. And there is nothing that will hinder the ability of our God.

So I thought this morning, I think many Christians wouldn't have a problem, at least with the introduction. As I woke up early, as I thought about even, as I sat on the porch and I listened to the crickets this morning, that God has the ability to even make the crickets sing and worship Him. And I thought this morning, as I couldn't see very well, I couldn't see very far, because there was a fog that had settled.

And I realized that it was the ability of my Father that put that fog there. And He can limit my vision, or He can enlarge my vision, and it is strictly up to Him. That lieth within His ability, does it not? That He can bring the fog in, I can only see 20 yards, and then in the afternoon, maybe I can see for miles.

But it's strictly up to Him and His ability, and He does whatsoever He pleases, does He not? Psalms 115.3 says, Our God is in heaven, and He does whatsoever He pleases. And make no mistake about it, whatever He does is pleasing unto Himself. He does not have to check with me, nor does He have to check with you.

And even this morning, sometimes we take so many things for granted, but it is only due to the ability of God that the sun even rose. The only reason that the moon was partially shaded and partially shining last night, because it pleases God to do so. Why was it that the heavens were so bright last night, and the stars were so sparkly? It was because the power of God, the ability of God, sustains this universe, and it is for His glory, and even the creation ought to know to worship Him.

Even as yesterday, I look out and I see the cows. Even the cows know how to moo to God. Even as the birds will flap their feathers and sing, they know to worship the living God.

Even as I think about it in Texas, as I think about the degree of temperature being 105 most of this summer, and you'll look and you'll see the mockingbird in the top of the tree, in the full bright sunlight and the heat of the day, and singing for all He's worth through the glory of God. Why so? Because the ability of God has made the bird to sing to His glory, and even His creation knows to worship Him. And God's people, like me, complain about the heat, complain about the rain, complain about the wind or the lack thereof.

God help us. Now, I don't have a remote belief that you should have a problem with what I've said thus far, but what about when it comes to salvation? What is God able to do? What is God able to do when it

comes to salvation? You see, we have a very difficult problem here. We have a great problem here in this text because there's either going to be a problem with the ability of God, or there's going to be a problem with man.

And I can tell you up front where I am going to cast my position. I am going to cast it upon man because I am too afraid to say that God is unable to do so. I'm afraid to say that God is unable to do something.

You see, there's many people that would purport out of their mouth that they have saving faith and they have confessed their faith in Christ. They have walked in hell. They have said a prayer.

They have raised a hand. They winked at the evangelist, but there's nothing about their life that represents the holiness of God. And so I'm thus forced to conclude either God is not able to save them and make them holy, or they have not been saved.

Dear friend, how does that apply to you this morning? If you confess to be saved, has God done a work of grace in your life? Do you have a sense of a desire for holiness? Do you have a sense of a desire for worship? Do you have a passion for Him? Has He so gripped your heart with such conviction and with such overwhelming authority that He has that you can't get enough of Him, that you long for Him as the deer penance after the water? Do you have a hunger for the Word of God? Do you have a hunger for worship? This morning when you got up, were you on your face saying, God, please speak to me? God, I need to hear from You today. Or did all of you come up with us? Who's cooking breakfast? What are you wearing? And why is my wife late getting in the car? God, forgive us. What did we come here for? What are we here for? What are we about? What is this life that we now live? It is for Him.

And when God saves a man, He saves the whole man. And He takes our hearts and He makes our hearts for Him. Is your heart for Him? Do you have a hunger for truth? A hunger for worship? A hunger for the Word of God? A hunger for prayer? A hunger for seeking Him? Say no.

Be very afraid. Be very afraid. Because when God saves somebody, He saves the whole man.

He saves the whole person. He makes them new. Lots of folks that are confessing Christianity, and I can't see much Christianity within them.

And I wonder what is going on here, because when I look through the text, I know that God is able. He's able to do what? He's able to save to the uttermost. And as we look at this text, I want to work through it backwards just for a second, and that is this.

It says, therefore, He is. He is always through all of time. There will never be a time when He is not, because He is always, and He is always what? In most translations, it will say able, but this word for ability also has to do with powerful.

Not only is He powerful, but He is able. Logical connection here. If God is able to do something, but He has no power, therefore, to perform the ability, then His ability won't work if He don't have the power to do it.

In other words, His ability is based upon His power, and thus His power must be superseding of all things in order to bring about anything He desires to do. God is able and His power is not limited by anything. The man cannot thwart the plans of God because God is more powerful than man.

You know, it seems like a great problem when you look to the text because it does not compute in the mind. You look back and honestly, if you be honest before God, you struggle with how in the world the Red Sea can be departed, how the waters can be divided, and they can walk on dry land. How in the world can that happen? Have you seen that happen in your lifetime? You see, but when you look to an event like that, it rests solely upon the power and the ability of our God.

You say, well, scientifically that don't work. That's alright. God's more able than science because He created science.

You say, well, how can it be dry laying under the sea like that? Because He told it to dry up. You say, brother, that's too much for me. It's too much for me too, and that's why I've cast myself on Him.

He has the power and the ability to do so. I remember theologians in seminaries sitting around to discuss whether or not an ax head can float in the book of Kings. And it's like, there's no way ax heads can float.

I'm saying, look, if God said for it to float, it's going to float. You say, that's too simplistic. It's alright, I'll cast myself on Him.

Plead for His mercy. He's always powerful, and He is always able to save to the uttermost. To save to the uttermost completely forever.

This word for uttermost, to completely, is meeting a very high standard of quality or completeness. He is able to save to the very uttermost who. It's an interesting thing in this text, and I love this, this makes some people uneasy, but this text tells us who's going to be saved.

You say, well, I didn't think we would know who was going to be saved. He didn't tell us the number. He didn't tell us who the people were.

He did in this text. You say, where? He's able to save those who come to Him. That's who's going to be saved.

Make no bones about it this morning. We are told who will be saved, and I'm going to proclaim to you this morning who it is that's going to be saved. Maybe some of you here are those that are going to get saved, but he tells us who is going to be saved.

It is those people that would come to God. And you say, well, that's nice. Look, don't miss it.

There's a lot not in this text here. There's nowhere in this text he says he's going to save those who come to church. He didn't say, I'm going to save those people that come and hear the preacher, Brother Jack.

He didn't say, I'm going to save those who would come to Sunday school. He didn't say, I'm going to save those who would come to the state of Illinois. He didn't say, I would save those who would come at VBS and raise their hands and pray some little prayer.

He didn't say, I would save those who walk to the front of the church somehow thinking that Jesus is geographically located. He said, He would save those who come to God. There is no other refuge.

There is no other source. There is no other place. We must come to God.

And as was illustrated in the conference, it was amazing, but it's still the same illustration. In order for you to come to something, it is logically precept upon precept that you must leave something to get there. In other words, if this young man on the front row wants to come to me, he must leave that pew.

If you're on the back row back there and want to come to me, you'll have to leave the back and come to the front. By the way, I'm chasing a rabbit. Darian, shoot it here in just a second.

But I always wonder why you get in trouble for sitting on the back row when you come in the front door. Take a minute to set that in. I'll be honest, I'm on the back row.

All right. You okay? Okay. In order to come to God, you must leave something.

You must depart from something. Look, don't miss the point this morning. Brother, you must leave your sin.

You must leave the wickedness of your heart. You must leave yourself. The Gospel message throughout has always been a death of self and a complete surrender to the Lordship of Christ.

You must depart from something. You can't bring your sin with you. Depart from it and come to God.

You say, what am I going to come with? Come with all you have. You've got nothing but sin to offer. Just bring it to the throne room of God and say, God, have mercy on me.

Come to God. You say, man, I'm a bad person. We are all bad people, but we need to come to God.

Come to Him. Come to Him with everything you've got. Come to God.

But how in the world are we to come? How in the world are we to come? We know we're to come to God, but how are we going to come? Is there a whole plethora of ways to come? Is there a whole lot of avenues to come? I've heard you can pray this prayer. I've heard you can raise your hand. I've heard you can walk down an aisle.

I've heard that you can just do the ABC's and somehow get there. I've heard that you can do this and you can do this. Let me narrow it way down to a very little avenue here.

You must come to God through Christ. And if you do not come through Christ, you don't come. How do we come? We come through the sole mediator between God and man.

Christ Jesus alone. The world says, that's way too narrow. Okay, it's still the only way.

You say, are you saying all those other religions are going to hell? I'm saying that Scripture says that if you don't come through Christ, you don't know God. And if you don't know God, you're not saved and thus you will not enter into the gates of heaven and you are destined for hell because the only way to heaven is through Christ. It isn't that narrow.

You say, well, man, that's really kind of harsh. Look, I didn't write this book. God called me and told me to preach it.

He said, we preach the glories of the truth here. We must come to God through Christ. He is the only One who is going to be able to mediate.

There's only one name given among men whereby we must be saved and that is the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord. So where are we to come? We come to God. How are we to come? We come through Christ.

But what are you coming for? What are you coming for? We know where to go. We know how to get there. But what do you come for? And herein lies a great problem because there's a whole lot of people that come to God for the wrong things.

So what are we coming for? Look, I've just spent the last few weeks down in the shelters working with those people from the Katrina storm and spending all this time down there with them. Some of the wickedest stories and wickedest people you've ever been around. And it's amazing to me, they're all praying to God.

Every soul that I've talked to from New Orleans that come out of that dome in the last few weeks, every one of them says, it seems like everybody got religious all of a sudden. But what are we coming for? What are we coming for? You see, it's interesting. My friend brought me to church.

He works at the prison. And we was talking about this all the way down here. You think about a guy in a prison and he's locked up on death row.

He's on death row and he's going to be killed tomorrow. He's going to be, his life is going to be stamped out by the electric chair tomorrow. You walk down to the cell where this man is incarcerated there and you say, brother, I went to town and I bought you a suit like this.

Nice suit. It's real pretty. I give that to you as a gift.

It's so wonderful. You can have the suit. It's your perfect size.

No smile. He's not happy. He says, I don't care about your stinking suit.

I'm going to die tomorrow. The suit doesn't make any difference. You walk down to the same cell.

You reach in your pocket. I have no keys. I came on a plane.

But you reach in your pocket and you hold out the keys and you say, I brought you one of those brand new Hummers. \$65,000. Got a DVD player in it.

Got the radio CD, all of that. It's yours. No smile.

No laughter. I can't drive it. I'm going to die tomorrow.

It means nothing to me that you bring this stuff because it won't help me. I'm going to die tomorrow. You say, brother, I went down and I took all of the money I had in the bank and I bought you this nice estate.

Got 50,000 square feet. It's a mansion. Got rolling acres.

They got big 18 point bucks this wide. They're in all over the place. And it's yours.

Here's the title. Here's your deed. No smile.

No joy. He says, I'm going to die tomorrow. It doesn't mean anything.

You know what he wants to hear? You know what he wants to hear? He wants you to walk down to that cell and say, I've got you a pardon. You've been acquitted of your crime and you're free to go. Dear brother, dear sister, why do we come to God through Christ? It's not for stuff.

It's not for money. It's not for reputation. It's not for anything this world has to bring.

Brother, I want a pardon. I was condemned to die and burn in hell. I want to be free.

I want to be acquitted of my crimes. I want to know that I have been forgiven. Oh dear Lord, there's a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel's veins and all the guilty sinners who plunge beneath lose all their guilty stains.

I want a pardon. Dear brother, is that your heart? Dear sister, is that your heart? What did you come to Him for? My friends went to Him. The pastor told me to go to Him.

I thought it would make my life better. You had no life. Well, come to Him for a pardon.

You come to Him for mercy. You come to Him and cry out until He grants mercy upon your life. That's the only soul desire of which to come.

Well, we know where to go. We know how to come through Christ. Now we know what to come for.

But I don't... Just hang on. I don't know any of you people. Just a couple.

Obviously, I know Darian. Somehow, I keep working him in the sermon. I don't know your background, your life, and all of those things.

But just stop. Just for a second. What did you come for? What did you come for? No, yes, I'm talking.

You say, He's talking to me. Yes, I'm talking to you. I'm talking to you.

What did you come for? Well, I thought it would make my wife happy. No, I thought it would please my mommy and my daddy. No, that's the way my dad come.

He stayed lost until he was 65 years of age. What did you come for? Were you grieved and burdened by the sin, the conviction that was laid upon your heart because you offended a holy God? Amen. You say, I don't remember that.

Rather, you would remember it if God had worn conviction upon you. You'd never forget the day that the chains fell off and your heart rose up and you followed Him. How could you forget a day like that when He set you free? You say, I don't remember that.

Come to Him for a pardon. But in what style do you come? It's like the guy who goes up to the gate of heaven. He's dressed nice.

He's driving a nice car. He even has a chauffeur taking him on a ride. Oh, they tell me that in that gate lies the answer to eternal life.

And I have all of these possessions and all of these things and I have all of this stuff, but I might as well have that too. Would you please open the gate and let me, my royal self, enter in? No. You cannot come in that style.

You cannot come in that audacity to the King of Glory. Even if you're less than that and you don't have all the money and all the royalty, but you say, you know what? I'm a pretty good guy. I do things right.

You know, I'm a good person. No, you're not. It would be like the paper.

Three months ago, the lady gets murdered. Not only does the lady get murdered, which is his wife, and then in front of his own child, he takes a gun and shoots himself in the head in front of his four-year-old boy. And I opened the paper to look at the obituary and it says he was a good husband and a loving father.

No, not good. You do not come good. I don't know how much you know about this theology of salvation, but listen, there has been a great change in time.

You know where we are? I don't know that this church is there and I'm not accusing you of being there. I just want to point it out. In our day and time, what we have is Jesus standing on the outside of the door without a door handle and somehow we've got to open the door and let poor little Jesus in.

And if I don't let Jesus in, He can't get in. Excuse me, but He made the door. Excuse me, but the heart that you have, He gave it to you.

He's not waiting on little old Randall to open up and let him in. When Jesus gets ready to come, He'll kick down the stinking door. But look at this.

You go back to Pilgrim's Progress and you find Christian on his journey and you find the weight and the burden on his back. You go back in the 1600s and you look at this writing of John Bunyan and he's heading towards Wicked Gate. And what do you find? You don't find him opening the door to let Jesus in.

You find him bowed down, begging, saying, would you open the door for a wretch like me? Would you open the door for somebody with a burden this great? Is there any way that the King of Mount Zion would have anything to do with me? You want to know how to come? You come empty-handed. You come with nothing but sin. Simply to the cross I cling.

You say, well, man, that doesn't help my self-esteem. I don't give a rip about your self-esteem. But I give a great deal for your soul.

I give a great deal for your soul. You say, what are you saying? I'm saying that you are a wicked, corrupt, and violent heart if you have not come to God through Christ for a pardon, begging for mercy. You say, man, that's really humbling.

Yes! Thank you, Lord! Because it's Him who saves wretches like us to God through Christ for a pardon and complete humility. Secondly is this. We are told of the extent of the Savior's ability to save.

The extent of the Savior's ability to save. He's able to save to the uttermost. Now, there's like four sub-points here, okay? And we're doing good.

You haven't thrown nothing yet. Now, somebody needs to hear this, and I don't know who because I'm not that discerning. But our Lord, and you need to hear this in two regards.

Some of you already saved, and I know that. And you understand this, and it's encouraging you. But you also need to know what your God can do.

Look, He's able to save to the uttermost. Who? Those that are guilty. Those that are guilty.

He's able to save them to the uttermost. You say, but my guilt! You don't understand how much guilt I have! You don't understand how much guilt my neighbor has! You don't understand how much guilt my co-worker has! They've reached the epitome of guilt! No, they haven't. Because the Lord is able to save to the uttermost.

You see, even the murderer can murder one more person. Even the terrorist can blow up one more bomb. Even those people over here who are blowing up all of these people, they can still destroy one more person.

That would make them thus more guilty. There's one more crime that can be committed. One more bank that can be robbed.

There's one more drug that can be taken. There's one more shot that can be shot up the arm. There's one more funny cigarette you can smoke.

You can be a little more guilty. But, dear friend, there's good news. Because our God is able to save to the uttermost.

If a man was hanging over hell, as Jonathan Edwards would say, by a spider web, and that's all that he had, and he had one foot on a banana peel leaning over the throat of hell and the flames of hell, I would not despair and give up on the guilty. Because our God is able to save to the uttermost. And if He dispatched the angels of heaven to come down and apprehend that man and arrest him for Christ, He would be saved.

You say, my neighbor's guilty. Those people down the road, they're a bunch of heathens. Yeah, and you too.

Those people down there are bad, and so are we. I want to tell you this, in all of your thought for your neighbor, your family, your friend, your mom, your daddy, your brother, your sister, your grandma, your grandpa, and everybody else that you know in this whole county, I want you to know this, their salvation is not dependent upon their ability, it's dependent upon the ability of God. And if God wants to save them, then He will save them.

And so you keep praying, dear friend. You keep praying, as George Mueller would say, pray for his three friends for 50 years. You keep praying and don't you ever give up, because I'm here to tell you as long as God is in heaven, there's hope.

As long as God is on His throne, there's hope. You keep praying. You keep preaching.

You keep witnessing. Say, well, I already told them about Jesus. You go ahead and tell them again.

There's nothing wrong with a story. You say, well, they already know I believe in God. That's fine.

But until they do, you keep telling. See, it's worth talking about. Some of you people around here can talk about deer more than you can talk about the Lord.

I'll tell you something. The Lord is far greater than your deer. And He's far more worthy to be talked about.

And I can shoot that back at me. Sometimes I talk about motorcycles more than I talk about the Lord, and that ain't right neither. And that's East Texas slang, the uttermost from guilt.

But He's able to save in the uttermost of rejection. See, some of you may be here today, and you rejected the Lord as a kid. And then as a teenager, you rejected Him again.

I don't know any of you young kids. Maybe some others scattered out there. Maybe you've heard 50 messages from Brother Jack.

I don't know. Maybe you're still rejecting. I want you to know the Lord is able to save in the uttermost.

I don't care if you've rejected 50 sermons up to this point. God will still save you. You say, I've been rejected my whole life.

I rejected as a kid. I rejected as a teenager. I rejected when I got older.

My mother has prayed for me her whole life, and I've been rejected. I've rejected God all along that there's no hope for me. Dear friend, if God speaks to you this morning, and cry out for mercy, because He's able to save to the uttermost, even though she would reject.

You've heard thousands of sermons. Thousands of prayers have been lifted up for you. You've come to thousands of meetings.

You've been around church all of your life, and you've rejected and rejected. You held on, and you said, no, God, I won't give you my heart. You walked out the doors, and you denied the Spirit of God, and you went on and on and on until this day.

Maybe God would speak to you. God can still save you. You say, you mean to tell me a guy could reject the Lord his whole life over and over and over again, and then God would save him? Look, it's God's ability to save to the uttermost.

You can't out-reject God if it's His ability and desire to save you. All you need is to respond. Come, God, through Christ, for pardon and humility.

Not only to the uttermost of guilt and the uttermost of rejection. Despair. And this is specifically the point that I think somebody needs to hear.

You see, as a pastor, I hear this a lot. It's okay, I'll take this jacket off. Pastor, pastor, I can't forgive myself.

Pastor, I've done so many things. I can't forgive myself. You just don't know how bad I've been, pastor.

You don't know how many things I've been through. And you just don't understand. I can't forgive myself.

Please listen to this Word, dear friend. Maybe you can't forgive yourself, but if the highest judge of the highest court of the highest land says that you're forgiven, whether you can forgive yourself or not is just not the issue. Because He's able to save to the uttermost.

And if He says forgiven and justified, you are. You say, man, I've been carrying this guilt and this rejection and this despair all my life, and you're telling me I can cast myself on Christ and He'll forgive me? Yes, because He's able to save to the uttermost. You say, but I had an abortion back when I was a teenager.

He can still save you. You say, well, I killed a guy. I robbed a bank.

I did all of these things. I've been unfaithful to my husband. I've been unfaithful to my wife.

I've been unfaithful to the church. I've been unfaithful to the pastor. I've just blew my whole life.

I have nothing but despair. I am ruined. I am ruined.

There's more chance for the devil to get saved than me. It's all right. The Lord can save to the uttermost.

And there is no despair as long as God is still on His throne. And He is seated there. And no matter how much despair you have brought to this place today, I want you to understand, He is able to save to the uttermost.

You'll like one thing. Repent, believe, and trust in Him. David said, Psalmist said, Even if I go to the lowest hell, you are there.

I had a friend a long time ago. I had a lot of friends a long time ago. And he ran from the Lord.

I was preaching on the streets and homeless shelters and biker clubs and things of that nature. A dear brother turned from the Lord and he knew where the crack houses were. And he went to the crack houses in order, he would say that he was getting it to get a little bit to help a friend off of drugs slowly.

But in reality, he was getting it for himself. And I'm talking the gutters of Fort Worth, down in the projects of where it's really bad. But when the Lord brought him out of his despairing condition, He said this, Even in the crack house filled with prostitutes and whores, I felt the presence of God.

See, I don't care how much you may despair. God is able. Those three points, I guess, could be for Christians or non-Christians.

I'm not real sure, but God can apply it however He chooses. But here's the fourth sub-point is this. He's able to save completely from distress to the uttermost.

To the uttermost, those who are in distress. I don't know about you up here in Illinois. Y'all may have more money than we've got in Texas.

But we get distressed. I don't know if you know it, but gas was like \$3.40 a gallon. I don't know how we're going to feed the family.

I don't know how we're going to make it. And we just feel in distress. You know, I looked in the mirror the other day and a lot of the hairs on my head are turning gray.

I don't know how much longer I'm going to live. Look, I retired from my job. I'm on a fixed income.

I don't know whether or not we can make it another year. I just feel like I'm just so distressed. There's no way.

And you know what distress leads to? It leads to depression. And depression sets in and we pull the covers over our heads and say, I don't even want to get up this morning. I don't want nobody to remove the covers.

I just want to wait here and die in my misery. Dear friend, you could outlive Methuselah. God is still able to save the uttermost.

You could be in the most distressful, despairing, depressing thing of all of your life. And God's still able to save to the uttermost. I want you to rest and rely upon the ability of God that if God has saved you, you can't get so distressed that there is no hope.

As long as you are a saved man or a woman, you are a child of God. You've been bought by the Savior's blood. You've been placed in His hand of which no man can be plucked out of.

You are eternally secure in Him. You are to look to Him and to Him alone. And no matter how great the distress may come, God is able to save to the uttermost.

You say, brother, you don't know my situation. Brother, you don't know my wife. Brother, you don't know my kids.

Brother, you don't know my situation. Granted, I don't. But I know God.

But I know God. And I know He's able to save to the uttermost. You say, I've got some strongholds in my life.

He's stronger. I've got some habits in my life. He's bigger.

You say, I've got all of these things. He is able to save to the uttermost. And we're told who will be saved.

We are told of the ability of our Savior. And lastly, we learn the reason why we can be saved. He's always able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives.

He always lives, implying that He has died. The reason He can save to the uttermost is because for every individual that He died for, He died and shed His blood that there would be remission of sins. He's able to save because He gave His very life's blood to save you.

Now, notice this. This is a very tricky point, but listen. Can you conceive of the God of heaven that would take and pour the full wrath and fury of the throne room of heaven upon His own beloved Son to shed His own precious blood on the cross of Calvary and somehow through that grievous process that He wouldn't be able to accomplish bringing you unto Himself? That God would go through all the trouble of doing that to His Son and then lose a few? I don't want a God like that.

I've got enough things that fail me every day. I want a God who is perfect in His ability. And so thus I rest my point on this, that the God of heaven who would choose a people unto Himself and would sacrifice His Son by pouring the full weight of His wrath upon Him in order that the blood would be shed, in order that the sins would be remitted, that He would do such a great feat in order to accomplish the salvation of those He had elected before the foundation of the world and thus they would be secure in Him for the great work of which He did.

Our Lord has never lost one of old. He's never lost one of present. And He'll never lose one of future because He died for the very purpose of saving mankind.

You say, but brother, I've messed up here and there. That's alright, He hasn't. He's not gonna.

He's done a perfect work on the cross. Not only does it imply He dies, but it specifically and literally says that He always lives. I don't have time for the whole context of this book of Hebrews, but in the Levitical priesthood, they got a new priest every 25 to 50 years of age or somewhere in between there when they died because they did not live eternally.

They kept having to be replaced. And sacrifices kept having to be made all the time because the blood of bulls and goats was not enough to atone for the sins of the people. But here, beloved, not only was it foreshadowed with Melchizedek back in Genesis 14, not only was it reminded again in the book of Psalms, but most specifically when you come to the book of Hebrews, we have a priest of another order.

We have a priest in which there is no one going to take his place. We have an eternal priesthood in which the priest gave himself for your sins and now his specific duty is to be seated in intercession for you. Now, I don't know if you caught this, but I don't know anything about your pastor or his ministry here.

And that's the truth. It really doesn't matter if your pastor comes when you have surgery. It really doesn't matter whether your pastor calls you and checks on you every day.

Let me tell you something else. It really doesn't matter if he even shook your hand this morning. It really doesn't matter if all these people somehow did something on your behalf this day.

You say, nobody loves me. Nobody cares about me. Nobody swooned over me when I came in the service today.

They don't shake my hand at the motorcycle track either, but look, it makes no difference. Look, if the King of glory is interceding for you, that's enough. My pastor forgot to pray with me.

So? He didn't come when Liza was sick. Look, Jesus didn't show up for two days either, but he can raise the dead. I'm all alone.

Nobody cares. Look, I know all about all alone. You see, when you sing that song that says, Draw me near, draw me near to the cross where thou hast died.

Draw me near to the precious pleading side. I know what that means. I know what it means for half of my church to get up and walk out, not to come back.

I know what it means to be utterly rejected in the whole city. I know what it means to be written up four weeks in a row in the paper as an evil person. I know what it means to draw near to my Lord.

And when everybody would turn their back and nobody would care, and I'd be left in my office to weep and weep over my altar saying nobody cares. I kept looking at John chapter 16, and the Lord said they all deserted me, but yet I am not alone. And even the apostle Paul would say in Timothy, he said in my first defense, no one would stand with me.

All of the people in Asia deserted me, but yet I am not alone because the Lord thy God has strengthened thee. He lives to intercede. For who? Those who came to God through Christ for a pardon in humility, based on His ability and all this was accomplished.

Dear friend, I want you to know this morning, if you say God's interceding on your behalf, find comfort in that. Christ has done all. What have you done for Him? Would you come to Him? I don't know how or what you do in this church.

If you want an invitation, it was in the message. I don't believe Jesus is geographically located. I don't think He's standing up here somewhere.

You have to come here to be saved. I think you better bow your head and cry out for mercy. And I think that if you're a Christian, and you're struggling with despair and distress and those type of things, that the only way that can ever be relieved is with Him.

I can't relieve your stress, and I can't take away your depression, but I know who can. And I point you to Him. Thank you very much.

And it's been a pleasure to be here with you. And may God bless your church, Brother Jack.

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