

Embracing the Call of God & Employing the
Supernatural Gifts of the Holy Spirit

DO THE IMPOS SIBLE



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RAIBORDE**

Do the Impossible

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PART 1

GOD & YOUR DESTINY

*“Most assuredly, I say to you,
he who believes in Me,
the works that I do he will do also;
and greater works than these he will do . . .”*

JOHN 14:12

CHAPTER 1

GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

What is impossible anyway? Flying two- to four-hundred- ton aircraft thirty thousand feet in the air? Launching a spacecraft and landing it on the moon? Speaking face-to-face with someone across the globe via video communications?

History has shown that we have accomplished each of these feats. Have we then achieved the impossible?

The simple answer to that question is *yes*. We have reached the proverbial heights! We have conquered many obstacles and attained goals once deemed impossible to humanity. Perhaps, we should consider the words of the German-American rocket scientist and space architect, Wernher von Braun. He said, “I have learned to use the word ‘impossible’ with the greatest caution.”¹

What exactly is impossible then?

The standard dictionary definition of impossible is something that is unattainable, unobtainable, unachievable, outrageous, ridiculous, absurd, difficult, unimaginable, and hopeless. For example, drawing a straight line with a compass is impossible. George Washington was supposed to have said that governing “a nation without God and the Bible” is impossible.²

Scripture, too, offers us examples of things that are impossible. We read in Hebrews 11:6, “But without faith it is impossible to please [God].” And in an earlier chapter, we read that “without the shedding of blood” it is impossible to remit sin (Hebrews 9:22).

However, the good news is that God does the impossible. He makes what is impossible for us possible!

Jesus Himself testified to this truth in His conversation with the rich young ruler. The ruler asked Jesus, “‘Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’” (Luke 18:18). Jesus responded to the young man by mentioning five of the Ten Commandments (vv. 19-21). The ruler told Jesus he had obeyed those commandments from his youth. Jesus said, “‘You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me’” (v. 22).

Apparently, the ruler didn’t like what he heard, for Luke tells us the rich ruler became sorrowful (v. 23). In response to seeing the young man’s reaction, Jesus said:

“How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?” But He said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God” (vv. 24-27).

Did you just read what I read? Jesus said that the very things that are impossible to you and me are all possible with God. Wow! Could it be our lives are meant to evidence the working of impossibilities into possibilities by God’s almighty power? Yes, I think so.

NOTHING IMPOSSIBLE

The whole of Christianity is a work of God’s power, turning impossibilities into possibilities. Look at the birth of Christ Jesus. That was a miracle of divine power whereby a virgin gave birth to the Son of God. Remember what the angel Gabriel said to Mary? He said, “‘For with God nothing will be impossible’” (Luke 1:37).

Just think also of the impossibilities evident throughout the Gospels. Blind made to see, deaf made to hear, lame made to walk, and the dead raised to life. And then there is the resurrection of our Savior. Ephesians 1:19-20 tells us Christ was raised from the dead “according to the working of [God’s] mighty power.” Paul then says in the beginning of the next chapter, “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins” (2:1). That is “the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe” (1:19). And that is what we Christians need. We continue to need

—not just a little bit of God’s power—but we actually need the whole of God’s omni potence to keep us right and walking in the light!

We continue to need . . . the whole of God’s omnipotence to keep us right and walking in the light!

This God of the Bible is the *God of the Impossible!* We, therefore, should expect Him to work according to His nature and make the impossible possible.

God is a specialist when it comes to handling impossibility. The apostles knew and understood this. Even Paul, when appearing before King Agrippa, acted surprised at the idea of questioning God’s power in working the impossible when he asked, ““Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?”” You see, the apostles expected the impossible.

I would dare say we have a biblical right to expect God to do the impossible, to work beyond our natural reason and understanding. His very Word is the power that changes the impossible. It’s through “the living and enduring word of God” that we “have been born again” (1 Peter 1:23, NIV). And one day the totally impossible will take place “when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality” (1 Corinthians 15:54). So, please don’t allow anyone to talk you out of putting your faith in the God of the Impossible!

During the ministry of Jesus on earth, there were scores of people who rejected the supernatural. We have people like them today. The Sadducees, for example, did not believe in the ministry of angels or any manifestation of the work of the Holy Spirit. They completely rejected the miracles and the healings, and in so doing they rejected Christ, who was doing the impossible. Today, we have books, magazines, and even seminars that focus on conditioning men and women to doubt the validity of Scriptures. These endeavor to cast doubt on the reality of the gifts of the Spirit for today. In so doing, they move those under their sway from the place of dependence on the Holy Spirit to do the impossible.

People were around in Jesus’ day with similar teaching. The Pharisees were as destructive as the Sadducees. They believed in the supernatural and miracles; they just thought such things were done only in past times through individuals like Moses, Elijah, and Elisha.

God has not changed. His nature is unchanging. He is the God of the Impossible—yesterday, today, and forever. And nothing is too difficult for Him as Jeremiah 32:17 tells us, “Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm! There is nothing too hard for You.”

The life we are called to live is supernatural; it’s impossible to live such a life without the help of the Holy Spirit. In fact, we actually don’t live our own lives anymore; Christ lives His life in us according to Galatians 2:20. So you and I are not called to defeat. We are destined to rise above our circumstances and to let Christ live His life in us to the fullest. And His life in us is full of hope, full of dreams, full of joy, and full of purpose. His life is living the life possible.

God wants to work with us to help us discover the treasure He has put inside us.

But this God of the Impossible doesn’t like to do things on His own. He likes to work with us so that we can also reveal and display His glory. Colossians tells us, “Christ is in you, so therefore you can look forward to sharing in God’s glory” (1:27, MSG). We, then, share in the work doing our “best with the energy God so generously gives” us (1:28, MSG). Put another way, we partner with Him, facing life with His power and nature.

God wants to work with us to help us discover the treasure He has put inside us. The Scripture declares, “For with God nothing will be impossible” (Luke 1:37). Furthermore, it says, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes” (Mark 9:23). God wants us to realize the potential and power available to us if we simply believe and trust Him.

KNOWING THE GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

Whenever God wanted to work with an individual, He gave them a revelation of Himself. That revelation was the empowerment the person needed to live out that revelation here on this earth. Today is no different. God is willing and eager to reveal Himself to us. He is passionate about our getting to know Him more and more. And as He reveals Himself to us in a

certain way, we can then know and experience that reality of Him in our daily living.

We see in the life of Abraham how God revealed Himself to him at critical times. For example, in Genesis 14, Abraham testified, “I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, “I have made Abram rich”” (vv. 22-23). The Hebrew name for Most High God is *El Elyon*. Abraham had a deep conviction about God as the Owner and he the steward. It wasn't just mental knowing, but faith in his heart. And that's what caused him to make such a declaration to Melchizedek. He could honor God as the Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, and know Him as that in his daily life.

As Abraham walked further in relationship with the Lord, God revealed Himself at a deeper level. We read, “After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward’” (Genesis 15:1). The word for *Lord* here is the Hebrew word *Adonai*. You see, Abraham moved from seeing God as the Owner and Possessor to seeing Him as Lord, and he lived a life that evidenced God as his Lord.

Abraham continued to grow in his relationship with God as he obeyed Him. When Abraham was ninety-nine years old and *Yahweh* appeared to him, there was another new revelation. Abraham was not fully faithful, yet God remained true to His promises because Abraham's heart was right.

The last verse of Genesis 16 tells us that Abraham was eighty-six years old after the birth of Ishmael. The very next verse, Genesis 17:1 and following, then tells us:

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.” Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations” (1-5, NIV).

Abraham had known God as *El Elyon* and as *Adonai*. After walking faithfully with Him, he then grew to know Him as *El Shaddai*. *El* is the general Hebrew word meaning *God*. It tells us that He made everything in the past and keeps it all going today. *Shaddai* is a term to describe a mother lovingly nursing her child. Together, the name *El Shaddai* speaks of a God who is totally able to satisfy anyone who trusts in Him. It's as if by this name God says, "I am the One who now will nurse you. I am the One who gives you life. You are now a part of Me." And knowing God as *El Shaddai*, Abraham learned to put complete trust in Him.

I want you to notice something else from Genesis 17. First, in verse 5, God changed His servant's name from Abram to Abraham. Further, in verse 11, He told Abraham that he and his male descendants would have to undergo circumcision. When his name changed, it was as if he had been adopted into God's family. The circumcision, too, seemed to underscore this idea of being separated unto God as His own.

Finally, in Genesis 22, God revealed Himself in another way. He told Abraham to take his promised son Isaac—the son he loved—to a mountain and present him as a burnt offering (vv. 1-2). Abraham quickly obeyed, and the next morning he set out on a journey along with his son and came to one of the mountains of Moriah. There, he built an altar. With full commitment and conviction in his heart, he placed his son on the altar and took a knife to slay him. But the angel of the Lord called from heaven and said:

"Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided" (vv. 10-14, NIV).

At Moriah, Abraham became acquainted with God in a different way. Abraham met *Jehovah Jireh*, the Provider.

Notice the progressive revelation of God as it unfolded in Abraham's life. In the same manner, each of us needs a revelation of God that empowers us to rise to that new or deeper level of experience in Him. A

revelation of God brings conviction, confidence, and drive to progress in life. A revelation of God paints a picture of the direction we should be heading. As we walk with God, we require a fresh revelation of Him in order to come into the new place He has for us.

We started out our born-again lives knowing God as Savior. Yet we still don't fully know Him. We need to know him as our Healer, our Comforter, our Provider, and our God of the Impossible!

ENCOURAGED BY GOD'S WITNESSES

We are not alone in our walks with God. The writer of Hebrews tells us that there is a whole crowd of people who want to cheer, exhort, and encourage us to look ahead and see that the God of the Impossible is with us.

Therefore then, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who have borne testimony to the Truth], let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to and entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance and steady and active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us (12:1, AMP).

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (12:2, NIV).

The witnesses mentioned in verse one are people who had firsthand experience in God's making possible the impossible. Many of them also were used by Him to do the same. About these, it is written, "who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens" (Hebrews 11:33-34). If we would look throughout the Bible and compare our current circumstances to those of these men and women who were in similar straits to us, I believe we could hear the testimony of these witnesses and that would encourage us.

Maybe you are living in a completely corrupt atmosphere where sin is rampant, people are rebellious, and there is no sight of righteousness. Then listen to Noah. Here's what I think he would say, "It might look impossible to walk in godliness, but you can make a difference. You can live godly and fulfill God's purpose for your life."

Perhaps you feel it is impossible to know your purpose and destiny. Feeling so uncertain, you may even question why you were born. Worse yet, you may feel like a failure and feel there is nothing to live for. Just listen to Esther. I think she would tell you, "The God of the Impossible will raise you from the ash heap, give you favor among people in high places, set people in your life to train you and open doors for you, and in turn use you to change the destiny of others."

Maybe you are going through the worst financial crisis, and you see no light at the end of the tunnel. I know Elijah would tell you that God is able to provide. He would remind you of the ravens—of God's ability to bring provision in ways that we have never thought or dreamed.

You might be a person whose life is full of dreams, yet it seems like everyone else is against you. Are there people in your life who are trying to run over you, belittle you, or get you out of the way? Life may seem hopeless. You may have little strength and great frustration. Then hear Joseph as he would say, "Be faithful. The God of the Impossible will intervene and work on your behalf and cause your dreams to come to pass."

Be faithful. The God of the Impossible will intervene and work on your behalf and cause your dreams to come to pass.

When you are going through the deep valleys of life, it may seem as if an army is against you and every evil force is trying to cause you to abort the purposes of God. Maybe you feel hurt, broken, and betrayed. Or maybe you have made some bad choices—maybe even sinned—and you are suffering under the weighty consequences of your decisions. David would encourage you with these words, "The God of the Impossible will not fail you even though you may have failed Him. He will guide you with His eye. He will walk you step by step, bringing you into your inheritance."

If the doctors have given up on you, no medicine seems to work, and you are left on your own to die, I know there is yet another witness to offer you hope. I hear the voice of a girl. Her father's name was Jairus, and she would say to you, "This God of the Impossible can work miracles. He can heal you and bring complete restoration to your body. It's not too late. Keep believing and keep asking. I know. He did it for me."

We must know God as the God of the Impossible. It's critical to our spiritual growth and physical life. And we must believe He is able to turn impossibilities into possibilities for and through us. Yes, the God of the Impossible wants us to experience His power working for, through, and within us. He desires us to embrace His call upon our lives, to activate the Holy Spirit's gifts in our lives, and to demonstrate His supernatural power in the world as we then use His gifts to do the impossible.

In order to encourage and empower you to do the impossible, I have sectioned this book into five parts. The first part you have already started. In it, you will learn more about this God of the Impossible and His destiny for you. In Part 2, you will discover who the Holy Spirit is, how He works in your life, and what gifts He enables. In Part 3 through Part 5, you will learn about the spiritual gifts of perception, power, and proclamation and how to use them under the power and direction of the Holy Spirit to turn impossibilities into possibilities.

No doubt, you desire to become what God has called you to become and do the impossible that He has called you to do. More than likely, that's the reason for your reading this book. But before we go any further—before we begin our journey together—I believe we need to consecrate our hearts afresh. Let's do that now with these words:

Father God, I come to You in Jesus' name. I open my life to You. I open my life to Your Word. Thank You for saving me and washing me clean. Today, I'm hungry to know You—to know the God of the Impossible. Holy Spirit, I ask that You give me a new and fresh revelation of God in my life. I ask that You use the words written in the pages of this book to kindle a passion in me to do Your work all for Your glory. I receive it in Jesus' name. Amen.

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