

God Can, God Has, God Will Jos 1:5

By pastor Roy Hogan

There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Can God? (test his ability)

This is where the root of our doctrine sets in. We are a faith-based denomination; is this correct?

Can God? This is where our **faith** is put to the test. **Can** God? I know he did mighty deeds in the past, but **can** he do it now? What is faith? Let the Bible speak: Heb 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Can God furnish a table in the wilderness? Psalm 78:19 *Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?* Israel questioned the ability of God. **Can** God?

He did in the past, but is that assurance he **can** do it again?

Maybe he has gotten old.

I sure can't do what I once did. I built a house for my wife and I with these hands, these legs, and this back, but never again. What happened? I aged. Can God age? Certainly not- he is alpha and omega, the beginning and the end. He is from everlasting to everlasting. He changes not. He is not, as one writer said, an old silver-haired Southern gentleman sitting in the front-porch swing in South Georgia trying to remember what day it is. God does not have birthdays. God does not have anniversaries. God does not even have yesterdays, todays, and tomorrows. He does not own a calendar. He is, He was, and He always will be. So, can God?

Maybe he has forgotten how.

Some things I do not remember how to do them. God's mind is not subject to decay. His being does not have millions of living cells die ever minute. His mind is as powerful as the day he gave every star in heaven a name. Men count heads- God counts the number of hairs on the heads men count. So, can God?

Maybe he has lost interest in his children

Could God have lost interest in helping us? Maybe he has another universe, and he does, with other creation that he has become more attached to? Planet earth is not the sole creation of the hand of our creative God. Let us not forget he has an army of angels surrounding his throne that do not curse his name, do not deface themselves with strange paintings, and do not use his name in vain. I totally believe God will one day close the books on mankind. The number one enemy of God is Satan, and for 6000 years Satan has infected the human race. The years are coming to an end for mankind. One day soon, every enemy of God will be destroyed. I do not believe that day has yet come, but it is close. God is still in love with the epitome of his creation, mankind. The clock says it is one midnight till midnight. But, during that last minute, that last 60 seconds, the love of God still flows like a river, and the grace and mercy of God still stand as twin mountains of hope. You can spit in the face of God, you can lie to God face-to-face, and you can call God names but you cannot stop God from loving you.

Has God? (test his experience)

Does God have a record of success? Are there recorded failures in his past? Someone said “we need to do a background check on God.” Ok, let’s open our Bibles. God sure has a long record. There is no substitute for experience. How many things will we do in our life today only because we know we did them yesterday? God has an impeccable track record.

Man’s titanic sank. God’s titanic not only floated but housed four families and two of every living creature for many months.

Centuries ago, men fed Christians to lions who gladly ate them. God fed a Christian to lions, and the lions went away hungry.

Men douse Christians with flammable liquid and set them ablaze, and their bodies become smoke and ashes. God allowed three men to be put in a furnace, and to their delight, God himself decided to step out of Heaven and join them in that supercharged fire. Not a

hair was missing when they came out, and no smell of smoke was on their being.

Men swallow fish. By God's might, he made a fish that swallowed a man.

Men burn piles of brush and fallen branches, and it is consumed into billows of smoke and a pile of ashes. God set a bush on fire and not only was it not consumed, it turned into a speaker and a voice came out of it!

In times past, after a hard day's work, I could eat five loaves and two fishes. Going to church makes people hungry. Look at the restaurants just past noon on Sunday. The five-thousand on the seashore of Galilee had been to church all day. Imagine the hunger! Yet, just because God wanted to, a boy's picnic lunch of five loaves and two fishes touched by Jesus fed five-thousand men and their families.

We do not have to question God's track record. It speaks for itself. If God has limits, we put them on him.

Will God? (test his willingness)

This is where man connects with God. What is God *willing* to do for you? How much are you willing to let him do?

I must say from my own experience, God's *will* is closely associated with our desires. Do I get everything I want from God? Yes, if it is a "heart-desire" that agrees with his will. Psalm 37:4 *Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*

Psalm 84:11 *For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.*

God requires so little. Ninety-nine percent of the fine and good things I enjoy in life I did not ask God for. My wife. My house. My

health. My children. My grandchildren. “God, please give me a little baby grandson who will be saved and baptized at age 8 at the church where I attend.” I could not have thought of such a prayer with a gun pointed at my head. **God will.**

Elijah’s back was against the wall on Mt. Carmel outnumbered 850-to-1 by Baal’s men. “God, I need fire.” Sixty-seven words later, the fire fell. **God will.**

Abraham raised the knife above the throat of the son of promise, Isaac. Abraham, being a good father, probably had his mind on a burial plot for the ashes that would remain. A ram rattled the brush and Abraham cut not the throat of Isaac, but the rope that bound his son. **God will.**

A mother is silent. How will she tell her only son that neither of them has long to live? Death was imminent. The mother could hear the footsteps of death. “How will I explain our pitiful situation to this loving child?” Then a voice was heard: “Make me a cake for I am in need of food.” She obeyed the voice of the prophet and while the famine remained, the meal barrel was never empty.” **God will.**

A woman named Hannah was desperate to become a mother. She prayed and “God will” went into action.

*II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. **God will.***