

To the Uttermost

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Straight Paths Bible Church

- I. There are three arguments the devil uses to take away all hope.
 - A. He will try to convince you that you have done too much to be forgiven.
 - 1. I have made such a mess that even God cannot help me now.
 - 2. Concerning others, he will try to make you believe, “My loved one (or any other soul) has gone too far and there is no hope for them now.”
 - B. He will try to convince you that you, or your problem, are too insignificant and worthless to be of any concern to God, or anyone else.
 - 1. There is nothing to work with – I have nothing to offer, I am a nobody.
 - 2. It isn’t worth God’s time to bother with this – He doesn’t care.
 - 3. There is just insufficient means to meet the need; I see nothing and no way for God to fix this situation.
 - C. He will try to convince you that it is too late for you, and that you have missed the opportunity, and will never have another.
 - 1. What is done is done and nothing will fix it now
 - 2. What has happened is so bad and so final that nothing can possibly be done to help
 - D. But all this is the voice of the world and the devil and absolutely NOT the voice and message of God.
 - 1. It is the way a mind thinks and reasons as if there is no God.

Ephesians 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

- 2. The view of those who are of God is quite different:

2 Corinthians 4:8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

- II. Nothing is EVER too much for God.
 - A. He has placed no limits on his forgiveness.

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.
 - B. There are no sins that He will not forgive – saving blasphemy against the Holy Ghost.
 - 1. And that is only because that sin cuts you off from God so that He cannot deal with you.
 - C. There is no maximum amount of sin, in depth of depravity or in the time spent there that exceeds the mercy and forgiveness available from God.
 - D. We are finite creatures in a finite world and therefore we have a real problem trying to understand anything that has no limits ...
 - 1. But God is infinite in all respects and therefore his capacity to forgive is also infinite

- E. There are limits on all things in the realm where we live now, but God is not bound by those limits.

Genesis 18:14 Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

1. The enemy is never too great;
2. The sea is never too deep, or too wide to cross.
3. The soul is never so far gone that it is out of his reach.

Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

III. It is NEVER too little for God

John 6:9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

The widow of Zarephath:

1 Kings 17:12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I *am* gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

1 Kings 17:15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.

The Watermelon, or How Did The Water Get in the Watermelon?

By William Jennings Bryan

I was passing through Columbus, Ohio, some years ago and stopped to eat in the restaurant in the depot. My attention was called to a slice of watermelon, and I ordered it and ate it. I was so pleased with the melon that I asked the waiter to dry some of the seeds that I might take them home and plant them in my garden. That night a thought came into my head. I would use that watermelon as an illustration.

So, the next morning when I reached Chicago, I had enough seeds weighed to find that it would take about five thousand watermelon seeds to weigh a pound and I estimated that the watermelon weighed about forty pounds. Then I applied mathematics to the watermelon.

A few weeks before, someone, I know not who, had planted a little seed in the ground. Under the influence of sunshine and showers that little watermelon seed had taken off its coat and gone to work; it had gathered from somewhere two hundred thousand times its own weight and forced that enormous weight through a tiny stem and built a watermelon. On the outside it had put a covering of green, within that a rind of white, and within that a core of red, and then scattered through the red little seeds, each capable of doing the same work over again.

WHAT ARCHITECT DREW THE PLAN?

Where did that little watermelon seed get its tremendous strength? Where did it find its flavoring extract and its coloring matter? How did it build a watermelon?

Until you can explain a watermelon, do not be too sure that you can set limits to the power of the Almighty or tell just how He would do it.

- A. You may worry about the apparent insufficiency to meet the need, but it shows a terrible lack of faith and trust in God.
- B. Little is much when God is in it.
- C. Remember that God ALWAYS takes little things and uses them for big purposes.

Jeremiah 32:17 Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, *and* there is nothing too hard for thee:

Luke 18:27 And he said, *The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.*

Job 42:2 I know that thou canst do every *thing*, and *that* no thought can be withholden from thee.

IV. It is NEVER too late for God

Luke 8:49 While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's *house*, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master.

John 11:20-22 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat *still* in the house. Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give *it* thee.

John 11:32 Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

- A. It may look to us as if there is absolutely no hope left and all is lost.
- B. It may look like the situation is fixed forever and there is no changing it now.
- C. It may be impossible for us to imagine any possible thing that God could do to help, but ...

Ephesians 3:20 ... is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

John 11:44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, *Loose him, and let him go.*

Luke 8:54-56 And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, *Maid, arise.* And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat. And her parents were astonished:...

Jeremiah 32:27 I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?