

# What Our Heavenly Father Cannot Do

**Introduction.** Exodus 34:5-7 is such an outstanding passage detailing many beautiful traits of God. If we were to preach sermons detailing the positive qualities of our great God and Father in Heaven, it would take many for there are dozens of them. But I am convinced that while we should study and appreciate these positive qualities, we can learn just as much by looking at negative qualities; that is, what God cannot do. There are also some negative qualities that deserve our attention.

## ***I. He Cannot Lie***

- A. Men are adept at lying, deceiving, and leading others to reach false or wrong conclusions. People often lie about others; they lie about where they were, what they have done, and sometimes they even lie about lies they told. Deceit is contradictory to the character of God but is the consistent and principle fabric of the Devil's work (Deuteronomy 32:4; John 8:44).
- B. God's word is as true as God Himself (Hebrews 6:18). For Him to abandon truth He would have to abandon being God (Psalm 33:4; Romans 3:4; Titus 1:2). He cannot lie and, because of that, we can run to Him as our refuge. The hope that is set before us is not some wishful thinking, but rock solid hope based on God's work and consistent word.
- C. Ethan contemplated God's nature of keeping His word (Psalm 89:1). It is because of this quality that the Bible stands out from and above the works of men. It is because of this quality that we find God keeping His word to Abraham in bringing His children into the promised land (Deuteronomy 9:5), and keeping His promise to give David an everlasting kingdom (2 Samuel 7:11-16; Luke 1:32). Later, Solomon stated that not one word failed from what God promised through Moses (1 Kings 8:56; cp. Psalm 36:5).
- D. Of whom among men can it be said that he is true to his word and that his faithfulness reaches into the heavens? God says what He means and means what He says. He keeps His word. By this quality, the Bible as the word of God is filled with unbroken promises and prophecies. When the Father promised to send His Son, born of a virgin, who would grow up as a tender plant, teach in parables, live righteously, be put to death and rise again, He fulfilled it to the very word in Jesus (cp. Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; 53:1-12; Psalm 2:1-12; 16:10; 78:2).

## ***II. He Cannot Hear Your Prayer When You Do Not Heed His Word***

- A. God's movement is measured by ours. If we "draw near" or seek to approach Him, then He draws nearer to us (James 4:8). He had already displayed His love to us by sending His Son (Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:4-5; 1 John 3:1; 4:9-10, 19). It is our responsibility to reciprocate that love to Him.
- B. The blind man who was made to see correctly said, "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth" (John 9:31). This correlates well with James 4:8 of drawing nearer to God. Those who open their heart and ears to hear and do the will of God will actually open God's ears to their cries (1 Peter 3:12). Where do the eyes of the Lord go? They love to behold the righteous (Psalm 11:7). To be righteous

is to love to do what pleases the Lord. His ears are delightfully open to such a one (1 John 3:22).

### ***III. He Cannot Tempt Or Be Tempted With Evil***

- A. James 1:13 is not teaching that God cannot “tempt,” that is “test” or put the faith of one under trial (cp. Genesis 22:1; James 1:2-3). Rather, James eliminates two wrong conclusions that some may assume to be valid. One, God may be tempted by evil as man is. Two, God may tempt man with evil.
- B. God cannot be tempted by evil because He has no attraction, no craving, and no lust for what would be wicked. There is nothing in sin that allures Him (John 14:30; 2 Corinthians 6:14-16; 1 John 1:5). God is the embodiment of holiness (Leviticus 11:44; 19:2; 20:7, 26; 21:8; Isaiah 6:1-3).
- C. Likewise, God cannot tempt with evil. The design of a trial from God is to make our faith better, stronger, and more suitable (Hebrews 12:9-11). James said we are drawn away by our own lusts. The temptations of Satan, which play off of these lusts, are meant to collapse and break down our faith. Satan’s desire is to lead us away from holiness and into darkness (1 Peter 5:8). The Father’s desire is to lead us into what is holy, not what is condemned (1 Thessalonians 5:9-10).

### ***IV. He Cannot Give You Eternal Life Except Through His Son***

- A. Jesus came that we might have an understanding of God and be saved (1 John 5:11-12, 20). Rejecting Jesus is rejecting the Father’s choice. The Son stands as the doorway to the Father and the giver of truth and eternal life (John 14:6; Revelation 3:20).
- B. The veil that concealed the entrance into the Most Holy Place was torn from top to bottom when He died and now, Heaven’s holy place is open to those who enter through that death (Mark 15:38; Hebrews 9:3-14; 10:19-20). We can therefore enter with boldness by the blood of Jesus. By repentance and baptism we are granted to receive the spiritual blessings that flow from the death of the Son of God (Romans 5:9-10; 6:3-4; Ephesians 2:6).

**Conclusion.** While we should be impressed with all that the Father can do, we should be equally impressed with what our heavenly Father cannot do.