

POWER ACADEMY

Switching On Your Faith

Module 1: The Basics

Lesson 1: God is Good!

Power Academy Module 1

Lesson 1 – God Is Good!

1. James 1:16-17 — *“¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”*
 - a. This means people *can* be deceived into thinking God is not always a good God.
 - b. God is good, and the devil is bad: it’s that simple.
 - c. If you don’t get the fact that “God is always good” settled in your heart, you will question if God is responsible when bad things happen and it will damage your ability to believe Him for good.

2. John 14:8-9 — *“⁸ Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’ ⁹ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, “Show us the Father”?’”*
 - a. Look at Jesus to see God’s true nature. Jesus was the perfect representation of God the Father.
 - b. If you’ve seen Jesus, you’ve seen the Father.
 - Jesus wasn’t talking about “seeing” Him in the flesh. Jesus just looked like a normal man. But spiritually, Jesus *is* God, so He reflected the nature of the Father.
 - c. People will say that God did something bad to teach you a lesson.
 - Can you learn something from a negative experience? Yes, you can. Can you learn from a positive experience? Yes, you can.
 - However, it is a whole other step to say that God is the author of negative things.
 - A lot of Christians are attributing negative things to God, when God is only good.
 - Example: I told my child to get down from a brick wall. He fell off and hurt himself. I comforted him, kissed him, etc. But then I asked him, “What have you learned?” I didn’t cause him to hurt himself, but I was still able to use it as a teaching moment.

3. What about how God related to people in the Old Covenant?
 - a. Hebrews 8:6 tells us that Jesus “is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.” He fulfilled the requirements of the Old Covenant on the cross (Matt. 5:17).
 - b. Since we are now under the New Covenant, we have a better covenant based on better promises than under the Old Covenant.
 - c. Since Jesus, God has a new way of dealing with sin. Now as a new covenant believer, He only has good things for you.

- d. Jesus said He only ever did what He saw the Father do. Did Jesus ever put sickness or disease on people? Did He ever harm anyone? Did He ever do anything evil to anyone?
 - e. The devil is only mentioned a few times in the Old Testament. Old Testament believers did not have access to the authority we have been given by Jesus (Luke 10:19). They didn't have power over the devil and they didn't really even understand that there was a devil. Therefore, anything supernatural—good or bad—was ascribed to God, whether God was the originator or not.
 - f. Hebrews 13:8 — *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”*
 - g. Malachi 3:6 — *“For I am the Lord, I do not change...”* God hasn't changed, but the way He relates to people has.
 - h. God was still a good God, even in the Old Testament. Jesus hadn't yet been the perfect sacrifice for our sin. Therefore, He dealt with sin as though it was a cancer, or a gangrenous limb: it had to be cut out or cut off.
 - i. Jesus paid the price, so that now He only has good for New Covenant believers.
4. Deuteronomy 28
- a. Healing and provision have always been described as good. Sickness and lack have always been considered bad. God is Good, the devil is bad!
5. If we don't know that God is good, it will be like Jesus told Phillip, “How is it that you don't know me?” We will not be able to relate to God in the correct way.
- a. Hebrews 4:16 — *“¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*
 - b. If we don't know that God is always good, we will not come boldly into the throne room of grace to jump into His lap in our true identity as children of God.
 - c. We have rights and privileges that slaves do not have. But too many Christians do not understand the goodness of God, so they have related to Him as slaves rather than children.
 - d. It honors God to treat Him as Father.
 - Our children don't have to beg and plead with us for a meal. In fact, if someone witnessed that, they would call child protective services on us! They come into the kitchen and freely take everything we have provided.
 - 2 Corinthians 1:20 — *“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.”*
 - Jeremiah 29:11 — *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” (KJV).*

6. The Sovereignty of God
 - a. People think that God allows bad things to happen or He is causing the bad things to teach people something. Either way, it implies that God is not good.
 - b. We get caught up on the phrase that “God is sovereign.” God *is* sovereign: all-powerful, all-loving, all-knowing, **but He is not all-controlling**.
 - c. God gave authority of the earth to mankind. Therefore, He does not control everything on the earth. Otherwise, He would be able to control people’s decisions, and He won’t do that. He cannot overrule the free-will choices of human beings.
 - d. God gave humanity free-will so we could choose to love and fellowship with Him.

7. James 5:15 — *“And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up...”*
 - a. You cannot pray a prayer of faith if you haven’t settled in your heart that God is good.
 - b. If you believe that God caused sickness, or wants to use it to teach you something, you cannot pray a prayer of faith for healing.
 - c. Praying prayers of faith require you to know His will. If you know He is good, then you will know how to pray.

8. God’s will does not automatically come to pass in the earth.
 - a. 1 Timothy 2:4 — *“Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*
 - b. Matthew 18:14 — *“Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.”*
 - c. 2 Peter 3:9 — *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*
 - d. All three new testament scriptures say it’s God’s will is for every single person to be saved, but not everyone is saved. It takes a decision of believing on Jesus to be saved, and not every person will do so.
 - e. So, God is all-powerful, He is all-loving, but He is not all-controlling.

9. Why do bad things happen?
 - a. Sometimes bad things happen because people make bad choices, either our bad choices or the choices of other people. Decisions have consequences.
 - b. The devil is still out there.
 - 1 Peter 5:8 — *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”*

- The devil is real, but Jesus has stripped him of his power over you. The only power he has over you is what you allow him to have.
 - Take yourself off the menu, “No, devil, you may not devour me!”
- c. Sometimes it has to do with what is going on in a person’s heart.
- Example of a man finding his mother’s journal after she died. She was saying all the right things, but in her heart, she was really just ready to go be with Jesus.
- d. We live in a fallen world that has been corrupted by sin. Sometimes bad things happen and we don’t know why.
- e. Regardless of the cause, God is never the cause. He is always the answer!
10. God is not a child abuser.
- a. If we did to our children what some people accuse God of being responsible for, or if we consciously allowed something bad to be done to our children, we would be thrown in prison.
 - b. God is a more loving parent than any earthly parent!
 - c. Just because we don’t always understand everything doesn’t mean that God is responsible.
 - d. You cannot have an intimate, trusting, loving relationship with a God you cannot trust.

Module 1 Lesson 1 Scriptures

James 1:16-17 — *“¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”*

John 14:8-9 — *“⁸ Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’ ⁹ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, “Show us the Father”?’”*

Hebrews 8:6 — *“But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.”*

Matthew 5:17 — *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”*

Luke 10:19 — *“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”*

Hebrews 13:8 — *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”*

Malachi 3:6 — *“For I am the Lord, I do not change...”*

Hebrews 4:16 — *“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

2 Corinthians 1:20 — *“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.”*

Jeremiah 29:11 — *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” (KJV).*

James 5:15 — *“And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up...”*

1 Timothy 2:4 — *“Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*

Matthew 18:14 — *“Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.”*

2 Peter 3:9 — *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

1 Peter 5:8 — *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”*