REFLECTING ON God's Power AND GOODNESS
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How can reflecting on God’s goodness and power affect our prayers?

It can build our faith. Reflecting on this fundamental principle found in John 1:1–3 will remind us that the same One who created the universe has promised to work everything out for our good. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

God’s Word is living and powerful. In the divine order, things are created because they are spoken into being. God the Father wants to work through His Word. In fact, God’s Word in our mouths has power beyond measure.

Sometimes we can fall into the trap of thinking that God’s thoughts, Word, and presence are far from us. Yet Romans 10:8 assures us, “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.” The power of God is released by thinking the
thoughts of God, then expressing His thoughts with our voice.

As we face difficult situations, we must face them through eyes of faith in God’s power and goodness. As 1 Corinthians 2:16 says, we have the mind of Christ. We don’t always think like Him, so we must bring … every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). We don’t have to respond with what our human senses tell us, we don’t have to respond in fear and doubt. Let’s have the mind of Christ, let’s think in new ways, and respond with the Word of God.

Another key to praying with authority and power is found in Acts 1:8, “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Salvation was God’s idea; He saved us, and He enables us to preach the Gospel. He is the One who will work through us. So when we let His thoughts direct us, we begin to pray: “God, send me. Use me. Take this situation and use
it for Your glory. Show me Your will in this circumstance.”

Put your faith exclusively in God. Do not have faith in how righteous you are or what you’ve done.

“Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says” (Mark 11: 22–23).

If a mining company said, “Let’s drill a tunnel through that mountain,” everyone would agree it can be done; it’s simply a matter of time and resources. How much more is available to us in the spiritual realm? God’s power and resources are unlimited. Nothing is too difficult for your loving heavenly Father.

Jesus goes on to say, “Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them” (Mark 11:24). If we waver, nothing happens. We must exercise our faith in God.
There is one heart condition that can hinder prayer.

Jesus gives another key to miracles: “Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him” (Mark 11:25).

Be sure that you do not harbor any bitterness or unforgiveness in your heart. Don’t be like a dog that buries a bone, then digs it up to savor again. Unforgiveness hinders the flow of grace in our lives and blocks miracles—so let it go.

Finally, remember that you are His child. He declares in Psalm 2:7–8: “You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.”

If you’ve walked through times of disappointment, ask Him to restore the joy of your salvation. He makes all things new every day. He is with us, in us, all around us, enabling us. Don’t limit Him by thinking something is impossible. Trust in God’s power and goodness. He will not fail you.