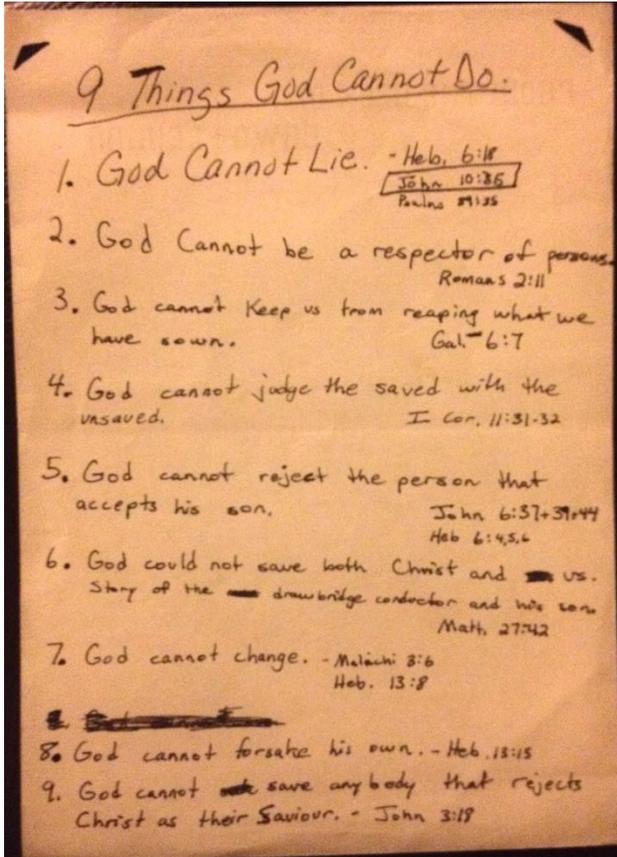


THINGS GOD **CANNOT** DO

(AND WHY THAT'S GOOD FOR US)

INTRODUCTION



A long time ago . . .

And I've never forgotten that sermon.

Too often, we tell people (including our kids) falsehoods about God. We pitch God to be a genie—waiting to fulfil our every wish and that is just not the case. **God** has placed boundaries on Himself—and each one of those is good for us.

At the heart of this issue is **trust**. Do we really trust God to do what He said He will do? Do we trust God to not do what He said He will not do? Both sides of this are critical. Both can either build our faith or cause us to question Him. This lesson will look at one of those things that God has said he cannot (or will not) do—and how that restriction, limitation, and boundary is **good** for us.

He is a good God and I hope you see that come shining through as we look closely at Him and His character.

THE SCHEDULE (INVITE TO SUNDAY SCHOOL)

April 27	Introduction & God Cannot Forsake His Own	Deuteronomy 31:6, Hebrews 13:5	Fleming
May 4	God Cannot Lie	Numbers 23:19, Hebrews 6:18, Titus 1:2	Barber
May 11	God Cannot Fail & God Cannot Leave Things Unfinished	Philippians 1:6	Valovcin
May 18	God Cannot Save Without Faith	TBD	Fleming
May 25	God Cannot Change	TBD	Fleming

KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES

Knowledge objectives help me as the teacher to go in to a study with clearly defined set of objectives.

1. To recognize the limitations that **God** places on Himself (to know facts)
2. To understand more fully God's wisdom in His own restrictions on Himself (to appreciate facts)
3. To see God's **love** evidenced in His nature (to love God more)
4. To grow in our ability to articulate God's nature to others (to improve our skills)
5. To trust God more (to be changed)
6. To be at **peace** with and love God more for who God is and who God is not (to grow like Him)

PICTORIAL UNDERSTANDING

We are not talking about God's hands being tied in any way, shape, or form that would restrict Him physically.

God is the most powerful being in the universe and all things are under His sovereignty.

In no way, shape, or form are we talking about humans placing restrictions on God's power.

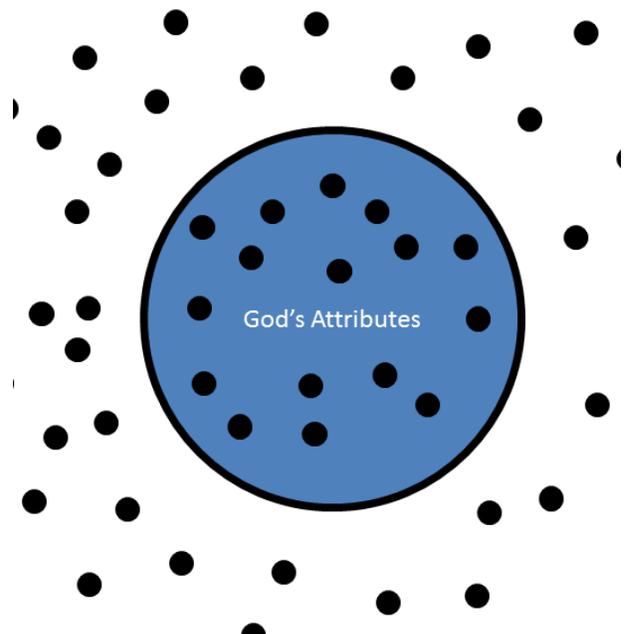
We are talking about God restricting Himself.



Image by Maxine Pixie Lennon

We are talking about God's attributes being a closed set. There are attributes of God that we know. God is spiritual, invisible, omniscient, wise, truthful, faithful, good, loving, merciful, gracious, patient, holy, peaceful, orderly, righteous, just, jealous, omnipotent, powerful, sovereign, perfect, beautiful, glorious (from Wayne Grudem).

Likewise, there are things that God is not. And by studying those things that He is not, we learn more about who He is.



GOD CANNOT FORSAKE HIS OWN

In Moses' last sermon to the nation of Israel, he told them these words in [Deuteronomy 31:6](#): **Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.**

Those words were repeated in the New Testament by the author of [Hebrews](#) in [Hebrews 13:5](#): **Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."**

Many times in our lives, we are disappointed because we deal with people. We interact with so many people that let us down. Everyone experiences this. Everyone has been abandoned at some point and everyone has abandoned someone at some point. We like to gloss over these portions of our lives, but the reality is that we fall far short from the gold standard—God.

God is the ultimate when it comes to hanging around. God just will not let us go.

David said it this way in [Psalm 139:7-10](#): **Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.** David—a man who spent a big chunk of his life on the run—could not get away from God. And it wasn't because of something that David was doing—it was because God does not abandon His children. God is the perfect father. God **never** abandons His own.

What a great restriction He places on Himself! This is a promise God has made to us—He will be there. On our best days, He is there. On our worst days, He is there. And in all the days in between, He is there. Christianity is not about having a perfect life in the midst of a broken world. Christianity is about having a perfect God to walk with through a broken world.

God will not forsake us and that is good for us. That is great for us. That is hope. That is love.

I love that **Jesus** Himself gets in on this promise as well in [John 6:39](#): **This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.** Once we are His, we are His forever. Jesus goes on about this more in [John 10:28](#): **And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.** Jesus is basically saying He will win any arm-wrestling contest. Because He is God, He cannot lose. And that is good for us. That is great for us. That is hope. That is love.

In one of the most quoted passages of all, Paul says in [Romans 8:38-39](#): **For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** Nothing can separate us! That is good for us. That is great for us. That is hope. That is love.

This concept is not limited to just forsaking, though. Isaiah broadens this concept when he quotes God in [Isaiah 49:15](#): “Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. Not only will he not leave us, forsake us, or abandon us, He will not **forget** us. I have a horrible memory. It’s truly spectacularly awful. It’s a big joke at my house because my wife is constantly reminding me of things that we’ve done that I’ve forgotten. But God is not that way. He never forgets us. We have a God (and a friend) who will not forget us. And that is good for us. That is great for us. That is hope. That is love.

Today, we have an opportunity to engage with others. Today, we have an opportunity to live out these verses. We have a chance to be the hands and feet of Jesus right now. Thousands and thousands came to Coolidge Park last week and many will show up over the next few weeks. Many of these folks have not been to church in a while and they are going to be nervous. They are going to wonder if that great park experience will continue today.

Many have been abandoned, forsaken, or forgotten. We have a chance to start new friendships today. We have a chance to welcome them into our family. Let us be the hands and feet of Jesus, welcoming them into a relationship with a Father that will never forsake them.

You never know, in the next few weeks you might just meet your new best friends and have a new chance to live out these verses. And that is good for us. That is great for us. That is hope. That is love.

MEMORY PASSAGE

[Deuteronomy 31:6](#): **Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.**