



As I prayed about what BIMI's 2023 theme should be, the one thought that kept reoccurring was *God Can!* However, it seemed insufficient to just use those two words as the theme without any other words to add context, thus, the reason for the final version of our theme *Achieving the Impossible...Because God Can!* The main idea that *God Can*—because He is omnipotent—remains the predominate thought in my mind. To amplify this truth, particularly in how it relates to the Great Commission, there are three points that I would like to discuss in this editorial.



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First, if we are going to see the Gospel preached to every creature, **we must SEE our weakness.** I grew up in a rural area where the population was small. If we had several hundred people on a big day at our small church, I was amazed. As I got older and went to a few amusement

parks and a couple of professional baseball games, I was astounded by the number of people who were in attendance. Now, when I try to comprehend that there are approximately eight billion people on planet earth, it overwhelms me! Truly, the job of reaching each person on earth is impossible—humanly speaking. The Great Commission is a task that we are completely incapable of accomplishing in our own strength. Thus, it is imperative that we **PERMIT God alone** to do the work (2 Corinthians 12:9-10) as we **PARTNER together** with Him (1 Corinthians 3:9) to **PERFORM** all things **through** Christ (Philippians 4:13).

After seeing our weakness, we should naturally come to the realization that if we are going to accomplish God's will, **we must SEEK God's power.** When we contemplate the many miracles recorded in Scripture, it is very evident they were not accomplished by the power of man. Only God can do the miraculous. He alone can make the impossible possible. As we consider this second point, one important truth that must be highlighted is the necessity of seeking God Himself as we seek His power. The Psalmist wrote, *Seek the LORD, and his*

*strength: seek his face evermore* (Psalm 105:4). We are not only to seek the *LORD* and His *strength* but also to seek His *face*. This emphasizes the need to actively pursue a closer and deeper relationship with the God of the impossible. Before we can ever “expect great things **from** God” or “attempt great things **for** God” (William Carey), we must have a close relationship **with** God (cf., Mark 9:14–29). The degree of what we accomplish by the power of God is rooted in the depth of our relationship with the person of God.

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As we increase in our knowledge of God and deepen our relationship with Him, we understand more fully that He expects obedient faith from His children. Thus, **we must STRIVE to achieve the impossible.**

Obviously, God is able to do the work of missions by Himself. As I mentioned earlier, God is omnipotent. However, He has chosen to use human beings to accomplish His will. Believing that God is going to do a work without human instrumentality goes against the teachings and examples found throughout Scripture. It is not that God cannot act independently of man, for He has done so on many occasions. However, in accomplishing His will on earth, God has chosen to work through mankind. We must pray as if everything depends upon God (because it does) while we work as if everything depends on us (because God has privileged us with that responsibility). If God were going to do the work of missions by Himself, He would not have commanded us to *Go* (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15; John 15:16).

We can indeed *Achieve the Impossible* but only *Because God Can!* While it must be emphasized that it is our obligation to obey the Great Commission, it must also be remembered that we are completely incapable of doing so—in our own strength. It is wonderful to know that *God Can!* But even beyond the fact that God *can* do it, God *wants* to do it. This is true not only because God desires to bless and use those who want to achieve the impossible but also because He deeply desires to save those who are lost. It is an **INSPIRING** thought that the Lord is *not willing that any should perish, but that **all** should come to repentance* (2 Peter 3:9). It is an **IMPELLING** thought that He has commissioned us to go *into **all** the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature* (Mark 16:15). Additionally, it is an **INVIGORATING** thought that although we cannot fulfill the Great Commission in our own strength, with God **all things are possible** (Mark 10:27). **W**