

MISSION POSSIBLE

Christ's Great Commission

STUDY ONE

The God of Limitless Possibilities

Selections from Luke 18

God is the God of limitless possibilities. Think about that. Perhaps for the first time in your life, think rightly about God. With Him there are no limitations. No restrictions. No boundaries. There is no stopping. There is no hindering. There is no impossibility. In fact, God has yet to experience a challenge. It's all as good as accomplished when He determines His will be done.

—Charles R. Swindoll

ONLY once must God speak a decree for it to carry eternal weight. How significant then that God should declare one truth *four* times?

"O Sovereign LORD! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you!" (Jeremiah 32:17)

"I am the LORD, the God of all the peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me?" (32:27)

"For nothing will be impossible with God." (Luke 1:37 NASB)

"What is impossible for people is possible with God." (18:27)

But the revered sages of this finite world like to imprint in our minds a namby-pamby god or even a self-starting universe. Like a careful editor, then, we must grab our eraser to rub out what's false and take up the divine pen to realign our perspective with the Mind of heaven.

Because our view of God determines our life's course, Chuck Swindoll teaches us from Luke 18 that God is the God of limitless possibilities. We can live big. Dream big. Give big. Pray big. God knows no confines. That's why Jesus calls us to engage in His planet-wide mission.



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Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

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Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.'" (Luke 24:45–47)



PREPARE YOUR HEART

Before seeking God through His Word, we should seek help from His Spirit. Do that now, making the prayer below your own.

Father, overwhelm me with the truth of Your revelation in this study. Cause it to make a difference in how I think, first, and then in how I live. I want to see You as You are, hear You as You speak, and love You because You first loved me. The cross proved it. Jesus' resurrection sealed it. I know He's coming soon. In His name, amen.



YOUR TURN IN THE SCRIPTURES

Luke penned a two-volume treatise tracing the work of God in and through Jesus as well as the acts of God's Spirit in and through the church. We call it Luke-Acts. The salvation that Jesus secured, the Spirit applied—renewing souls. Renewal happens quickly and slowly. Jesus can open our eyes to His glory in an instant, like He opened Saul's eyes when He appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus. But knowing Jesus is a lifelong Spirit-led process.

In Luke 18, we come to know Jesus through two of His parables and then two of His conversations.



Observation: Melting Away the Limits

For each of the four sections in *Luke 18:1–30*, we will:

- 1) Observe the passage
- 2) Hone our observations into a brief subject statement
- 3) Add a complement statement that clarifies what we should know about the subject



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Remember, in observation, we pay attention to what the text *says*. For the first passage, we provided subject and complement statements as examples. You can write your own statements for the other passages.

Keep Knocking—Luke 18:1–8

Record below key observations from Luke 18:1–8.

Write a short phrase that captures this passage's subject.

Example: *We should always pray.*

What do we need to know about the subject of the passage?

Example: *We should always pray because God will not ignore us.*



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What is the need that you face? Bother God with it! Bring it to His attention every morning when you get up, through the day, every lunchtime, every evening meal, before you go to bed every night. Stay on it, stay on it, stay on it, and guess what? The God of limitless possibilities, lest He be worn out by your frequent coming, will break through and do what no one can do. This passage either means that or it's mockery, and I have never known the Scriptures to mock us. —Chuck Swindoll

Those Whom God Exalts—Luke 18:9–14

Record below key observations from Luke 18:9–14.

Write a short phrase that captures this passage's subject.

What do we need to know about the subject of the passage?



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No Little People—Luke 18:15–17

Record below key observations from Luke 18:15–17.

Write a short phrase that captures this passage's subject.

What do we need to know about the subject of the passage?

If He's got time for the little children and said, "The kingdom belongs to such as these," believe me, He's got room for those of us who struggle with feelings of inadequacy. Mission possible. You see, with God there are no little people. —Chuck Swindoll



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Selections from Luke 18

Sacrifice for the Kingdom—Luke 18:18–30

Record below key observations from Luke 18:18–30.

Write a short phrase that captures this passage's subject.

What do we need to know about the subject of the passage?



Interpretation: God Knows No Boundaries

Now that we have worked through what the text says, let's explore the text's meaning in light of the history and culture in which it was written. Scanning a Bible dictionary and a commentary or two can uncover helpful background information. Use these tools to excavate Scripture to find treasure worth more than handfuls of diamonds: eternal truth. Truth about God. Truth about yourself. Truth about others. Truth as valuable today as it was when first written.

In this study, we will use interpretation to focus on truth about God.



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Selections from Luke 18

God's Limitless Possibilities

In each of the four sections of Luke 18 listed below, Jesus portrayed God's limitless possibilities that we might worship Him as the God of limitless possibilities and live in light of that reality. *How does each passage contribute to our understanding of God's boundless nature?* Don't forget to marshal those resources that will help you grasp the mind of Luke. The *NET Bible* offers excellent tools on the web.

Luke 18:1–8

Luke 18:9–14

Luke 18:15–17

Luke 18:18–30



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Selections from Luke 18

You who have put your priorities straight, you who have set aside ego and the nonsensical pursuit of just more and more, let me tell you, it's worth it. It's worth it. You've lost nothing, and look at the peace of mind you live with. Look at the pleasure of engaging with all kinds of people and touching all kinds of lives, simply because you just got the priorities straight.
—Chuck Swindoll



Correlation: Christ's Greatest Benefit for His People

To ensure the believers in Ephesus understood the gospel, Paul wrote that majestic letter, which we call Ephesians. This letter expounds our identity in Christ and the power He gives us to live out that new identity. In Ephesians 3:14–21, Paul recorded a fitting prayer in view of God channeling His limitless power for the Ephesians' benefit through Jesus. Let's review that prayer now.

According to [Ephesians 3:14–21](#), what did Paul want God to do for Christians?

What did Paul want Christians to understand and experience from God?



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How does God glorify Himself in the church?

If you allow God to be God and to be as powerful as in fact He is, you will have no difficulty with worry, or praying as you should, or thinking and living as He would be pleased for you to do. —Chuck Swindoll



Application: Embracing a Mission-Possible Life

During application, we simplify what we have learned, develop a game plan, and implement it in our lives. Application fosters intimacy with Jesus, obedience to Him, and our ability to express His love to others.

First, reflect on your view of God. How has this study expanded it?

Have you marked off anything specific as impossible? Healing from a past scar. Overcoming a struggle or addiction. Perhaps it's leaving the familiar. Remember, God does the impossible all the time. Record whatever it may be and pray to your Father in heaven to not only change your heart but also to accomplish the impossible. Remember Jesus' parable—pray, pray, pray.



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Have you joined in the work of Jesus' Great Commission—to make disciples in every nation? Sure, it's big. Like 6,875 languages big. But it's *mission possible* with God because He knows no limits. It delights Him to include us because He made us in His image to be His ambassadors. Record one new way below you can reignite your passion for Jesus' mission and contribute to His work.

You can do it. Live big. Dream big. Pray big. God made all this possible for you by taking on the weaknesses of human flesh. Jesus shed His divine privileges, so you can “share his divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4). Immortality. Everlasting joy. Communion with the Almighty. All yours through the Prince of Peace.



A FINAL PRAYER

Father, thank You for lifting the burden of sin and giving me the blessing of life with You. Find in me an open heart to do, to go, to give, to spend, to invest—whatever I sense You leading me to do—all for Your glory, Your pleasure. You have made the impossible possible in Jesus, my Savior and Shepherd. Amen.

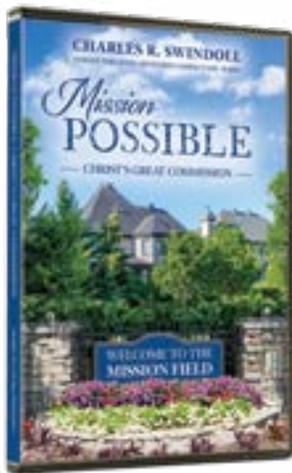


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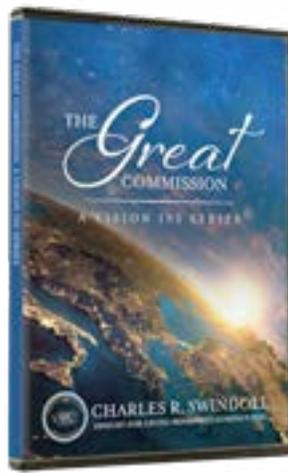
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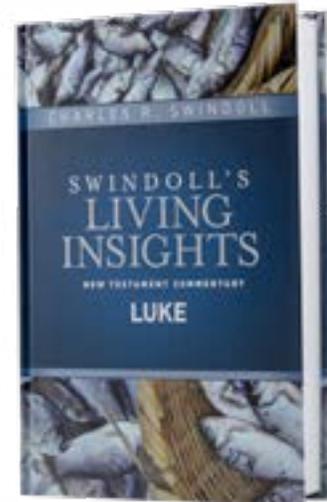
Tools for Digging Deeper



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For the 2019 broadcast, this *Searching the Scriptures* study was developed by Aaron Massey in collaboration with Bryce Klabunde, executive vice president of Pastoral Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages.

