

| [SEARCH BLOG](#) | [FLAG BLOG](#) | [Next Blog](#)»
[Create Blog](#) | [Sign In](#)

# drulogion

thursday theological thoughts

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2007

## Even what is impossible with God is possible with God

Many thanks to those who submitted those tantalizing Bible Brain Busters in the suggestion box. Please feel free to continue to suggest a Bible Brain Buster [here](#). I look forward to addressing some of these in upcoming posts.

This week I am in the midst of writing one long research paper after another. I ask that you indulge me as I simply quote a great line from a text I was reading this week. Let this quote and following questions for discussion stand as a more than sufficient thursday theological thought:

**"Not only what is impossible with us humans, but also what must rightly appear to us impossible with God himself, is possible with God."**

- Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics* I/2, p. 31, rev.).

### Any thoughts?

What are some things that we usually think of as impossible with humans but possible with God? On what basis would we discern this difference?

What are some things that we usually think of as impossible for humans? On what basis could we impute any impossibilities to God?

In what contexts might this quote apply? Where do we need to be reminded that God's possibilities even exceed the boundaries of what we rightly appears to be impossible for God?

Labels: [Barth](#), [God](#), [quotes](#)

posted by JohnLDrury @ 5:43 PM

[6 comments](#)

## About Me



Name:  
JohnLDrury  
Location:  
Doylestown,  
Pennsylvania, US

[View my complete profile](#)

## blogs

- [keith drury](#)
- [ken schenck](#)
- [amanda drury](#)
- [sam bills](#)
- [david drury](#)
- [millinerd](#)
- [chris bounds](#)
- [generous orthodoxy](#)
- [alien corpse](#)
- [wesleyan boomerangs](#)
- [bible forum](#)
- [kevin wright](#)
- [paul matthew](#)
- [common grounds](#)
- [theofragen](#)
- [harbinger](#)
- [tim](#)
- [ericnentrup](#)
- [one-life](#)
- [jon dodrill](#)
- [scott collins-jones](#)
- [andrea summers](#)
- [christin taylor](#)
- [paul kind](#)
- [cowpi](#)
- [feminary](#)
- [eric herron](#)

## 6 Comments:

At [9:42 AM, January 18, 2007](#), [Casey](#) said...

This post makes me think of the whole "Can God make a mountain so big that He can't move it?" thing. I need to check out this Barth guy.

At [7:41 AM, January 19, 2007](#), [Keith.Drury](#) said...

*This post has been removed by the author.*

At [7:42 AM, January 19, 2007](#), [Keith.Drury](#) said...

This opens up all kinds of actions of God that are (to us) "logically impossible" ..which of course delights me...

At [4:11 PM, January 22, 2007](#), [Evan and Julia](#) said...

God is free to do that which he cannot do without ceasing to be God. My brilliant philosophy professor, Craig Keen, used to say this in class.

At [7:04 PM, January 23, 2007](#), [Ken Schenck](#) said...

As is usual for me with Barth, I am left wondering how this statement works out in specific instances. Can God make 2 + 2 equal 7, for example? I answered "yes" to this question on a 20 question "God test" out of Oxford I found online and was promptly told that I had made a fatal error in my philosophical judgment.

But I've decided that I would have to read the whole Dogmatics really to get Barth. He makes these sorts of suggestive comments without indicating their scope or limits. This you have to find out over time as you work through, synthesizing as you go along.

At least that's how I feel at this point.

At [4:20 PM, January 24, 2007](#), [JohnLDrury](#) said...

Ken,

You are right to point out that this cannot be a principle that we apply willy-nilly. Of course, this does count against the quote, because KB does not introduce this as a general concept. Rather, the quote actually comes from a section where KB is talking about how we think through the possibility of the incarnation on the basis of its actuality - since it has happen, it must be possible for God. So even though it seems impossible (because God is God and humans are humans), apparently it is within the power of God to become human. So, Barth has indicated the scope and limits of this statement: the history of Jesus Christ.

[Post a Comment](#)

- [jeremy summers](#)
- [eternal dialogue](#)

### organizations

- [church folks for a better america](#)
- [princeton theological seminary](#)
- [somerst christian college](#)
- [indiana wesleyan university](#)
- [the wesleyan church](#)
- [emergent wesleyan](#)
- [doylestown united methodist](#)
- [spring lake wesleyan church](#)
- [citylife church](#)
- [college wesleyan church](#)
- [the well](#)
- [central jersey emergent cohort](#)
- [gospel and our culture network](#)
- [wesley center for applied theology](#)
- [wesleyan theological society](#)
- [american academy of religion](#)
- [catholic theological society of america](#)

### resources

- [theology dictionary](#)
- [island of freedom](#)
- [ccel](#)
- [augustine](#)
- [luther](#)
- [newman](#)
- [barth](#)
- [frei](#)
- [imdb](#)
- [lark](#)
- [games](#)
- [geeks](#)
- [news](#)
- [iwuonline](#)
- [blogger](#)
- [typepad](#)

### Previous Posts

[The Writing of John Drury Revised and Updated](#)

[Book Review: "Barth for Armchair Theologians" by J...](#)

[Bruce Metzger Passes Away at 93](#)

["This generation shall not pass,](#)

[<< Home](#)

[till all these th...](#)

[The Ethics of God \(Bible Brain Busters\)](#)

["The Father is Greater than I" \(Bible Brain Buster...](#)

[Even what is impossible with God is possible with ...](#)

[Suggestion Box: Bible Brain Busters](#)

[Bible Brain Busters: Gethsemane Prayer](#)

[Christmas Connections Preaching](#)

