

# Is Nothing Impossible For God?

The above topic sounds like I'm going to present some heretical teaching, but the intent is to get your attention.

You can recite “For nothing will be impossible for God”, but what does it mean to you? Is it a platitude, an honouring of his greatness, or is it just scripture that's been rote learnt?

That aside, you'll be surprised about one instance of that expression in the NT. In Luke, the statement is spoken to Mary, Jesus' mother, by the angel Gabriel. But there's a problem with our English translations of it. In the Greek it is:

**Luke 1:37** (SBLGNT<sup>1</sup>) – ὅτι οὐκ ἀδυνατήσει παρὰ τοῦ θεοῦ πᾶν **ῥῆμα**.

This verse is rarely translated properly because the last word in the Greek is ῥῆμα, which is *rhema*. This is the active word that the Trinity speaks to us every day, but it's usually left out. If it's there, it should be included in our English translations of the whole verse.

The verse should convey that nothing is impossible if ‘God’<sup>2</sup> said it to us and we then do it. That's very different to what we usually read. Of the 60 English versions in BibleGateway,<sup>3</sup> 51 don't include reference to “word”, which they technically should – it's in the original Greek version. Only one version uses “spoken” in place of ‘word’, while none use “speaks”, “spoke” or “said”.

The NIV, for example, does include “word”:

**Luke 1:37** (NIV) – *For no word from God will ever fail.*

Of closer translation are the Amplified & the Expanded Bible:

**Luke 1:37** (EXB) – *God can do anything [...because nothing is impossible with God; or ...because no word/message from God will ever fail];*

**Luke 1:37** (AMPC) – *For with God nothing is ever impossible and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment.*

Notice how taking most English Bible translations literally, because they are “The Word of God”, leaves hidden a lot of what we need to know.

**IMPORTANT:** We don't need to learn ancient Greek and Hebrew to know what we need to know about spiritual matters because we have Holy Spirit. Jesus said he'd send him because he's to be our intimate, personal helper (aid)<sup>4</sup> and he's the source of truth (true knowledge). According to Jesus, the Spirit will guide us into all truth because he only tells us what Father and The Son tell him to say to us. So, we only need to ask him and he'll tell us the truth about anything, spiritual or natural.

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

1 – SBL Greek New Testament produced by the Society of Biblical Literature [www.sbl-site.org](http://www.sbl-site.org)

2 – ‘God’: I use this term in inverted commas because ‘God’ is the generic term people use, while I don't any more. I have an intimate relationship with the members of the Trinity, so I refer to them by name out of relationship.

3 – [classic.biblegateway.com/verse/en/Luke%201:37](http://classic.biblegateway.com/verse/en/Luke%201:37)

4 – Gk: *parakletos* [www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Lexicon.show/ID/G3875/parakletos.htm](http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Lexicon.show/ID/G3875/parakletos.htm)