

## Impossible

*“But God raised him up again, putting an end to the agony of death since it was impossible for Him to be held by its power.”*

**Acts 2:24**

**Impossible**—This English word is really three Greek words. Those words are *ouk en dunaton*. They literally say “not was able.” Luke could have used another word for “impossible”, *adunatos*. But here he chose to express the idea by saying the death was not able to hold Jesus in the grave. There is a subtle difference. If I tell you something is impossible, that means it can't be done. But if I tell you that you are not able to do it, that means that it might have been done, but you didn't have the strength to do it. “Impossible” is the wrong word to use in this translation. The real meaning is that **God overcame the strength of death**. Death under normal circumstances would have held Jesus in the grave, but God broke its back so it no longer had the strength to keep him. God is stronger than death.

Think about this subtle difference and its effect on Jesus. Did Jesus go to the cross to die knowing that it was *impossible* for him to stay dead? That's not what this says. It says that Jesus went to the cross to die putting all of his confidence and trust in God's promise to act. Without God's action, death would hold him. But God is stronger than death.

Think about the implications of this word for faith. This word implies that Jesus had to put His trust in what God said. He bet His life on God's promise. All He had was God's word, but it was enough because He knew that God's word was true. That is the same kind of trust that God expects from us. Jesus is no different than us. I have to put my trust in what He says. He and I are men of the Word. When Hebrews tells us that Jesus was like us in every way, that includes the need for trust in the Father. Jesus is our example. He trusted God's promise in spite of death. We have never been asked to have that much trust. We are alive. If Jesus could trust God's promise *through* death, what stops us from trusting God's promise in life?

God does not do the impossible. God does what is otherwise not possible.