



**Session 6**

**Topic**

Doctrine of God

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## The Doctrine of God (Part 2)

### Acts 17:23-29.

Thinking about Paul showing that the Lord is the one true God, The Almighty, that made heaven and earth, that is, the All Powerful or Omnipotent God, we will now think of the attributes of Almighty God.

### The Attributes of God (i.e the Perfect Qualities and Character of God)

God's attributes are broken down into Communicable and \_\_\_\_\_communicable attributes. Attributes mean who God is in respect of His qualities (Perfect excellence), and His characteristics (those things that define who God is). His attributes can in some instances be imparted to us (Communicable), and in other cases they cannot (Incommunicable).

### Part A: God's Incommunicable attributes

These are God's qualities and characteristics that have never been able to be imputed to us. That is, we can never gain from God these attributes, it is just not possible.

#### **First: Asiety (Self Existence)**

That is, God's existence is from within Himself, and always has been and always will be. God has no originating cause as He has always existed. **Psalm 90:2; Psalm 41:13 & Hebrews 13:8.**

We can also think of **Exodus 3:14**, where the Lord told Moses to tell the C O I that the "I AM" had sent him. He is the self-existent One, and always will be. See also **Acts 17:24-25**

That obviously cannot be imputed to us. Even when we are in heaven with the Lord, we will only exist for eternity **because of** the power of God. We will never be able to exist from within ourselves.

**John 10:28** – "And \_\_\_\_\_ unto them \_\_\_\_\_ life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of \_\_\_\_\_."

That is total dependence on the Lord for our eternal existence. So, God is self existent, and we can never have that attribute imputed to us.

#### **Second: Almighty God is Omnipotent (all powerful).**

**Genesis 1:1.** *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."*

Now, when you go outside at night and look at the night sky, and we see the moon, and the stars (and if you are in a good enough spot without too much light around, the milky way), we are looking at a tiny microscopic part of the universe, **and yet God spoke that into existence.**

**Colossians 1:16-17.** Noting that **all** things were created by Him, it also shows in Verse 17 that, *"...by him **all things** \_\_\_\_\_."* (i.e all things are supported and maintained by God – exist).

It is very obvious that the Omnipotence of God cannot be imparted on us mere sinful human beings. As we saw in **Revelation 1:17** earlier, John the beloved disciple could not even handle seeing the Lord Jesus in His heavenly state. Imagine if God tried to impart one hundredth of His power to an individual. It just is not possible.

### **Third: Almighty God is Omnipresent (all present).**

**Psalm 139:7-10.** The Psalmist is here stating that no matter the extreme of the location of an individual, God is present there.

Let's consider a few places in the Scripture to establish this. First, turn to **John 3:12-13**. Here we have the Lord Jesus (God the Son) talking to the Pharisee Nicodemus that went to Him by night (**John 3:2**), and in talking of himself the Lord Jesus stated that He, the Son of man, was in \_\_\_\_\_ at the same time.

We have here the complexity of the Godhead. We have already seen from **Colossians 2:8-9** that in the Lord Jesus dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily, for He is both God and man. Look also at **John 14:11**, and here we see the Lord Jesus show the complexity of the Godhead consisting of the Trinity – "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me:..." While we will look at the Trinity in more detail later, think for a minute of **Galatians 2:20 and 1 Corinthians 3:16**. Galatians 2 states Christ lives in us, while 1 Corinthians 3 states it is the Holy Spirit that dwells in a born again believer. We see the complexity of the Godhead.

Look also at **Jeremiah 23:23-24**. "...Do not I \_\_\_\_\_ heaven and earth? Saith the LORD." Yes, He does, He is Omnipresent.

### **Fourth: Almighty God is Omniscient (All Knowing).**

**Psalm 139:4.** What does God know about us? "For there is not \_\_\_\_\_ word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou \_\_\_\_\_ it a \_\_\_\_\_."

**Revelation 20:12** shows that the Lord is all knowing, and has every detail of each life recorded.

**Job 36:26-29.** Here we can see God is all knowing in respect of the knowledge required to bring forth the Creation. He is all knowing (Omniscient), and that is of course totally unable to be imparted to us.

### **Fifth: The immutability of God**

Immutable means that God is invariable and incapable of change for He is perfect. **Malachi 3:6.** In this verse the LORD is stating His immutability, which is good for the sons of Jacob (C O I), for they (like us) are certainly not immutable in their life before God.

**Hebrews 13:8** shows God the Son as being unchanging forever. God is incapable of changing.

**Psalm 102:25-27.** Though God will fold up like a garment the heavens and earth that He has made, it is no effect upon Him, He remains the same (unchanging).

**James 1:17** shows there is no variableness with God, which means not subject to change.

How easy is it to see that God cannot impart to us His immutability. We are sinners saved only because of His Grace, and our adversary afflicts us with temptations and our old nature strongly desires those things that we ought not partake of. This side of eternity, it would be impossible for God to impute His unchanging perfection to us.

### **Part B: God's Communicable Attributes.**

These are obviously God's attributes that He can impart to us, and there are quite a number, so we will look at the obvious. If you look at how the communicable attributes are taught





Last, in **Galatians 5:22-23**, we see here the fruit of the Spirit.

Again, we see the Holy Spirit is the mode of God's communicable attributes being imputed to us. From this, we can see another vital role the Holy Spirit plays in our lives, not just to seal us from having trusted the Lord Jesus as Saviour.

### **The first Communicable attribute is the Love of God.**

In **Galatians 5:22-23**, we have the fruit of the Spirit, and we see the first in the list of the fruit of the Spirit is love.

Looking at **John 13:34-35**, we see the night the Lord Jesus was betrayed, He is giving the disciples a new commandment to they love one another, as He had loved them.

When did the disciples first show that love in the manner the Lord Jesus spoke of after that night? Answer: In **Acts 2** from the day of Pentecost onwards.

What was the difference between the period of time from the night the Lord Jesus was betrayed through to the day of Pentecost, as compared to the day of Pentecost & on?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

We see the fruit of the Spirit in their lives. Compare **John 13:35** to **Acts 2:46-47**. The Holy Spirit of course is an equal part of our Triune God, and we can clearly see the love of God being imputed.

When we look at the fruit of the Spirit, we are not looking at the fruits of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is one thing, and what follows in the fruit of the Spirit are a result of the born-again believer growing in their love of God, and their love for God.

The fruit of the Spirit is in three parts. While the different elements of the fruit of the Spirit come together as one, they are still distinct attributes of God's character.

The first part is love, joy and peace which is what we experience inwardly from the Lord through the Spirit, and while they are three different attributes of God, they all have a common thread that links them together.

**The love of God** we experience through the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22**), generates a desire and delight to be in His presence. It brings security in His presence, a calmness. This leads to the second of the inward fruit and our next communicable attribute:

### **The joy of God. Galatians 5:22**

The word "joy" here means delight, and in the Greek dictionary it puts it as "calm delight", which is a natural flow on from the fruit of love.

**Psalm 16:11** shows this to be a natural and normal attribute of God. "... in thy presence is fulness of joy; ....." . Imagine, it is never any different in heaven before our Lord God.

When we consider that it was the joy set before the Lord prior to the cross that gave Him strength to endure the cross (**Hebrews 12:2**), and there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents (**Luke 15:10**), we can see that joy through the Holy Spirit is what the Lord desires in our lives, and we do truly need to have the joy of the Lord in our lives, "...for the joy of the LORD is your strength." (**Nehemiah 8:10**)

### **The peace of God. Galatians 5:22**

Now, the word peace here means freedom from internal commotion, quietness of mind, calmness. We can see therefore the thread that joins these three attributes of God together. We see in God's love, joy and peace we have a calmness, that gives us the sense of God's strength and presence.

When the Lord said the words we read in **John 14:27** the night He was betrayed, the disciples were anything but at peace. Again, the peace the Lord was talking about would come through the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Looking at **John 14:27**, "Peace \_\_\_ leave with you, my peace \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ unto you:..." . Again, how does the Lord impute this attribute to us? \_\_\_\_\_

To what extent does the Lord desire for us to have peace in our hearts? **Colossians 3:15**

He wants it to \_\_\_\_\_ .

What does the peace of God do? The peace of God will keep our \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ & \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ through Christ Jesus, because it is a communicable attribute. **Philippians 4:7**

In **2 Thessalonians 3:16**, we see the Lord wants us to have peace \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ by \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ means.

The born-again believer that has the fruit of love, joy and peace within, will have a natural inclination towards the next part of the fruit of the Spirit, which as we will see are attributes of God also. They are: Longsuffering, Gentleness and Goodness.

These are attributes that will be seen by others if we have them in our lives.

### **The attribute of Longsuffering. Galatians 5:22**

Just a reminder, these are the fruit *of* the Spirit, that is, imputed to the Christian by means of God the Holy Spirit.

**Numbers 14:8; Exodus 34:6 & 2 Peter 3:9** shows us plainly that longsuffering is an attribute that we can see throughout the Bible, i.e Old and New Testament.

Longsuffering means bearing provocation for a long time; p \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ .

If we have the inward fruit of love, joy and peace, and therefore the calm delight within, we then see how unworthy we are, and better appreciate what God has done for us individually.

We then by God's working see we are no better than anyone else which engenders in us longsuffering i.e, we can bear provocation by His Grace, we can run the race with patience (**Hebrews 12:1**). The Lord expects us to run our race with p\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ , and He will certainly endow us with the means to do so.

### **The attribute of Gentleness. Galatians 5:22**

The Websters 1828 puts the meaning of "Gentleness" as mildness of temper, softness of manners.

In relation to the LORD, first let us look at **Isaiah 40:10-11**, and we see the Shepherd of our souls (**1 Peter 2:25**), cares for our souls, and will gently lead us.

In **2 Corinthians 10:1** we see the gentleness of Christ working in Paul.

### **The attribute of Goodness. Galatians 5:22**

For us goodness means excellent moral qualities or virtuous.

By looking at **Exodus 34:6**, we can see that God is a \_\_\_\_\_ in goodness, and how He yearns for us to share in goodness by the working of the Holy Spirit.

The third part of the fruit of the Spirit are the attributes of God that He wants to look down from heaven and see in our lives.

### **The attribute of Faith. Galatians 5:23**

Looking at **Acts 3:16**, we see that upon Peter and John healing the lame man a crowd gathered. Peter starts preaching to them, and in verse 16, Peter explains it was because of faith the lame man was healed. In particular, it says it was "...the faith that was by him..." talking of the Lord Jesus.

As we experience the Lord's working in our lives, and we come to a saving knowledge of Him (by faith), and in growing as a Christian we experience from God through the Spirit the inward fruit (part one), which leads to the outward fruit towards others of the change in our lives (part two). It then generates greater faith which is what the Lord is looking to see in our lives, for we are to "...walk by faith, not by sight.." **2 Corinthians 5:7**

**Romans 10:17** "So then faith cometh by h \_\_\_\_\_ , and h \_\_\_\_\_ by the word of God."

Faith is a communicable attribute from God.

### **The attribute of Meekness Galatians 5:23**

Now, meekness basically means the same as gentleness, but gentleness which is outward fruit towards others refers to our actions towards them, whereas meekness here means our attitude that the Lord sees. It means a mildness towards God and submission to His will

**Matthew 11:28-29** is showing the Lord's mild and tender attitude towards the lost sinner. He said that He is, "...meek and lowly \_\_\_\_\_ h \_\_\_\_\_ ."

We can see this difference in **2 Corinthians 10:1**. Paul was beseeching or imploring them by the meekness \_\_\_\_\_ gentleness of Christ.

### **The attribute of Temperance Galatians 5:23**

This is the final attribute in the fruit of the Spirit, and is an interesting one. Temperance here means self-control which brings moderation of our desires or passions, that is, not susceptible to external influences on our minds and body, it brings patience & calmness. Again, it is what the Lord desires to see in us.

Now, in the Scriptures we don't see a verse that literally says God displays temperance. However, turn to **1 Peter 2:20-24**. We have here the greatest ever act of temperance, of self-control, of moderating desires that will **never** be emulated.

See **1 Corinthians 9:25**. If we truly desire to have "... the \_\_\_\_\_ .." over our old nature, to be all of what we can be by the power of God, we need the Holy Spirit to give us victory in the area of temperance.

We hereby see why God has put in place these communicable attributes in the manner He has. God desires us to be Christlike & have a victorious walk of faith. **Philippians 2:5**.

