

The Nature and Attributes of God

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Studying God's nature and attributes can be extremely encouraging yet intensely humbling for the believer. Although our limited minds cannot fully comprehend Him, God has made Himself known! Along with the fact of His existence, which we can readily see through creation (Psalm 19:1-3; Rom 1:19-20), the Lord uses His Word to reveal Himself to man. Since God has declared Himself to be One in essence (Deut. 6:4), the following characteristics apply equally to each of the three Persons of the Godhead.

Eternal

God is without beginning or end. He does not exist in time but is the Creator of time; Thus, He is the eternal, self-existent One.

- 📖 Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. (Psalms 90:2)
- 📖 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:14)
- 📖 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:17)

See also Rev. 1:8; Lam. 5:19; Job 36:26; John 5:26.

Immutable

God is unchangeable. He cannot become something new or different. He remains forever faithful to His character and Word!

- 📖 Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will have no end. (Psalms 102:25-27)
- 📖 "For I am the LORD, I do not change"; (Malachi 3:6a)
- 📖 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. (James 1:17)
- 📖 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. (Hebrews 10:23)
- 📖 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. (Romans 11:29)

See also Heb. 13:8; I Sam 15:29; Heb. 1:10-12; Heb. 6:17,18; II Cor. 1:20; Lam. 3:22-23; Psa. 36:5; Psa. 89:33; I Cor. 1:9; II Tim. 2:13; II Th. 3:3; I Pet. 4:19; I Th. 5:24.

Omnipresent

God is everywhere – time nor space limits Him.

📖 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You. (Psalms 139:7-12)

📖 "Am I a God near at hand," says the LORD, "And not a God afar off? Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says the LORD; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:23-24)

📖 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good. (Proverbs 15:3)

📖 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:13)

See also Acts 17:27-28; Ex. 33:14; Matt. 28:20b; Heb. 13:5; Psa. 145:18; Isa. 66:1-2.

Sovereign

God is the Supreme Ruler of the universe; Therefore, He sustains perfect control over all creation.

📖 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great And to give strength to all. (1 Chronicles 29:11-12)

📖 Therefore know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. (Deuteronomy 4:39)

📖 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. (Colossians 1:16-17)

See also I Sam. 2:6-8; Psa. 24:1-2; Psa 83:18; Psa 95:3-5; Psa 115:3; Isa. 55:11; I Tim. 6:15b-16.

The fact of human freedom and the evil that resulted from it does not negate God's Sovereignty. God, in His Sovereignty, created humans with free will, knowing fully the choices that would result. Our God-given freedom makes a genuine, loving relationship with Him possible. God's purposes cannot be thwarted! (Rom. 9:22-23)

Omniscience

God knows everything, whether actual or possible - He is infinite in knowledge.

📖 LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it. (Psalms 139:1-6)

📖 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

📖 Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,' (Isaiah 46:9-10)

📖 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! "FOR WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD? OR WHO HAS BECOME HIS COUNSELOR?" "OR WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM AND IT SHALL BE REPAID TO HIM?" For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:33-36)

See also Jer. 51:15; II Chr. 6:30; Psa. 147:4-5; I Sam. 2:3; Matt. 10:29-31.

Omnipotent

God is all-powerful! He can do anything in harmony with His character.

📖 Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. (Psalms 33:8-9)

📖 'Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You. (Jeremiah 32:17)

📖 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. (Isaiah 40:28)

📖 Then Job answered the LORD and said: "I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. (Job 42:1-2)

See also Gen. 18:14; Jer. 27:5; Jer. 32:27; Isa. 40:26; Matt. 19:26; Heb. 1:3; Eph. 3:20,21.

Holy

God is perfect!

- 📖 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5)
- 📖 "No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God. (1 Samuel 2:2)
- 📖 The LORD is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works. (Psalms 145:17)
- 📖 Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His footstool—He is holy. (Psalms 99:5)
- 📖 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" (Isaiah 6:3)
- 📖 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested." (Revelation 15:4)

See also Isa. 57:15; Rev. 4:8.

The word "holy" means "set apart." Although God's holiness does include the idea of being set apart or separated from evil, it encompasses much more. God is eternally holy and uniquely distinct from His creation. Evil only exists in time and results from free creatures rebelling against God's intended purpose for them. That purpose being a trusting, dependent relationship with their Creator (Gen. 1-3). In eternity, before creation, evil did not exist; therefore, its separation from God was unnecessary.

Considering God's holiness from the aspect of eternity, one recognizes He is a complete, self-contained Being in need of nothing. In light of this, it is very humbling to realize that we have nothing of ourselves to offer God.

- 📖 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. (Acts 17:24-25)

Righteous

All of God's actions are always right; Consequently, God is perfectly just in all His dealings with man.

- 📖 As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him. (Psalms 18:30)
- 📖 Righteous are You, O LORD, And upright are Your judgments. (Psalms 119:137)
- 📖 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He. (Deuteronomy 32:4)
- 📖 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. (Psalms 19:9)
- 📖 'Can a mortal be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure than his Maker? (Job 4:17)
- 📖 Now therefore, let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take care and do it, for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes." (2 Chronicles 19:7)

See also Isa. 45:21; Psa. 89: 14; Psa. 97:1-2; Psa. 145:17; Job 37:23; Rom. 3:21-26.

Love

Divine love desires the well-being of the cherished individual to the point of self-sacrifice. God not only extends love toward His creatures, but God is love - love has always existed between the Persons of the Godhead (John 17:24). God is the unfailing source of all love!

- 📖 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)
- 📖 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)
- 📖 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation [satisfying sacrifice] for our sins. (1 John 4:9-10)
- 📖 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! (1 John 3:1)

📖 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:4-7)

See also Eph. 3:14-21; II Cor. 13:11.

In the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ, God's infinite righteousness and perfect love met, resulting in God's abounding capacity to extend grace toward undeserving sinners.

Good

God is good! He is the only fount of real, lasting satisfaction.

📖 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever... Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with goodness. (Psalms 107:1, 8-9)

📖 So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. (Mark 10:18)

📖 The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD. (Psalms 33:5b)

📖 The LORD is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works. (Psalms 145:9)

📖 That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. (1 John 1:3-4)

📖 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! (Psalms 34:8)

See also Ex. 34:6; Nah. 1:7; Psa. 103:1-5; John 17:13; Matt. 7:11.

Truth

God is absolute truth; Thus, He is perfectly reliable in His revelation of Himself.

📖 For the word of the LORD is right, And all His work is done in truth.
(Psalms 33:4)

📖 The words of the LORD are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth,
Purified seven times. (Psalms 12:6)

📖 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent.
Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it
good? (Numbers 23:19)

📖 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the
Father except through Me. (John 14:6)

📖 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding,
that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son
Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. (1 John 5:20)

📖 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus
Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3)

See also Titus 1:1-2; Heb. 6:17-19.

*Truth conforms to reality as God views it. As its source, He determines the standards.
Therefore, the opinions of sinful humanity should not dictate truth!
(Romans 3:4, 10-20; Ephesians 4:14-15; Colossians 2:8)*

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Verse 1

Great is Thy faithfulness,
O God, my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Chorus

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!

Verse 2

Summer and winter
And springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Verse 3

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm
Music: William M. Runyan, 1923