

## **THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD Part 4**

### **Faithfulness, Love, Grace, Mercy, Longsuffering**

#### **Faithfulness**

Faithfulness (Truthfulness) corresponds with God's nature and immutability. His words and promises are reliable and accurate. His word is the final standard of truth.

Scriptural evidence of faithfulness:

- All of God's words are faithful and true. – Ps. 119:86, 142, 151-152, Dan. 4:37, John 17:17, Eph. 1:13-14
- God is our "Rock" on whom we can depend. – Dt. 32:4, 15-18, Ps. 18:2-3, Isaiah 26:4
- God keeps His covenants. – Dt. 4:31, 7:9-11, Neh. 1:5, Dan. 9:4, Rom. 11:25-29
- All of God's promises are responded to by "Yes" and "Amen." – 2Cor. 1:18-20

#### **Love**

God's love is self-giving for the eternal benefit of His people. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."

Scriptural evidence for God's love:

- The words for love in the Bible
  - In the Hebrew Old Testament "Aheb" is used for God's love for His people. – Dt. 4:31-38, 7:6-8, Isaiah 43:4, Jer. 31:3
  - In the Greek New Testament – "Agapao", "Agape" is a selfless love that gives. It speaks of commitment from one to another. - John 15:12-17
    - Agapao is in place of "Aheb" in the Septuagint.
- God's love is manifested in the sacrifice of Christ. – Rom. 5:6-10, 8:37
- God is love – 1John 4:7-16

#### **Grace**

Grace describes God as perfectly bestowing favor on those who cannot earn it due to their sinful state and who are facing eternal condemnation.

Scriptural teachings concerning the grace of God:

- The objects of God's grace are primarily God's people. – Gen. 6:8
- Israel is called and kept by the grace of God – Isaiah 43:1-7, 43:15 & 21, Jer. 31:31-34, Ez. 16:60-63
- Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone. – Rom. 3:24, 5:15, 6:23, Eph. 1:6-7, 2:1-10, Titus 3:5-7
- God's grace is manifested in Jesus Christ – Luke 19:1-10

## **Mercy**

Mercy is God's deep compassion for people, especially to those who are not deserving of it.

Biblical evidence for God's mercy:

- Jesus demonstrated the mercy of God – Luke 7:11-15, Mat. 14:14, 20:29-34
  - Jesus' compassion for the lost - Mat. 9:35-38
- God is called the "Father of mercies and God of all comfort" – 2Cor. 1:3

## **Longsuffering**

Longsuffering speaks of the perfect patience exercised toward those who sin against Him.

Biblical examples of God's longsuffering:

- God is patient with those deserving divine punishment – Neh. 9:16-21
- God is still patient with sinners. – 1Tim. 1:15-16, 2Peter 3:9