

God is...

# The Character of God

“What is my ultimate aim and object in occupying my mind with these things? What do I intend to do with my knowledge of God once I’ve got it?”

Our aim in studying the Godhead must be to know God Himself better. Our concern must be to enlarge our acquaintance, not simply with the doctrine of God attributes, but with the living God whose attributes they are. How can we turn our knowledge about God, into knowledge of God?

## *Philippians 3:7-10*

*7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.*

*8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ*

*9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;*

*10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,*

One can know a great deal about God, with much knowledge of Him.

One can know a great deal about Godliness without much knowledge of God

When a man knows God, losses and crosses cease to matter to him. What other effects does the knowledge of God have on a man?

1. Those who know God have great energy for God – Daniel 11:32
2. Those who know God have great thoughts of God – Daniel 2:20; 9:4,7,9,14.
3. Those who know God show great boldness for God – Acts 5:29; 20:24
4. Those who know God have great contentment in God – Romans 5:1,16,28,30,35

First, we must realise how much we lack knowledge of God.

What were we made for? To know God

What aim should we set ourselves in Life? To know God

What is the eternal life that Jesus gives? The knowledge of God (John 17:3)

What is the best this in life, bringing more contentment, joy and delight? The knowledge of God (Jer 9:23; Hos 6:6)

What sort of activity or event is it that can properly be described as knowing God?

1. listening to God’s word and receiving it as the holy spirit interprets it, in application to oneself
2. Noting God’s nature and character, as His works and word reveal it
3. Accepting His invitation and doing what He commands
4. Recognising and rejoicing in the love that He has shown in thus approaching one and drawing one into His divine fellowship.

The more complex the object the more complex is the knowing of it.

The quality and extent of our knowledge of a person depends more on them than it does on us. Our knowing them is more directly the result of their allowing us to know them, than of our attempting to get to know them.

What does it mean to know thee?

1. Knowing God is a matter of personal dealing
2. Knowing God is a matter of personal involvement in mind, will and feeling
3. Knowing God is a matter of grace

The important matter is not so much that I know God but that which underlies it...God knows me. All of my knowledge of Him depends on His sustained initiative in knowing me.

*Romans 1:19*

*because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.*

## OUR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

### BY REASON OR REVELATION?

All our knowledge of God is partial and finite. The language that we use cannot fully express divine truth and is therefore symbolic. Nevertheless, it expresses Divine truth as clearly and fully as human language can express it.

Most arguments for the existence of God are based purely on reason. However, no one can know anything about God without His help...thus the ability to reason in spiritual things is a gift from God, just as much as a revelation is.

### REASON

**To reason, is to:**

- Justify something's existence or happening
- Engage in a process that leads to a conclusion or inference using known facts or assumptions
- think in a coherent and logical
- use cognitive processes when looking for reasons for beliefs, conclusions, actions or feelings

### REVELATION

**Revelation is:**

- disclosure: act of making something evident
- an enlightening or astonishing disclosure
- communication of knowledge to man by a divine or supernatural agency

## **INCOMPREHENSIBLE OR KNOWABLE?**

### **God is both incomprehensible and knowable**

For many of us 'mortal beings' it is hard to hold these two seemingly opposing truths in tandem. On one hand God is incomprehensible (cannot be fully understood) and on the other hand He is knowable (He can be known by us).

### **God cannot be *fully* understood by us because he is infinite and we are finite human beings**

#### ***Psalms 145:3***

*Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
And His greatness is unsearchable.*

#### ***Psalms 139:6***

*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it.*

#### ***Romans 11:33***

*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!*

### **It is possible to know and experience Him and some truths about Him which He has revealed**

#### ***1 Corinthians 2:12***

*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.*

#### ***Colossians 1:10***

*that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

#### ***Jeremiah 24:7***

*Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the LORD;*

#### ***Jeremiah 9:23-24***

*Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me..."*

#### ***John 17:3***

*And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

#### ***Hebrews 8:11***

*None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.*

# GOD'S ATTRIBUTES

The reason people do not trust God is because they do not have a complete view of His character. To trust anyone we must know that this person speaks truthfully, has no guile and has our best interest at heart.

## THE ONE AND ONLY GOD

Scripture indicates there is one, and only one, God

*John 17:3*

*And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

*1 Corinthians 8:6*

*yet for us there is one God*

### Additional Verses:

- Ephesians 4:6
- 1 Timothy 2:5
- James 2:19
- Deuteronomy 6:4

## COMMUNICABLE VERSUS INCOMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES

When we talk about the character of God, we can break down God's attributes into two broad categories—communicable attributes and incommunicable attributes.

- Communicable attributes are those attributes that God shares with others.  
(e.g. his love and knowledge)
- Incommunicable attributes are those attributes that God does not share with others.  
(e.g. his eternity and omnipresence)

## INCOMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES

### The distinction between God the Creator and His Creatures

#### Six Incommunicable Attributes of God

1. God's transcendence & immanence

2. God's independence
3. God's unchangeableness (or immutability)
4. God's eternity (or timelessness)
5. God's omnipresence
6. God's unity (or simplicity)

## GOD'S TRANSCENDANCE & IMMANENCE

To what degree is God a part of, within or involved in (immanent) the creation and to what degree is He separate, different from and uninvolved in it (transcendent)? A proper (Biblical) balance of these two concepts gives us a correct understanding of God and our relationship with Him; an improper balance becomes a foundation for many of the errors.

### TRANSCENDENCE

#### *Isaiah 55:8-9*

*"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.*

**Transcendence** is

- The state of being beyond and outside the ordinary range of human experience, perception or understanding.
- The state of being beyond the limits of material experience.

The transcendence of God is closely related to his sovereignty. It means that God is above, other than, and distinct from all he has made - he *transcends* it all.

#### *Ephesians 4:6*

*one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

#### *John 8:23*

*And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.*

**Additional Verses:**

- Psalms 97:9
- Psalms 113:4
- Romans 11:33

### **Implications of transcendence**

- There is something higher than man
- There will always be a difference between God and man
- Reverence is appropriate in our relationship with God
- We can expect genuinely transcendent working by God (e.g. answered prayer)

## IMMANENCE

**Immanence** is

- existing throughout and within something
- the concept that deity is very much associated with creation, is all-present in the world, and is close to believers
- Often used in tension with the term “transcendent,” such that the God who is supremely elevated in majesty (ie, is transcendent) is at the same time actively involved in human affairs (ie, immanent).

The literal meaning of the immanence of God is "to be within" or "near" in relation to God's creation. Immanence is closely related to God's omnipresence, in that God is always present within the universe, though distinct from it. God is 'within' the universe in that God is its sustaining cause.

### **Jeremiah 23:23-24**

*"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.*

### **Colossians 1:17**

*And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

## **God is immanent within His creation.**

### **1. He is present throughout the whole universe**

#### **Jeremiah 23:24**

*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.*

### **2. He is “near” to every person**

#### **Acts 17:27**

*so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;*

### **3. Our life and being is in and through Him.**

#### **Acts 17:28**

*for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'*

#### **Job 34:14**

*If He should set His heart on it, if He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath,*

#### **Job 33:4**

*The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.*

### **4. His character and will is expressed through nature.**

### **Matthew 5:45**

*that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

### **Matthew 6:26**

*Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?*

## **Implications of immanence**

God is at work in through the natural as well as the supernatural

- ex. of miraculous healing and healing through natural means

### **Psalms 103:3**

*Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases,*

We can learn about and relate to God through the creation

- Natural theology is proper

### **Romans 1:20**

*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,*

- We should have an appreciation and concern for the creation.
- God interacts with the lost every day

### **Hebrews 4:15**

*For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

## **FINDING THE BALANCE**

**An overemphasis on the immanence of God leads to:**

1. a belief that God is fully expressed in the natural.
2. Whatever happens is God at work. Examples of “Christians” in Germany before both world wars.
3. A denial of any qualitative uniqueness to God.
4. Theism moves toward pantheism; god becomes an impersonal force within the creation.

**An overemphasis on the transcendence of God leads to:**

1. A God whom I cannot know or communicate with.
2. A God who cannot relate to my humanity.

***To affirm God's transcendence and deny his immanence is to arrive at deism. To deny his transcendence and affirm his immanence is to arrive at pantheism.***

## **GOD'S INDEPENDENCE**

*Exodus 3:14*



*And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM."*

This suggests that God is self-existent. Only God exists fully and completely in Himself.

### **God doesn't need creation to exist or for any other reason**

#### ***Acts 17:24-25***

*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.*

#### **Additional Verses:**

- Job 41:11
- Psalms 50:10-12

## **GOD'S IMMUTABILITY**

That God is said to repent, grieve, express joy, et al. does not necessarily indicate his essential being or purposes can be altered nor impeded (cf., Gen. 6:6; 1 Sam. 15:10; Jonah 3:10; Eph. 4:30; Is. 62:3-5; Zeph. 3:17-18 respectively). Scripture clearly states that God does not change with respect to his substantial attributes or his promises (Num. 23:19; Ps. 102:27; Is. 46:11; Mal. 3:6; Heb. 1:11-12; 13:8; Jm. 1:17). As such, God has absolute sovereign dominion over all that occurs in the universe, ordering both the means and the ends (Pr. 16:1, 4, 9).

However, the Bible explicitly ascribes emotions to God as the fundamental outworking of the type of personal being that he is. Given the absolute sovereignty and omniscience of God, it is impossible for God to react to the things which occur in creation. When Scripture speaks of God's responses, they are best understood as anthropomorphic ways of illustrating the character of God.

#### ***Immutability* is**

- The inability to be changed

#### **1) God is unchangeable in his being**

##### ***Malachi 3:6***

*"For I am the LORD, I do not change..."*

#### **2) God is unchangeable in his purposes**

##### ***Psalms 33:11***

*The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations.*

#### **3) God is unchangeable in his promises**

##### ***Numbers 23:19***

*Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?*

The perfection of God by which He is devoid of all change in essence, attributes, consciousness, will, and promises. No change is possible in God, because all change must be to better or worse, and God is absolute perfection. No cause for change in God exists, either in Himself or outside of Him.

Perfection means perfection. There is no reason for God to change because there is no change that would make Him better. However, man should be striving to be found complete and perfect in God's eyes.

**Additional Verses:**

- James 1:17
- Hebrews 6:17-18
- 1 Samuel 15:29
- Isaiah 46:9-11
- Psalms 102:25-27

## **R** REFLECTION

When things are going bad I won't blame God, asking why He has changed and doesn't seem to be living up to His promises. Since He doesn't change, I will look at my life and see where I have deviated from the path He wants me to follow. I will change my direction toward the right way, and follow Him.

## **GOD'S ETERNITY – TIMELESSNESS**

**1) God was before all things**

***Colossians 1:17***

*And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

**2) God is everlasting**

***Genesis 21:33***

*Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.*

**3) God is timeless**

***2 Peter 3:8***

*But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

### Additional Verses:

- Psalms 90:4
- Genesis 1:1
- Revelation 1:8
- Psalms 90:2
- Deuteronomy 33:27
- Isaiah 9:6
- Romans 16:26

## GOD'S OMNIPRESENCE

Omnipresence is

- The ability to be at all places at the same time

### 1) God is present everywhere

#### ***Psalms 139:7-12***

*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.*

### 2) God is active in time

#### ***Genesis 22:1***

*Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."*

### 3) God is not bound by time

#### ***Isaiah 46:9-10***

*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,'*

### 4) God is Lord over space

#### ***Deuteronomy 10:14***

*Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it.*

### 5) God cannot be contained in space

#### ***1 Kings 8:27***

*"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!"*

## 6) God is present in different ways in different places

--God is present to punish

### **Amos 9:1-4**

*I saw the Lord standing by the altar, and He said: "Strike the doorposts that the thresholds may shake, and break them on the heads of them all. I will slay the last of them with the sword. He who flees from them shall not get away, and he who escapes from them shall not be delivered. "Though they dig into hell, from there My hand shall take them; though they climb up to heaven, from there I will bring them down; and though they hide themselves on top of Carmel, from there I will search and take them; though they hide from My sight at the bottom of the sea, from there I will command the serpent, and it shall bite them; though they go into captivity before their enemies, from there I will command the sword, and it shall slay them. I will set My eyes on them for harm and not for good."*

--God is present to sustain

### **Colossians 1:17**

*And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

--God is present to bless

### **Psalms 16:11**

*You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

### **Question:**

*If God is present everywhere, then why does the Bible sometimes talk about God's "presence" at or absence from a particular place?*

Example:

### **2 Corinthians 3:17**

*Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

### **John 14:23**

*Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.*

### **Isaiah 59:2**

*But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.*

### **Proverbs 15:29**

*The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.*

This description of God's presence at a particular place is a *biblical pattern of expression*.

Usually when Scripture talks about God's presence it is his presence to bless

**2 Corinthians 3:17**

*Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

**Romans 8:9-10**

*But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

**John 14:23**

*Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.*

Alternately, when God is spoken to be “far away” he is present not to bless

**Isaiah 59:2**

*But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.*

**Proverbs 15:29**

*The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.*

**Additional Verses:**

- Job 31:14
- Psalms 69:13
- Galatians 4:4
- Jeremiah 23:23-24
- Proverbs 15:3
- Genesis 1:1-2
- Acts 17:28
- Colossians 1:17
- Acts 7:48-50
- Amos 9:2-3

**GOD’S UNITY – SIMPLICITY**

God exists as a simple, indivisible being. He cannot exemplify properties independent of himself, nor is he a composition of individual parts. All of God's existence is united into one integrated eternal being.

- 1. God is not divided into parts.**

### **Exodus 34:6-7**

*And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."*

### **1 John 1:5**

*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 4:8**

*He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

**2. We see different attributes of God emphasized at different times.**

## **COMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES**

### **Five Broad Categories of God's Communicable Attributes**

- 1.) God's being
- 2.) God's moral attributes
- 3.) God's intellectual attributes
- 4.) God's emotional attributes
- 5.) God's volitional attributes

## **THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD'S BEING**

### **GOD IS SPIRIT**

#### **Spirit – Strong's NT #4151**

- a current of air, i.e. breath (blast) or a breeze; by analogy or figuratively, a spirit, i.e. (human) the rational soul, (by implication) vital principle, mental disposition, etc., or (superhuman) an angel, demon, or (divine) God, Christ's spirit, the Holy Spirit:
- ghost, life, spirit (-ual, -ually), mind

God exists as a being that is not made of any matter, has no parts or dimensions, is unable to be perceived by our bodily sense, and is more excellent than any other kind or existence.

### **John 4:24**

*God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth*

## **GOD IS INVISIBLE**

God has no image. He cannot be seen by the human eye, but creation points to His existence. His Son, Jesus testified to His existence and desire to be sought by His creatures. He also provided us with an example of how to live our lives seeking and serving God.

God cannot be seen by the human eye. Yet His eternal power and divine character are known and clearly seen by the things He has made.

The fact that God cannot be seen does not mean He cannot be known. Some men have chosen not to know God as they have denied Him by claiming that the world evolved by random chance and natural selection. But, if one were to look at the order of things as being held constant by the Creator, who created all things, one can begin to see the God who was and is powerful enough to create such a beautiful place even though He cannot be seen directly.

### **1. God's total essence will never be able to be seen by us.**

#### ***John 1:18***

*No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him*

#### ***1Timothy 1:17***

*Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen*

#### ***1Timothy 6:15-16***

*which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen*

### **2. God still shows Himself to us through visible, created things.**

#### ***Romans 1:20***

*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,*

#### ***Colossians 1:15***

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*

### **3. And God says that we will see God himself**

#### ***Revelation 22:3-4***

*And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.*

#### ***1 John 3:2***

*Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

Just because God cannot be seen directly does not mean He does not exist. The things He created and the order with which they were designed point toward an Almighty God with tremendous power and wisdom.

## **R** REFLECTION

Study the scriptures in order to find out more about God, both who he is and how he wants me to live. Also when I look at the beautiful things in this world I will thank him for creating them and for creating me.

I will seek to know and understand God through His word and his creation. I will love my fellow Christians so that God may dwell in me and I may experience more of his love.

### **GOD IS LIGHT**

#### **Light – Strong’s NT #5457**

➤ to shine or make manifest, luminousness

#### **Darkness – Strong’s NT #4653**

➤ dimness, obscurity, shadiness

#### **1 John 1:5**

*...God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*

#### **1 Timothy 6:16**

*who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light*

#### **Genesis 1:2-5**

*The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.*

Light and darkness are used in the Bible to contrast the difference between good and evil. Moral qualities and characteristics of all categories would be included in this vast spectrum. The concepts of light and darkness as they relate to good and evil in the Bible can be seen when considering the following scriptures:



**2 Corinthians 6:14**

*Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*

**Ephesians 5:7-9**

*Therefore do not be partakers with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth*

**Romans 13:12-13**

*The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.*

**Ephesians 5:11-12**

*And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.*

**Ephesians 6:12**

*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

**1 John 2:9-10**

*He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.*

Since darkness can be defined as "an absence of light", this would lead us to also understand that if God is Light, yet we live in darkness, then we lack God in our life.

**John 8:12**

*Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

**John 1:4,9**

*<sup>4</sup>In Him was life and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it...<sup>9</sup>That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.*

Here are some references to literal darkness, all of which represent a separation from God in one form or another:

**Isaiah 9:2**

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,  
Upon them a light has shined.*

**Ephesians 5:11-14**

*And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."*

**Proverbs 4:18-19**

*But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble.*

## **R REFLECTION**

Study the scriptures in order to find out more about God, both who he is and how he wants me to live. Also when I look at the beautiful things in this world I will thank him for creating them and for creating me.

### **GOD IS PERFECT**

**Perfect – Strong's NT #5046**

- complete in moral character, etc.
- of full age
- a definite point or goal; the point aimed at as a limit

God completely possesses all excellent qualities and lacks no part of any qualities that would be desirable for him.

**Matthew 5:48**

*Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

**Psalms 18:30**

*As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.*

**Deuteronomy 32:3-4**

*For I proclaim the name of the LORD: Ascribe greatness to our God. 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.*

## **R REFLECTION**

## GOD IS BLESSED

### Blessed – Strong’s NT #3107

- ☛ fortunate, well off, happy

God delights fully in himself and in all that reflects his character.

Here, the Greek word is *makarios*, which means “happy.” God is perfectly happy and has fullness of joy in himself. Why wouldn’t he since he is the sum of everything that is desirable and excellent (God’s perfection)?

#### 1. God fully delights in himself

**1 Timothy 6:15**

*which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,*

**1 Timothy 1:11**

*according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust*

#### 2. God delights in all that reflects his character

**Genesis 1:31**

*Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.*

**Isaiah 62:5**

*For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.*

It’s natural that God would rejoice in the things that reflect his own excellence like his creation and even us, his people!

Nothing can be thought of more blessed than the life of God, nor more abounding with all good things: he rejoices in his own wisdom and virtue, and assuredly knows that He ever shall be in the highest and eternal pleasures.

He, needs no external cause; for he is by nature good, and by nature blessed, and is of himself perfect.

#### 1. God, the blessed one

**Romans 1:25**

*who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

**2 Corinthians 11:31**

*The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.*

**1Timothy 1:11**

*according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.*

**2. Christ, the blessed**

**Romans 9:5**

*of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.*

**3. Christ, the son of the blessed**

**Mark 14:61-62**

*Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" Jesus said, "I am.*

**1Timothy 6:15-16**

*which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.*

## **R REFLECTION**

### **GOD IS BEAUTIFUL**

#### **Beauty – Strong's OT #5278**

- delight, splendor or grace, pleasant (-ness)
- to pass in beauty, be delight, be pleasant, be sweet

God's beauty is that attribute of God whereby he is the sum of all desirable qualities.

**Psalms 27:4**

*One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.*

God's beauty is very similar to God's perfection. But while God's perfection focuses on the fact that God does not *lack* any good thing, God's beauty focuses on the positive that God *possesses* all good desirable qualities.

# R REFLECTION

## GOD IS GLORIOUS

- a state of high honor
- brilliant radiant beauty

### Glory - Strong's NT #1391

- dignity, honour, praise, worship

### Glory – Strong's OT #3513

- splendor or copiousness, honour (-able).
- great, honour

God's glory is the created brightness that surrounds God's revelation of himself.

Ex 24:17

Deut 5:24-25

Ps 8:1

Ps 19:1

Ps 138:5

Isa 6:3

Isai 40:4-5

Hab 2:14

John 1:14

John 11:4

Rom 3:23

Phil 2:9-11

1 Cor 10:31

Rom 1:23

Col 1:27

2 thes 2:13-14

rev 21:22-24

The original meaning of the term glory was, brightness, clearness, effulgence: from that it has come to signify honor, renown; and again, that which renders honorable, or demands honor, or renown, reverence, adoration, and worship--that which is worthy of confidence and trust. The glory of God is essential and declarative. By essential glory is meant that in Him which is glorious--that in his character which demands honor, worship, and adoration. His declarative glory is the showing forth, the revealing, the manifesting, the glory of his character--his essential glory--to his creatures: the laying open his glory to the apprehension of intelligences. And this is what Moses meant--that God would reveal Himself to his mind so that he might know Him--might have a clear and powerful apprehension of those things which constitute his glory.

The glory of God is the beauty of His spirit. It is not an aesthetic beauty or a material beauty, but it is the beauty that emanates from His character, from all that He is. [James 1:10](#) calls on a rich man to “glory in his humiliation,” indicating a glory that does not mean riches or power or great aesthetic or material beauty. This glory can crown man or fill the earth. It is seen within man and in the earth, but it is not of them; it is of God. The glory of man is the beauty of man’s spirit, which is fallible and eventually passes away, and is therefore humiliating—as the verse tells us. But the glory of God, which is manifested in all His attributes together, never passes away. It is eternal.

[Isaiah 43:7](#) says that God created us for His glory. In context with the other verses, it can be said that man “glorifies” God because through man God’s glory can be seen in things such as love, music, heroism and so forth—things belonging to God that we are carrying “in jars of clay” ([2 Corinthians 4:7](#)). We are the vessels which “contain” His glory. All the things we are able to do and be find their source in Him. God interacts with nature in the same way. Nature exhibits His glory. His glory is revealed to man’s mind through the material world in many ways, and often in different ways to different people. One person may be thrilled by the sight of the mountains, and another person may love the beauty of the sea. But that which is behind them both (God’s glory) speaks to both people and connects them to God. In this way, God is able to reveal Himself to all men, no matter their race, heritage or location. As [Psalm 19:1-4](#) says, “The heavens are telling of the glory of God and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands; day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their utterances to the end of the world.”

[Psalm 73:24](#) calls heaven itself “glory.” It used to be common to hear Christians talk of death as being “received unto glory,” which is a phrase borrowed from this Psalm. When the Christian dies, he will be taken into God’s presence, and in His presence will be naturally surrounded by God’s glory. We will be taken to the place where God’s beauty literally resides—the beauty of His Spirit will be there, because He will be there. Again, the beauty of His Spirit (or the essence of Who He Is) is His “glory.” In that place, His glory will not need to come through man or nature, rather it will be seen clearly, just as [1 Corinthians 13:12](#) says, “For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known.”

In the human/earthly sense, glory is a beauty or vibrancy that rests upon the material of the earth ([Psalm 37:20](#), [Psalm 49:17](#)), and in that sense, it fades. But the reason it fades is only that the material things do not last. They die and wither, but the glory that is in them belongs to God, and returns to Him when death or decay takes the material. Think of the rich man mentioned earlier. The verse says, “The rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.” What does this mean? The verse is admonishing the rich man to realize that his wealth and power and beauty come from God, and to be humbled by the realization that it is God who makes him what he is, and gives him all he has. And the knowledge that he will pass away like the grass is what will bring him to the realization that God is the one from whence his glory comes. God’s glory is the source, the wellspring from which all smaller glories run.

Since God is the one from whom glory comes, He will not let stand the assertion that glory comes from man or from the idols of man or from nature. In [Isaiah 42:8](#) we see an example of God’s jealousy over His glory. This jealousy for His own glory is what Paul is talking about in [Romans 1:21-25](#) when he speaks of the ways people worship the creature rather than the Creator. In other words, they looked at the object through which God’s glory was coming and instead of giving God the credit for

it, they worshiped that animal or tree or man as if the beauty it possessed originated from within itself. This is the very heart of idolatry and is a very common occurrence. It is probably safe to say that everyone who has ever lived has committed this error at one time or another. We have all “exchanged” the glory of God in favor of the “glory of man.”

This is the mistake many people continue to make: trusting in earthly things, earthly relationships, their own powers or talents or beauty, or the goodness they see in others. But when these things fade and fail as they will inevitably do (being only temporary carriers of the greater glory), these people despair. What we all need to realize is that God’s glory is constant, and as we journey through life we will see it manifesting here and there, in this person or that forest or in a story of love or heroism, fiction or non-fiction, or our own personal lives. But it all goes back to God in the end. And the only way to God is through His Son, Jesus Christ. We will find the very source of all beauty in Him, in heaven, if we are in Christ. Nothing will be lost to us. All those things that faded in life we will find again in Him.

*Psalms 104:1-2*

*Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.*

**Luke 2:9**

*And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.*  
(God’s glory surrounds Jesus at his birth.)

**Matthew 17:2**

*and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.*  
(God’s glory surrounds Jesus at his transfiguration.)

**Revelation 21:23**

*The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.*  
(God’s glory shines in the heavenly city.)

God’s glory is not an attribute of God like the others because we’re not speaking of God’s character here, nevertheless, it belongs to God alone and is “the appropriate outward expression of his own excellence” (Grudem 221).

**Psalm 36:1-12** The Psalm and Proverb readings today express so beautifully God's character. In **Psalm 36:1-12** we see these attributes of God's character listed: God is provider, protector and preserver (vv. 6-8). God is a life giver—in Him is the fountain of life (v. 9)

**R REFLECTION**

## **GOD IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE**

Life is the vital principle, or breath of life, which God imparted to man, making him a living soul.

It is the gift of **God**, mediated through faith in **Jesus Christ**. It is not synonymous with endless existence, which is also true of the unsaved. It is qualitative, involving the impartation of a new nature, resulting in fellowship with **God in Christ**, and is not interrupted by spiritual death. It will find its perfection and full reality of blessedness with **God** in the life to come for the believer. **God** has absolute life in Himself and is the source of all life.

Since God is life anything other than God is death. God breathed the breath of life into Adam thereby giving Adam a qualitative difference in existence than the other animals God created. Man was created to be able to commune with God and interact with Him. When man fell as a result of sin this relationship was marred. Only through a proper understanding of man's relationship to God, and belief that Jesus died for the sins of the world to give man back the life God intended, can one once again have this qualitative existence of life in a right relationship with The Giver of Life - God.

### ***Joshua 3:10***

*And Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites:*

### ***Psalms 84:2***

*My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.*

### ***1 Thessalonians 1:9***

*For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,*

### ***Exodus 3:14***

*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.'"*

### ***1 Samuel 17:26***

*Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"*

### ***Matthew 16:16***

*Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

### ***Psalms 115:3-9***

*But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; they have ears, but they do not hear; noses they have, but they do not smell; they have hands, but they do not handle; feet they have, but they do not walk; nor do they mutter through their throat. Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them. O Israel, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield.*



### **Job 23:13**

*"But He is unique, and who can make Him change? And whatever His soul desires, that He does.*

God is alive. Unlike idols and gods, God can think and act to protect His people. He can give life to those who seek Him. When His people pray to Him, He is able to hear them and He does answer them.

## **R REFLECTION**

Since God is the only living God, I will serve Him alone and put my trust in Him to answer my prayer to fulfill His purpose.

## **GOD'S MORAL ATTRIBUTES**

### **GOD'S HOLINESS**

#### **Holy – Strong's OT 6918**

- sacred (ceremonially or morally), an angel, a saint, a sanctuary
- clean, consecrated

God is separated from sin and devoted to seeking his own honor.

#### **Isaiah 6:3**

*And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!"*

#### **Psalms 71:22**

*Also with the lute I will praise You — and Your faithfulness, O my God! To You I will sing with the harp, O Holy One of Israel.*

#### **Psalms 24:3**

*Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place?*

--Even the place where God dwelt is holy.

"Holy is the way God is. To be holy He does not conform to a standard. He is that standard. He is absolutely holy with an infinite, incomprehensible fullness of purity that is incapable of being other than it is. Because He is holy, His attributes are holy; that is, whatever we think of as belonging to God must be thought of as holy" (Tozer 106).

“Since God’s first concern for His universe is its moral health, that is, its holiness, whatever is contrary to this is necessarily under His eternal displeasure. To preserve His creation God must destroy whatever would destroy it. When He arises to put down iniquity and save the world from irreparable moral collapse, He is said to be angry. Every wrathful judgment in the history of the world has been a holy act of preservation. The holiness of God, the wrath of God, and the health of the creation are inseparably united. God’s wrath is His utter intolerance of whatever degrades and destroys. He hates iniquity as a mother hates the polio that take the life of her child” (Tozer 106).

Holy means the pure, loving nature of **God**, separate from evil. aggressively seeking to universalize itself: that this character inheres in places, times and institutions intimately associated with worship; and that it is to characterize human beings who have entered into personal relations with **God**.

To be holy means to be separate from evil. Therefore, we need to separate ourselves from evil, by not associating with evil, being found in a situation where one could get the idea of being evil. That doesn't mean to not have any friends that are not Christians, for even Jesus spent time with the social and religious outcasts of His day. When we associate with those people our behavior needs to demonstrate that we are different from the people or the evil things surrounding us at that given moment.

**1 Peter 1:16-25**

*because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."*

**Psalms 98:1**

*Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.*

**1 Samuel 2:2**

*"No one is holy like the LORD..."*

**Isaiah 6:3**

*And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!"*

**John 17:11**

*Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.*

**Revelation 4:8**

*The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"*

The holiness of God is directly related to His righteousness, God alone is to be worshipped. He alone is separate from evil, but He tells us to be holy like Him.

Since God never tells us to do something we are unable to do, I will commit myself to separate myself from evil and trust that He will enable me to do just that

## **GOD'S GOODNESS**

### **Good – Strong's NT #18**

- valuable or virtuous, worthy

### **Good – Strong's OT #2896**

- beautiful, best, better, fine, pleasant, precious, favoured

God is the final standard of good, and all God is and does is worthy of approval.

#### **1. God is the final standard of good**

##### ***Luke 18:19***

*So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.*

##### ***Psalms 100:5***

*For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.*

##### ***Psalms 34:8***

*Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!*

#### **2. All that God is and does is worthy of approval**

##### ***Psalms 119:68***

*You are good, and do good; teach me Your statutes.*

##### ***Genesis 1:31***

*Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

##### ***James 1:17***

*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.*

##### ***Psalms 84:11***

*For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.*

##### ***Romans 8:28***

*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

## **R** REFLECTION

### **GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS & JUSTICE**

#### **Just – Strong's OT #6662**

- lawful, righteous
- right (in a moral sense)

#### **Righteous – Strong's OT #3477**

- straight or even, upright

God always acts in accordance with what is right and is himself the final standard of what is right.

#### **1. God always acts in accordance with what is right**

##### ***Deuteronomy 32:4***

*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.*

##### ***Genesis 18:25***

*Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"*

##### ***Isaiah 45:19***

*I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth; I did not say to the seed of Jacob, 'Seek Me in vain'; I, the LORD, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.*

#### **2. God himself is the final standard of what is right**

##### ***Job 40:2***

*"Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it."*

##### ***Job 40:8***

*"Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?"*

### **Romans 9:20-21**

*But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?" Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?*

## **R REFLECTION**

### **GOD'S MERCY, GRACE AND PATIENCE**

These three attributes can be seen as separate attributes. But interestingly, the Scriptures often mention them *together* as characteristics of God's nature (Exodus 34:6; Psalm 103:8). And we can study them as specific aspects of God's goodness with the nuance changing based on the object of God's goodness (the different class of people who are shown God's goodness). So that,

- God's mercy is God's goodness *to those in misery and distress*
- God's grace is God's goodness toward *those who deserve only punishment*
- God's patience is God's goodness in withholding of punishment toward *those who sin over a period of time.*

Let's look at them in more detail.

### **God's Mercy**

#### **Mercy – Strong's NT #3628**

- to exercise pity
- have compassion on.

God's goodness toward those in misery and distress

### **2 Samuel 24:14**

*And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man."*

### **2 Corinthians 1:3**

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,*

## God's Grace

### Grace – Strong's NT #5485

- graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act spiritually; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude
- benefit, favour, gift, joy, liberality, pleasure

### Gracious – Strong's OT #2603

- to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior; to favor, bestow; causatively to implore (i.e. move to favor by petition):
- beseech, be fair, favour, merciful, have pity upon, make supplication

God's goodness toward those who deserve only punishment

#### *Exodus 33:19*

*Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."*

--God's grace is freely given. He's never under any obligation.

#### *1 Peter 5:10*

*But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.*

#### *Romans 3:23-24*

*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,*

--God's grace given to those who do not deserve it. There is an emphasis on the undeserving.

#### *1 Corinthians 15:10*

*But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*

--Not just salvation but the whole of the Christian life is a result of God's grace.

"No one was ever saved other than by grace, from Abel to the present moment. Since mankind was banished from the eastward Garden, none has ever returned to the divine favor except through the sheer goodness of God. And wherever grace found any man it was always by Jesus Christ" (Tozer 95).

"To 'abound' in sin: that is the worst and the most we could or can do. The word *abound* defines the limit of our finite abilities; and although we feel our iniquities rise over us like a mountain, the mountain, nevertheless, has definable boundaries: it is so large, so high, it weighs only this certain amount and no more. But who shall define the limitless grace of God? It's 'much more' plunges our thoughts into infinitude and confounds them there. All thanks be to God for grace abounding (Tozer 95-96).

## God's Patience

### Long-Suffering – Strong's OT #750 & #639

- patient, slow [to anger]
- deferred, draw out, lengthen, tarry
- anger (-gry), before, countenance, face, forbearing, forehead, wrath.
- to breathe hard, i.e. be enraged, be angry (displeased)

### Long-Suffering – Strong's NT #3115

- longanimity, forbearance, fortitude
- with long (enduring) temper, i.e. leniently:

God's goodness in withholding of punishment toward those who sin over a period of time

#### *Exodus 34:6*

*And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,*

#### *Romans 2:4*

*Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?*

#### *1 Timothy 1:16*

*However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.*

## **R** REFLECTION

## GOD'S PEACE (ORDER)

### Peace – Strong's NT #1515

- one, peace, quietness, rest

### Peace – Strong's OT #7965

- safe, i.e. (figuratively) well, happy, friendly; also (abstractly) welfare, i.e. health, prosperity, peace:
- favour, friend, great health, be at peace, rest, safety, salute, welfare, be well, wholly.
- to be safe (in mind, body or estate); to be completed

➤ make amends, make good, that is perfect, make prosper, recompense, render, requite, make restitution, restore, reward, surely.

In God's being and in his actions God is separate from all confusion and disorder, yet he is continually active in innumerable well-ordered, fully controlled, simultaneous actions.

**1. In God's being and in his actions God is separate from all confusion and disorder**

**1 Corinthians 14:33**

*For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.*

**Romans 15:33**

*Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.*

**2. God is continually active in innumerable well-ordered, fully controlled, simultaneous actions. Peace does not mean inactivity**

-- God is continually working

**John 5:17**

*But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."*

-- lots of activity in the early church

**Acts 9:31**

*Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.*

**Psalms 29:11**

*The LORD will give strength to His people; the LORD will bless His people with peace.*

**2 Thessalonians 3:16**

*Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all.*

**R REFLECTION**

Since



## **GOD'S TRUTHFULNESS & FAITHFULNESS**

Since God eternally sustains his own existence, he is able to fulfill all that he promises (Ex. 3:12, 15).

God is the true God. All his knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth.

### **1. God is the true God**

***Jeremiah 10:10-11***

*But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation. Thus you shall say to them: "The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens."*

***John 17:3***

*And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

### **2. All God's knowledge is true and the final standard of truth**

***Job 37:16***

*Do you know how the clouds are balanced, those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge?*

"God is never mistaken in his perception or understanding of the world" (Grudem 195).

"If we think the same thing God thinks about anything in the universe, we are thinking truthfully about it" (Grudem 195).

### **3. God's words are true and the final standard of truth. God always speaks truth**

***Titus 1:2***

*in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,*

***Psalms 12:6***

*The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.*

***John 17:17***

*Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

***Proverbs 12:22***

*Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight.*

--God hates falsehood and loves the truth.

As a truthful God, we can know that God always does what he promises to do. This aspect of God's truthfulness is often studied on its own: **God's faithfulness.**

God will always do what he has said and fulfill what he has promised.

#### **Numbers 23:19**

*"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?"*

### **Definition:**

Truth is the interrelated consistency of statements and their correspondence with the facts of reality and the facts themselves. It suggests an integration of character, and adherence of virtue, a kind of reliability, which includes and goes beyond the literal meaning to include those aspects of personal behavior which seem to be implied by the love of truth. The concept of truth is derived from the character of **God**, and is the exact opposite of the concept of lying. "It is impossible for **God** to lie."

### **Meaning:**

Since it is impossible for God to lie we know that everything He says about what will happen will actually take place. If we are to become perfect we need to be known as individuals who tell the truth, like God. That means when we promise something we need to keep that promise or not make it in the first place. We need to try to place ourselves in situations where we don't feel the need to lie to defend either ourselves or our behavior.

### **Scripture Support:**

#### **Deuteronomy 32:4**

He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgement: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

#### **John 17:2 & 3**

As thou has given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

#### **Psalm 19:9**

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

### **Psalm 33:4**

For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth.

### **Psalm 57:10**

For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds.

### **John 8:31b-32**

If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

### **John 17:17**

Sanctify them through truth: thy word is truth.

### **John 18:37 & 38**

Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

### **II Thessalonians 2:10-13**

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

### **Conclusion:**

Whatever God says He will do, He will do. Therefore, when He says those who believe in Jesus shall have eternal life, you can rest assured that will take place. Just as sure is His providing a way out of temptation, protection from the flaming arrows of the enemy, and Satan's eventual demise by being thrown into the Lake of Fire forever.

### **Application:**

When I read in the Bible something God wants me to do, I will do it. I will trust Him to comply and follow through in giving me the things He promised if I obey Him.

Since

## GOD'S IMPARTIALITY

### **R** REFLECTION

Since

## GOD'S MENTAL ATTRIBUTES

*Intellectually*, God knows all things actual and possible (Ps. 139:1-4; 147:4-5; 1 Sam. 23:91-13; Jer. 38:17-18; Mt. 6:8; 11:21), possesses all wisdom (Job 12:13; Is. 28:29; Dan. 2:20; 28:20-21; Rom. 16:27; Rev. 7:12), and remains dependable and trustworthy because he cannot deceive himself, since he is truth and knows all truth. God is the ultimate Promise-keeper (Gen. 24:27; Jer. 32:40-41; Lam. 3:23; 1 Pt. 4:19; Josh. 23:14-15; 2 Cor. 1:20). As the omniscient God, he is never caught off guard by the irresponsible, sinful choices of humanity. The fact that he knows in advance what free moral agents will choose does not nullify genuine human freedom. Knowing all the possibilities available to humans, in addition to knowing which choice humans will make under certain circumstances, magnifies God's seemingly limitless knowledge. Though he knows with a purpose, and his purposes are never made contingent upon anything, God's enormous knowledge is beyond comprehension (Rom. 11:33-34).

## GOD'S KNOWLEDGE - OMNISCIENCE

God fully knows himself and all things actual and possible in one simple and eternal act

***Job 37:16***

*Do you know how the clouds are balanced, those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge?*

***1 John 3:20***

*For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.*

***Isaiah 40:13-14***

*Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or as His counselor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, and taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, and showed Him the way of understanding?*

**1. God fully knows himself**

**1 Corinthians 2:10-11**

*But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.*

--This is amazing since God's own being is infinite!

**2. God knows all things actual, i.e., all things that exist and all things that happen**

**Hebrews 4:13**

*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.*

**Isaiah 46:9-10**

*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,'*

**Matthew 6:8**

*"Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.*

**Matthew 10:30**

*But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*

**3. God knows all things possible, i.e., things that might happen but do not actually come to pass**

**1 Samuel 23:11-13**

*Will the men of Keilah deliver me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as Your servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant." and the LORD said, "He will come down." Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will deliver you." So David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah and went wherever they could go. Then it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah; so he halted the expedition.*

**Matthew 11:21**

*"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.*

“The fact that God knows all things possible can also be deduced from God’s full knowledge of himself. If God fully knows himself, he knows everything he is able to do, which includes all things that are possible. This fact is indeed amazing” (Grudem 191). Psalm 139:6; Isaiah 55:9

#### 4. God knows everything in one simple and eternal act (the “how”)

a) “Simple” here means “not divided into parts.” So God knows everything in one simple act means that God is always fully aware of everything. For example, he doesn’t need to count the number of stars in the sky like a cosmic computer. Nor does he have to call the number to mind. He just knows it already. It is, along with every other piece of knowledge, fully present in his consciousness.

b) God knows everything in one eternal act means that God’s knowledge never changes or grows. Therefore, God can never learn anything new.

“Could God at any time or in any manner receive into His mind knowledge that He did not possess and had not possessed from eternity, He would be imperfect and less than Himself. To think of a God who must sit at the feet of a teacher, even though that teacher be an archangel or a seraph, is to think of someone other than the Most High God, maker of heaven and earth” (Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy, 55).

## **R** REFLECTION

Since

### **GOD’S WISDOM**

God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals.

God’s Wisdom is clearly related to God’s knowledge. They hang together.

“Wisdom, among other things, is the ability to devise perfect ends and to achieve those ends by the most perfect means. It sees the end from the beginning, so there can be no need to guess or conjecture. Wisdom sees everything in focus, each in proper relation to all, and is thus able to work toward pre destined goals with flawless precision” (Tozer 60).

**Romans 16:27**

*to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.*

**Job 12:13**

*"With Him are wisdom and strength, He has counsel and understanding.*

**Psalms 104:24**

*O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions*

**1 Corinthians 1:30**

*But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God — and righteousness and sanctification and redemption —*

**Romans 11:33**

*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!*

## **R** REFLECTION

Since

### **GOD'S EMOTIONAL ATTRIBUTES**

#### **GOD'S LOVE**

God eternally gives of himself to others

**1 John 4:8**

*He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

**John 17:24**

*"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

**1 John 4:10**

*In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

**Romans 5:8**

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

"It should cause us great joy to know that it is the purpose of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to give of themselves to us to bring us true joy and happiness. It is God's nature to act that way toward those upon whom he has set his love, and he will continue to act that way toward us for all eternity" (Grudem 199).

"From God's other known attributes we may learn much about His love. We can know, for instance, that because God is self-existent, His love had no beginning; because He is eternal, His love can have no end; because He is infinite, it has no limit; because He is holy, it is the quintessence of all spotless purity; because He is immense, His love is an incomprehensibly vast, bottomless, shoreless sea before which we kneel in joyful silence and from which the loftiest eloquence retreats confused and abashed" (Tozer 98).

“It is a strange and beautiful eccentricity of the free God that He has allowed His heart to be emotionally identified with men. Self-sufficient as He is, He wants our love and will not be satisfied till He gets it. Free as He is, He has let His heart be bound to us forever” (Tozer 100).

## **Definition:**

The very nature of **God**, and the greatest of the Christian virtues. Attributes of love include patience, kindness, protection, trusting, hoping, and persevering. Love is not envious, boastful, proud, rude, self-seeking, easily angered, a recorder of wrongs or does it take delight in evil.

## **Meaning:**

Love, therefore, needs to be prevalent in our lives if we are to be called Christians. For how else can love be the greatest of Christian virtues if non-Christians cannot see love being demonstrated in our lives.

## **Scripture Support:**

### **I John 4:8**

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

### **John 3:16**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

### **John 15:9-14**

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

### **Matthew 22:36-40**

Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and the great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets

### **Romans 5:8**

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.



### **Romans 8:35-39**

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **I Corinthians 13:13**

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

### **I John 4:12**

No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

### **I John 4:16**

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

### **Conclusion:**

God loves us more than we can ever know. However, His love for us is to fill us so much that it overflows from us to others, so they can begin to know and experience God's love. Yes, He sent His Son to die for us, but He did so for others as well.

### **Application:**

I will seek to allow God's love to fill my life so that I can love my fellow Christians as well as non-Christians in an effort to bring them into a relationship where they can experience the greatest love of all -- God's.

## **R REFLECTION**

Since

### **GOD'S HATE**

## **R REFLECTION**

Since

## **GOD'S WRATH**

God intensely hates all sin

### **Exodus 32:9-10**

*And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation."*

### **Deuteronomy 9:7-8**

*"Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD. Also in Horeb you provoked the LORD to wrath, so that the LORD was angry enough with you to have destroyed you."*

### **John 3:36**

*He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."*

### **Romans 1:18**

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,*

## **R REFLECTION**

Since

## **GOD'S JEALOUSY**

God continually seeks to protect his own honor

### **Exodus 34:14**

*for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God*

### **Isaiah 48:11**

*For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do it; for how should My name be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another.*

**Deuteronomy 4:24**

*For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.*

**R REFLECTION**

Since

**GOD'S ZEAL**

**R REFLECTION**

Since

**GOD'S VOLITIONAL ATTRIBUTES**

**GOD'S OMNIPOTENCE**

God is able to do all his holy will

**1. God has power to execute his will**

"Whereas God's freedom refers to the fact that there are no external constraints on God's decision, God's omnipotence has reference to his own power to do what he decides to do" (Grudem 216). (God's freedom states it negatively while God's omnipotence states it in positive terms.)

**Genesis 18:14**

*Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."*

**Jeremiah 32:17**

*'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.*

**Ephesians 3:20**

*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,*

**Matthew 19:26**

*But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

“He who cannot do what he will and perform all his pleasure cannot be God. As God hath a will to resolve what He deems good, so has He power to execute His will” (Pink 46).

“As holiness is the beauty of all God’s attributes, so power is that which gives life and action to all the perfections of the Divine nature. How vain would be the eternal counsels, if power did not step in to execute them. Without power His mercy would be but feeble pity, His promises an empty sound, His threatenings a mere scarecrow. God’s power is like Himself: infinite, eternal, incomprehensible; it can neither be checked, restrained, nor frustrated by the creature” (Stephen Charnock, quoted by Pink 46).

**2. God is able to do more than he actually does**

**Matthew 3:9**

*and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.*

**Exodus 32:10**

*Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation."*

(God could have destroyed Israel and made Moses into a great nation for himself.)

**3. God cannot do anything that would be opposed to his own character. Therefore, God’s power is qualified by his other attributes**

E.g. God can’t lie (Titus 1:2)

God can’t deny himself (2 Timothy 2:13)

God can’t be tempted by evil (James 1:13)

**R REFLECTION**

Since

**GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY**

A subset of God’s omnipotence is **God’s Sovereignty**

### **Sovereignty** is

- autonomous: (of political bodies) not controlled by outside forces; "an autonomous judiciary"; "a sovereign state"
- a nation's ruler or head of state usually by hereditary right
- greatest in status or authority or power; "a supreme tribunal"
- The ultimate, supreme power
- The supreme authority of God to work all things after the counsel of His own will.

**God's sovereignty** is his exercise of rule (as "sovereign" or "king") over his creation.

## **R REFLECTION**

Since

### **GOD'S LIMITLESSNESS**

## **R REFLECTION**

Since

### **GOD'S WILL**

God's will is that attribute of God whereby he approves and determines to bring about every action necessary for the existence and activity of himself and all creation.

#### **1. God's will in general--God's will is the final reason for everything that happens**

*Ephesians 1:11*

*In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,*

*Revelation 4:11*

*"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."*

**Daniel 4:28-37**

**Acts 4:27-28**

*"For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.*

**1 Peter 3:17**

*For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.*

**James 4:13-15**

*Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."*

**2. Distinctions in aspects of God's will-- God is able to will different things in different ways**

a.) Necessary will and Free will

--Necessary will is everything that God *must* will according to his own nature.

e.g. God wills himself. "I am who I am." (Ex. 3:14) He cannot choose to be different than who he is.

--Free will is everything that God *decided* to will but had no necessity to will according to his nature.

e.g. the creation of the universe and acts of redemption

b.) Secret will and Revealed will<sup>1</sup>

**Deuteronomy 29:29**

*"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

--Secret will (a.k.a. God's will of decree) includes his *hidden* decrees by which he governs the universe and determines everything that will happen. We find out what God has willed when events actually happen.

**James 4:15**

*Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."*

**Genesis 50:20**

*But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.*

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--Interestingly, "Scripture. . .does not hesitate to couple statements of God's sovereign will with statements of man's responsibility for evil" (Grudem 215). Cf. Acts 2:23. God is still never to be blamed for sin, and humans are not freed from responsibility for evil.

**1 Corinthians 4:19**

*But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power.*

**Romans 9:18**

*Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.  
(salvation)*

--Revealed will (a.k.a. God's will of precept) is God's *declared* will concerning what we should do or what God commands us to do.

**Matthew 7:21**

*"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*

**Ephesians 5:17**

*Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

## **R REFLECTION**

Since

### **GOD'S FREEDOM**

God's freedom is that attribute of God whereby he does whatever he pleases.

**Psalms 115:3**

*But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.*

**Proverbs 21:1**

*The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.*

**Daniel 4:35**

*All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, "What have You done?"*

## **R** REFLECTION

Since

## **GODS CHARACTER COMPARED TO GODS 10 COMMANDMENTS**

The table below shows a comparison of God's most glorious character and how the same attributes can be found in Gods 10 Commandments. This is because the Ten Commandments are a law of love and God is love so they both share the same attributes. For a more comprehensive table with scripture tool tips, select **the Ten Commandments Compared to God's Character**.

## **APPLICATION**

### **BECAUSE GOD IS...**

#### **A PERSONAL SPIRIT**

I will seek intimate fellowship with Him.

#### **ALL-POWERFUL ...**

He can help me with anything.



### **ALL KNOWING...**

I will go to Him with all my questions and concerns.

### **SOVEREIGN...**

I will joyfully submit to His will.

### **HOLY...**

I will devote myself to Him in purity, worship and service.

### **ABSOLUTE TRUTH...**

I will believe what He says and live accordingly.

### **RIGHTEOUS...**

I will live by His standards.

### **JUST...**

He will always treat me fairly.

### **LOVE...**

He is unconditionally committed to my well being.

### **MERCIFUL...**

He forgives me of my sins when I sincerely confess them.

### **FAITHFUL...**

I will trust Him to always keep His promises.

### **NEVER CHANGING...**

my future is secure and eternal.

***Because we know that God is **faithful**...we gain faith and peace***  
***Because we know that God is in **control**...we gain hope and patience***

***Because we know that God is **good**... we gain love and gratitude  
Because we know that God is **powerful**...we gain strength and joy***

## **STUDY QUESTIONS**

### **PART 1: WHAT DO YOU SEE?**

1. What is the relationship between God's justice and love? How are the demands of both met at the cross?

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2. What attributes God did the study discuss? Which of these are His unique moral attributes? List them and provide your own illustration for each.

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3. Look up two of the following Scripture passages: Psalm 90, Romans 1:8, Psalm 119:69, Psalm 119:90. How do these passages uniquely demonstrate the characteristic of God that the study attributes them to?

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### **PART 2: WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

1. Why is it that knowing God's love is far more important than knowing facts about Him? How can one come to love God?

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2. How possibly can a loving God send people to hell? What does the study claim? How would you answer this question to someone who asked.

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3. Why does our glorifying God depend upon a greater knowledge of Him? What kind of knowledge is this?

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### **PART 3: WHAT WILL YOU DO?**

1. How has reflecting upon God's attributes changed your attitude towards Him and towards your life?

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2. Which attribute stood out to you the most? What about God's moral attributes is most compelling to you?

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3. In light of the character of God, what steps will you take to improve your relationships with others? How can you extend justice, patience, love, goodness, and faithfulness to others?

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Whereas the nature, character, and existence of created beings is derived, God's nature, character, and existence is contained in himself. Also, There is no condition(s) under which God would not exist. God has always been and will always be who he is. He is completely loving, just, holy, merciful, jealous, wise, etc. All of God's being exemplifies all of his attributes perfectly and completely. Moreover, every attribute is qualified by every other attribute. For instance, God is mercifully just and justly merciful. Not one of his attributes is laid aside in order to express another. Every activity of God is conditioned by all of his attributes simultaneously.

Similarly, while it is logically necessary that *essence* precedes *function/activity*, or *being* precedes *doing*, in biblical thought what a person does intimates who the person is (e.g., 1 Jn. 3:7). Therefore, God's attributes are what he is, not merely what he does in relation to his creation. God's entire being is in each attribute, and each attribute is in his entire being.