

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

God: His Character and Attributes

LESSON 3

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

Memory Verse

Yours, O Yahweh, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the kingdom, O Yahweh, and You exalt Yourself as head over all.

1 CHRONICLES 29:11 (LSB)

GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

1. Self-Existant & Singular

And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

EXODUS 3:14 (ESV)


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YHWH

ADONAY

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YAHOWAH

“Hear, O Israel! Yahweh is our God, Yahweh is one!

DEUTERONOMY 6:4 (LSB)

Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; **For I am God, and there is no other.**

ISAIAH 45:22 (LSB)

“Thus says Yahweh, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, Yahweh of hosts: ‘I am the first, and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me. Who is like Me? Let him call out and declare it; And let him tell it to Me in order, From the time that I established the ancient people. And let them declare to them the things that are to come And the events that are going to take place. Do not be in dread and do not be afraid; Have I not long since caused it to be heard to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me, Or is there any other Rock? I know of none.’”

ISAIAH 44:6–8 (LSB)

Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?

ISAIAH 43:13 (LSB)

GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

2. Knowing God

GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

2. Knowing God

- ✓ *Can we know God?*

but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am Yahweh who shows lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares Yahweh.

JEREMIAH 9:24 (LSB)

GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

2. Knowing God

- ✓ *Can we know God?*
- ✓ God is incomprehensible (Romans 11:33–34)
- ✓ God has no boundaries (Job 11:7)
- ✓ God can only be divenly perceived
  - ✓ Through the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9–16)
  - ✓ Through Christ (Matthew 11:27)



GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

2. Knowing God

- ✓ *What is the diference between knowing God and knowing about God?*
- ✓ Requirements for Practically Knowing God:
  - ✓ Set your mind and desires to seek God (Psalm 27:8)
  - ✓ Fill your mind with His Word and obey it (John 14:21)
  - ✓ Learn to fear God, since it is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10)



GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

3. The Attributes of God

Attributes of God

The essential characteristics or qualities of God’s nature.

“What God is like.”

How to Think About God's Attributes

- ✓ Not "parts of God"
- ✓ Not one, central attribute that eclipses the others (e.g. God is *mainly* love)
- ✓ "Perfections" may be a better way to speak of them.
  - ✓ Based on the Greek term *aretas* ("virtues" or "excellencies," see 1 Peter 2:9).
  - ✓ Specifies that the attributes are each perfect and inherently characterize a perfect God



Classifying God's Attributues

- ✓ **Incommunicable Attributes**: Those perfections of God that we cannot posess.
- ✓ **Communicable Attributes**: Those perfections of God which we can possess, but not in the perfection that God possesses them.



GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

Incommunicable Perfections

- ✓ Independence (Aseity)
- ✓ Immutability
- ✓ Infinity
- ✓ Eternity
- ✓ Immensity & Omniprescence
- ✓ Unity
- ✓ Omniscience
- ✓ Omnipotence
- ✓ Perfection
- ✓ Spirituality & Invisibility



GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

Communicable Perfections

- ✓ Wisdom
- ✓ Truth & Faithfulness
- ✓ Love
- ✓ Grace
- ✓ Mercy
- ✓ Holiness
- ✓ Righteousness
- ✓ Justice
- ✓ Jealousy
- ✓ Goodness



GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

The Harmoney of God's Attributes

- ✓ All of God's attributes work together in perfect harmony. They are not in tension, they do not contract one another.

- ✓ *How does **God's love** and **God's justice** harmonize together?*

GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

Holiness

God is absolutely pure and perfect.

Revelation 4:8 – *And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within, and day and night they do not cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come."*

Psalm 89:35 – *Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David.*



GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

Righteousness

God only does what is right; He does no wrong.

Matthew 5:48 – *Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 – *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

Sovereignty

God is subject to no one; He does as He pleases

Romans 8:28 – *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.*

GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

Eternality

God has no beginning and no end.

Psalm 90:2b – *Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*



GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

Immutability

God never changes His nature or purpose.

James 1:17 – *Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.*



GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

Omniscience

God is all-knowing

Psalm 147:5 – *Great is our Lord and abundant in power; His discernment is infinite.*

Romans 11:33–34 – *Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?"*

He even knows thoughts an intentions (Romans 12:25; Isaiah 66:18)



Omnipresence

God is present everywhere.

Jeremiah 23:23–24 – *"Am I a God who is near," declares Yahweh, "And not a God far off? Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see him?" declares Yahweh. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares Yahweh.*

Related attributes:

Transcendence – God is greater than and indepdendent of the creation
Immensity – God transcends and fills all space

Omnipotence

God is all-powerful

Creator God (Genesis 1:1, 27)
Upholds all things (Hebrews 1:3)
God controls our lives (Psalm 37:23–24)
God will uphold us (Isaiah 41:10)



GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

Love

God’s love is perfect and never fails.

Ephesians 2:4–5 – *But God, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—*

GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

Truthfulness

God is absolute truth, and His truth is firm.

John 14:6 – *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me.*

GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

Mercy

God’s compassion or forbearance upon those who have opposed His will.

1 Peter 1:3 – *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

God’s Attributes & His Glory

- ✓ God’s glory is the manifestation of His attributes.
- ✓ “Glory is the sparkling of the Deity.”– Thomas Watson

Then Yahweh passed by in front of him and called out, “Yahweh, Yahweh God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”

EXODUS 34:6–7



GOD: HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES

How We Glorify God

- ✓ We glorify God by pointing to His attributes (ascribed glory):
  - ✓ In praise (1 Chronicles 16:28–29)
  - ✓ In obedience that testifies to God's glory (Matthew 5)
  - ✓ In bearing His image aright (Genesis 1:27)
  - ✓ In every day actions done from a heart of thanksgiving (1 Corinthians 10:31)



Application

- ✓ Reflect on God's attributes when you pray, recite them back to God and praise Him for them.

- ✓ Seek to glorify Him by imitating His communicable attributes and so bear His image rightly.

