

Fundamentals of the Faith

Lesson Three: God: His Character and Attributes

In the religions of today's world, there are many so-called gods and just as many opinions about what God (or god) is like or not like. The Bible, on the other hand, claims to be the revelation of the one true God. The Bible never tries to prove God, it simply states, "In the beginning God" (Genesis 1:1). Moses made no attempt to defend the existence of God (Elohim) – it was simply assumed and according to Hebrews 11:3,6 is to be believed by FAITH.

- According to Psalm 89:7-8, list two things true of God: **HE IS TO BE FEARED & REVERED – HE IS MIGHTY AND FAITHFULL**.
- What statement is made that points to the fact that there is only one God (Isaiah 43:10)? **BEFORE ME THERE WAS NO GOD FORMED, NOR SHALL THERE BE AFTER ME**.
- Why is it important to know God (John 17:3)? **SO THAT I CAN HAVE ETERNAL LIFE**.
- How did Jesus say we could know God (John 14:8-9)? **HE WHO HAS SEEN ME HAS SEEN THE FATHER, I NEED TO KNOW JESUS TO KNOW GOD**.

God's Attributes

- What is the meaning of the word "attribute"? _____

1. **Holiness** – God's attribute of holiness means **HE IS UNTOUCHED AND UNSTAINED BY THE EVIL IN THE WORLD. HE IS ABSOLUTELY PURE & PERFECT** (Exodus 15:11, Psalm 99:9).

2. **Righteousness and Justice** – *Righteousness and justice* are derived from the same root word in the original language of the New Testament. The meaning is that of being "**RIGHT**" or "**JUST**". Righteousness designates the perfect agreement between God's nature and His acts. God is always **RIGHT**. Justice is the way in which God legislates His righteousness. God is always **JUST**. There is no action that God takes in relation to man that violates any code of morality of justice.

3. **Sovereignty** – The word *Sovereign* means _____
_____ (Isaiah 45:23, 46:9-10).

The idea of sovereignty should be an encouraging one, for it assures the Christian that nothing is out of God's control and that His plans cannot be thwarted (Romans 8:28).

4. **Eternality** – Since God is eternal, there has never been a time when God did not exist. He had no beginning and will have no end. (Isaiah 43:13, 44:6-8). Being eternal means?

God is not bound by TIME. God always EXISTED. He sees the PAST and the FUTURE as clearly as he sees the PRESENT. He has a perfect UNDERSTANDING of what is best for MY life. As a result of this we should TRUST Him with all areas of our lives.

5. **Immutability** -- means that God NEVER CHANGES. As a result He can be TRUSTED. (Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 6:17-18)
6. **Omniscience** -- means that God KNOWS EVERYTHING. (Job 34:21, Psalm 139:1-6) How does this make you feel right now???
7. **Omnipresence** – means that God is PRESENT EVERYWHERE. (Proverbs 15:3, Psalm 139:7-12)
8. **Omnipotence** – means that God is ALL-POWERFULL. God’s omnipotence is seen in (Genesis 1:1) His power to CREATE. (Hebrews 1:3) His PRESERVATION of all things. (Psalm 37:23-24) His PROVIDENTIAL care for us. What can we learn from Isaiah 41:10 about God’s omnipotence? I DON’T HAVE TO FEAR OR WORRY BECAUSE GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF ME.
9. **Love** – How would you define or describe God’s love? (John 3:16, Romans 5:8) Love expresses itself in ACTION. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
10. **Truth** – What does Psalm 31:5 and 117:2 tell us about God? THAT HE IS THE GOD OF TRUTH. Also read Numbers 23:19 and Romans 3:4. What additional things do these verses tell us about God and about us? EVEN IF EVERYONE ELSE LIES, GOD IS TRUE – HE CAN NOT LIE.
11. **Mercy** – What does mercy mean to you? _____

What else does Psalm 130:3-4 and 145:8-9 tell us about God and His mercy? THAT I DON’T GET WHAT I DESERVE. THAT GOD IS “SLOW TO ANGER” AND THAT HE IS GOOD TO EVERYONE – NOT JUST ME.

What is God’s mercy contrasted with in Ephesians 2:4-5? MY COMPLETE AND UTTER DEADNESS BECAUSE OF MY SIN.

In light of all of God’s attributes we have looked at, how will, or should, your prayers be affected?