

See God Rightly

- *When we study the Bible it is of vital importance that we should always keep this idea....that the one great object and intention throughout is God revealing Himself; and you and I must discover the ways in which He has been pleased to do this.*
- *If God does not reveal Himself, I cannot know Him; but he has revealed Himself, and that revelation is to be found in this book (The Bible).*
- *This question of knowing God is the end, the supreme end, of all religion; it is the great thing that should be in the forefront of the mind and heart of every one of us. What is your need, what is your object, why are you studying these doctrines (Attributes of God)?*
- *We see that though God is finally incomprehensible, he is nevertheless knowable; He cannot be comprehended, but thank God that He can be known.*
- *Unless we understand what the Bible teaches us about God, our worship can never be real. "And they that worship Him must worship in Spirit and Truth". (John 4:24)*

Martyn Lloyd-Jones

- *The church today has surrendered her once lofty concept of God and has substituted for it one so low, so ignoble, as to be utterly unworthy of thinking, worshipping men. This she has done not deliberately, but little by little and without her knowledge; and her very unawareness only makes her situation all the more tragic.*
- *If we would bring back the spiritual power to our lives, we must begin to think of God more nearly as He is.*
- *What comes to our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.*
- *I believe there is scarcely an error in doctrine or a failure in applying Christian ethics that cannot be traced finally to imperfect and ignoble thoughts about God.*

A.W. Tozer

- *Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and know me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I delight, says the Lord.*

God (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

Introduction: *God is beyond our comprehension. It is only by His grace that we can know anything of who He is. He has revealed Himself to us partially as we could never fully fathom Him entirely. Furthermore, in our culture today, we all have a desperately inadequate view of who He really is. We have bought into lies and perversions of His character that are fed to us daily in our media inundated environment. If we want to live the lives that He has intended, lives of joy, peace, satisfaction and health, we need to fill our minds with correct thinking about the wonder and greatness of our God's character. Once we know Him, we will know who we are in light of being created in His image. We will then understand others better and finally live out of a response to the wonder and greatness of who He is!*

This Outline serves to highlight the different Attributes of God from the Bible. It is only a partial compilation as His character is infinitely wonderful which no mind can fully comprehend. Even once we are more and more familiar with His character, there is still difficulty in taking this information the 12-inch distance from the head to the heart. Actually only the Lord can do this (Ephesians 1:21), but we have a part in building this information into our hearts and minds and letting ourselves be transformed, (Romans 12:1,2). Look up the passages, with a notebook, answer the questions that follow. Meditate of these passages and themes and ask the Lord to solidify the realities of his incredible character deeply within your heart.

A. Holy

Definition: Totally set apart. Pure, with no blemish. (This characteristic is holistic in that it encompasses all other attributes of God's character. No other attribute can be seen outside the constraints of His perfection in Holiness. So it is a separate category here, but is really the framework that underlies every other characteristic from big to small)

1. Biblical Claims

- Exodus 15:11
- 1 Samuel 2:2
- Psalm 33
- Isaiah 5:16
- Isaiah 6:1-3
- Isaiah 40:21-31
- Isaiah 57:15
- Ezekiel 36:22

- 2 Chronicles 30:27
- Revelation 15:4

2. Biblical examples

- Exodus 19:10-25
- Exodus 33:20-23
- Leviticus 16
- Revelation 1:12-18

Summary: Summarize God's Holiness. What are its qualities? What effects does it have, on Him.....on us? What are the ramifications of His holiness? What stands out to you about His holiness?

B. Eternal/Immutable

Definition: God is without beginning and without ending, He is everlasting and unchanging. He can never be different in essence. It is never possible that He should differ in any respect from what He always is and always has been.

1. Eternal/Unchanging

- Psalm 90
- Psalm 102
- Numbers 23:19
- Deuteronomy 32:4
- 1 Samuel 2:2, 15:29
- 2 Samuel 22:2
- Psalm 18, 95:1, 102:25-27
- Isaiah 40:6-8
- James 1:17

2. Foundation of Truth

- 2 Samuel 7:28
- Psalm 31:5
- John 17:3, 17:17
- Romans 1:18-25

The Foundation of the Law (Derived from God's character); leads us to his desire for us of healing, protection and goodness; leads us to a rule or law; which leads us back to Him and the ability to relate to Him in joy and satisfaction.

Person-----> Principle-----> Precept-----> Person
God's Character Why? Law/rule God's Character

*Change and Decay in all around I see,
Oh Thou who changest not, abide with me.
H.F. Lyte*

Summary: What are the ramifications of God's immutability? What effect does it have on you to know that He never changes? What does our society say about absolute truth? How can God claim that He is the ultimate truth? What makes His ways right?

C. Omnipresent

Definition: God is present everywhere. Yet there are certain places where it seems that God is especially present i.e. Heaven. This does not mean that God is, or is in everything or everywhere, that is Pantheism.

- Psalm 139:7-12
- Jeremiah 23:23-24
- Acts 17:28

Summary: How does this characteristic serve as a blessing? How does it serve as a warning?

D. Omniscient

Definition: God knows all things and His knowledge is always absolute knowledge. It is perfect knowledge, a complete knowledge of everything.

1. Knowledge

- Psalm 147
- Proverbs 15:3
- Matthew 10:29
- Psalm 139:2.3
- Exodus 3:7
- Luke 12:7

- Hebrews 4:13

2. Wisdom

- 1 Corinthians 1:22-30
- Proverbs 1-4
- James 3:17-18

Summary: What is the difference between Knowledge and Wisdom? How do God's attributes of Knowledge and Wisdom compliment each other? What if God only had divine knowledge, but no wisdom?

E. Omnipotent

Definition: How would you define omnipotence?

1. Creator

- Genesis 1-2
- Psalm 104
- John 1:1-5
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5

2. Sovereignty

- Daniel 4:35
- Psalm 147:15-18, 148:8
- Isaiah 55:10-11
- Romans 8:19-39, 9
- Ephesians 1:3-14

Summary: How does our society differ with these explanations of life? How do you buy into society's views subconsciously?

F. Pursuer of Man

Definition: God is in active, relentless pursuit of man. The whole Bible reveals His character in this area. From beginning to end, it is the story of God's glory being promoted by Him building a kingdom of redeemed people on Earth.

-Read these passages and meditate on God as the Pursuer of Man

- | | |
|--------------------|---------|
| Exodus 3 (Moses) | John 1 |
| Acts 9:1-31 (Paul) | Luke 15 |
| John 3:16-2 | |

Summary: What difference does it make to know how He pursues us? As you read through the Bible in the coming days, months and years. Take note of how God pursues us

Exercises:

God's Character in the Old Testament

Below are some additional selections of scripture that help illuminate in narrative form, the character of God. Read the sections with a notebook and pen. Write down the different aspects of God's character from above that you come across. As you read the OT in particular, read it as God showing us through example Who He is. The Bible is God's revelation of Himself and He is giving us glimpses of who He is. He often uses His relationships with people to highlight who He is and the principles of His character that we can expect to see in His interaction with us. It is not so much the story of Who God's people are, as much as it is the story of who God is with His people. Enjoy these passages and let them work deep into your soul.

- Gideon (Judges 6)
- Abraham (Genesis 12-25)
- Joshua (Joshua 1-11)
- Psalms
- Joseph (Genesis 37-50)
- Saul (1 Samuel 9-10)
- David (1 Samuel 16, 2 Samuel 12-21)

God's Character in the Psalm

Read Psalm 1-150. Just take an overview, read 2-4 Psalms a day for as long as it takes to read all of them. As you read, write down all the instances of God's character that you find. Meditate daily on His character, writing down thoughts, praises, responses. Categorize the main characteristics that you find. Continually ask God as you read and meditate to make His character known deep within you in a way that causes you to respond with all your heart!

God' Character in the New Testament

The God of the New Testament is not a different God than in the Old Testament! He is operating in a new covenant or agreement with man, but He nor any of His character has changed in any way. Take one of your favorite epistles or letters of the New Testament or try Hebrews 1-4 or John 1. Read it through in its entirety in one sitting the first time. Ask yourself who God is revealing Himself to be in this letter. What do His commands, ideas, thoughts, ways of relating to people that He reveals through the writer reveal about Himself? What must the writer know and believe about God's character to write or say the things that He does? Take some of those classifications of God's character that you came up with in the Old Testament or the Psalms, and add the New Testament revelation of those same characteristics of God to the list.

Top book picks on the attributes of God (with Amazon.com links)

[*Knowing God*](#), J.I. Packer
[*Pursuit of God*](#), A.W. Tozer
[*God the Father, God the Son*](#), Martyn Lloyd Jones

[*The Attributes of God*](#), A.W. Pink
[*Knowledge of the Holy*](#), A.W. Tozer