

## Characteristics of God

- ⇒ **Intro:**
- ⇒ What is God Like?
  - If you ask most people who believe in God this question you will likely hear these answers:
    - “God is love,” or
    - “God is a Spirit,” or
    - “God is everywhere,” or
    - “God intimidates.”
  - I have been told that He is an inspiration and a helper in time of need.
  - Naturally, all of these answers are true but our God has many more attributes than the average Christian realizes.
  - Out of several people asked (all professing Christians) not one said “a Saviour.”
  - Actually, the more Christians you ask the more one begins to realize that even saved people know very little about their God.
  - It seems everyone’s opinion is centered around his or her own personal experience with God, and in most cases that experience itself is limited.
- ⇒ It is appalling that the vast majority of God’s people know more about the characteristics of movie stars, TV personalities, or sports figures than they do their own God who suffered, bled, and died, that may live!
  - It is not uncommon to hear professing Christians elaborate on every detail of their favorite sports player’s life, abilities, and accomplishments.
  - The same response for many when asked about their pets or hobbies!
  - But ask this same person to describe the living God and you will normally get only one or two attributes in response.
- ⇒ This should not be!
  - God has revealed Himself to us through His Word the Bible, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through His creation around us.
  - Our source for this lesson will be His written Word, the Bible.
  - That way there will be no guesswork in our description of His nature and characteristics.
  - Hopefully, this lesson will help you come to know God better, so not only your understanding, but your relationship to God will improve.
- ⇒ **I. God is Holy**
  - If you had to give a “one word” description of God, the one word that would cover the most ground would be “**Holy.**”
  - God’s Holiness is synonymous with His other characteristics.
  - His Holiness is what separated Him from sinful man.
  - The word “holy” means whole, sinless, and spiritually pure.
    - He is perfect!
    - He is totally righteous!
  - (1 Samuel 2:2) – “*There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.*”
  - He is the only purely righteous, totally sinless and perfect Being in the universe!
    - (Psalm 47:8) – “...God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.”

- Not only is He holy, but all His works are holy.
  - (Psalm 145:17) – “The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.”
- ⇒ God expects us to be holy as he is holy.
  - Although we could never reach the level of His holiness, we are expected to try!
    - (Leviticus 11:44) – “For I am the Lord your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy:...”
- ⇒ God is holy and will always be holy.
  - (Revelation 4:8) “And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, LORD God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”
- ⇒ **II. God Is Righteous**
  - God is righteous.
  - Righteous means just, virtuous, morally right.
    - (Ezra 9:15) – “O LORD God of Israel, thou art righteous: for we remain yet escaped, as it is this day: behold, we are before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee because of this.”
    - (Psalm 111:3) – “His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever.”
  - God’s righteousness goes hand and hand with His holiness.
  - His judgments are perfect every time.
  - He is never wrong.
    - (Psalm 50:6) – “And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah.”
- ⇒ **III. God is Light**
  - God is so righteous and pure that He is likened to Light.
  - Pure Light so bright and brilliant you could not even look at it and live.
  - Jesus dwells in the presence and Light of God the Father which no man can see or approach.
    - (1 Tim. 6:16) – “Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.”
  - When Jesus, who of course is God’s Body, appeared to Saul (Paul) on the road to Damascus, the Light blinded Paul for three (3) days until he was healed.
- ⇒ In the great city New Jerusalem there will be no need for the sun or moon because He will supply all the light for it!
  - (Rev. 21:23) – “And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.”
- ⇒ We as Christians are called “children of light,” and told not to walk in darkness.
  - (1 Thes. 5:5) – “Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.”
- ⇒ His Light is the opposite of darkness.
  - The Devil and his demons are likened to darkness.
    - (Eph. 6:12) – “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, **against the rulers of the darkness of this world**, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

- (1 John 1:5-7) – “(5) This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.** (6) If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: (7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

#### ⇒ IV. **God is Eternal**

- God has no beginning and no end.
- He **is** the beginning and the end.
- This is another characteristic that is hard for our minds to conceive.
- One natural question would be: “If He was always here was there anything or any other creature always here as well, or was God the only one, or thing?”
- God has always existed and He created every person, every place, and every thing.
- We know from the Bible He was here at the very beginning.
  - (Gen. 1:1) – “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”
- He is the past, the present and the future!
  - Jesus said in (Rev. 1:8) – “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”
- If there is no beginning time for God, then His existence would be a circle of time.
- He is in the past, present and future all at the same time.
- What we know for sure is what the Word of God says.
- He WAS before the world was formed and WILL BE here forever!
  - (Psalm 90:2) – “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”
- His Kingdom will last forever.
  - (Matthew 6:13) – “...For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”

#### ⇒ V. **God the Creator**

- (Gen. 1:1) – “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”
- ⇒ He is Almighty God, Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end of all things.
  - He is creator of the universe, mankind, and all things that exist, ever did exist or ever will exist.
    - (John 1:1-5) – (1) “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) The same was in the beginning with God. (3) **All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.** (4) In him was life; and the life was the light of men. (5) And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”
- ⇒ God is superior to all, and all creation is subject to Him and under His control including the Devil, his angels, and demons.
  - Examples:
    - Job 1:6-12
    - 1 Cor. 8:5-6
    - Isa. 14:12-17



- (Psalm 33:9) –“For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.”
- There is nothing outside of, or beyond God’s power.
- He can give life and or take away, and then bring it back again.
- He can make the poor rich or the rich poor.
- He speaks and it happens, He wills and it takes place, there is none that has power over Him!
  - (1 Samuel 2:6-8) – “(6) The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. (7) The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up. (8) He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and he hath set the world upon them.”
  - (Deut. 32:39) – “...neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.”
  - (1 Chronicles 29:11-13) – “(11) Thine, O LORD is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. (12) Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. (13) Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.
- God’s power and authority extends to every person, every place and every thing in the universe.
- His power and abilities are beyond the understanding or even the imagination of man.

⇒ **VIII. God is Omniscient**

- God is all knowing.
- He knows everything about you!
- Your every word, your every thought!
- His understanding is without end.
  - (Isaiah 40:28) – “...There is no searching of His understanding.”
- Your very thoughts are an open book to Him who is all knowing and all seeing!
  - (Job 42:1-2) – “(1) Then Job answered the LORD, and said, (2) I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.”
  - (Hebrews 4:13) – “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”
- There are no secrets before Him.
  - (Matthew 10:26) – “...for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.”
- He sees it all!
  - (2 Chron. 16:9) – “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him....”

- Moreover, God has foreseen every possible thought and intent of the heart of man and He has dealt with it in the Bible written thousands of years before you even had the thought or intent in your heart!

- (Hebrews 4:12) – “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, **and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**”

- He even has the hairs on every person’s head numbered!

- (Matthew 10:30) – “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”

⇒ **IX. God is Omnipresent**

- God is everywhere!

- There is no place in the universe you could be that He would not be present.

- You can’t get away from Him because He is in every place at the same time,

- Our mind simply cannot comprehend the vastness of God and His ability to be omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent,

- As for His being omnipresent, David put it well in Psalm 139:7-10.

- (Psalm 139:7-10) – “(7) Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? (8) If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. (9) If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; (10) Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.”

- There are no secret places, no where one can hide from God.

- He is always here.

- (Jeremiah 23:23-24) – “(23) Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? (24) Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.”

- You cannot even hide in your dreams because the Lord is there also.

- God spoke to Jacob as he slept.

- (Genesis 28:16) – “And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not.”

- This is why it is fruitless to run from God and His will in our life.

- There is no escape, there is no way to overcome or to win against a Holy and all powerful God.

- For the Christian there is no peace, contentment, or happiness outside of living and walking in the Spirit with Him

- You can’t beat Him, so join Him.

- Then you will be happier and reap the rewards and fruits of the Spirit in Christ.

⇒ **X. A God of Love**

- Our God is a loving, merciful, and kind hearted God.

- Love is synonymous with God.

- In fact, God **is** love.

- (1 John 4:8-9) - “(8) He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. (9) In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.”

- The Bible is full of God stating His love for mankind as well as showing that great love through His actions toward us.

- There can be no greater love than to give one's life for that of another, and that is exactly what God did for us.
- He left Heaven and came down to earth in human form to die for the sins of the world so that we may live.
  - (John 15:12-13) – "(12) This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. (13) Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."
  - (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."
- God created man so that He may love and be loved in return.
- He even loved us before we were saved.
  - (Eph. 2:4-5) – "(4) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, (5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"

#### ⇒ **XI. God is Saviour**

- From man's standpoint, outside of His Holiness, God's Grace is the most important.
- Because of the grace of God, man was given a way to redeem himself from his sinful nature.
  - (Eph. 2:8) – "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"
  - (Rom. 5:12) – "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"
- Although God himself is holy and righteous, He is also a forgiving God who does not want us to die in our sins and face a burning Hell for all eternity.
  - (2 Pet. 3:9) – "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."
  - (Rom. 6:23) – "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
- Because He loved us He was willing to leave a perfect and righteous place, Heaven, and come down to a wicked and sinful earth, to suffer, bleed, and die for our sins.
  - (John 15:13) – "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."
- Thank God that He loved us enough to die for us and give us a chance to be redeemed.
  - (Romans 5:8-9) – "(8) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (9) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."
- He wants us all to be saved.
  - (2 Pet. 3:9) – "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, **but that all should come to repentance.**"

- (1 Tim. 2:3-4) – “(3) For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; (4) **Who will have all men to be saved**, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”
- (Psalms 33:18-19) – “(18) Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; (19) To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. “
- Hopefully, you can claim the next verse for your own life.
  - (Psalm 25:5) – “Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.”
- The same Saviour who loved us so much as stated in John 3:16, “...that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” – will become a God of wrath for those who reject His free gift of salvation.

## ⇒ **XII. God of Wrath**

- Few people think of God as an angry God or God of wrath.
- However, we must understand that although He is a loving God He is perfectly balanced, and so being, is also a God of wrath.
- God is Holy and righteous and hates sin; therefore His wrath is kindled by sin and wickedness.
  - (Psalm 7:11) – “God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.”
- The average person pictures God as some great big loveable santa clause and this is definitely not the picture our Bible paints.
  - (Exodus 15:3) – “The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.”
- That verse would drive the anti-war crowd nuts but they would really crash and burn on this next one:
  - (Isaiah 63:3-4) – “(3) I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. (4) For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.”
- Or this one –
  - **Please turn with to Rev. 19 and let us read together vs. 11-18.**
- My, my but isn't that a different God than what most people have in mind!
- By this time it's too late and many will be crying out for death rather than face an angry God.
  - (Rev. 6:15-17) – “(15) And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; (16) And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: (17) For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”

## ⇒ **XIII. A Jealous God**

- Our God is a jealous God.
- He will not allow the worship of other gods to go unpunished.



- (Exodus 20:5) – “Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;”
- (Nahum 1:2) – “God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.”
- He is so jealous the Scripture even gives “Jealous” as one of his names.
  - (Exodus 34:14) – “For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:”
- It does not take many of these verses for one to get the “picture” that will not put up with you outing anything ahead of Him!
  - (Isaiah 30:1) – “Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:”
- The Child of God should be very careful not to put anything or anybody ahead of God in their heart.
- He may very well take away that thing you count more worthy of your love and attention than Him.
- He wants to be number one in our life, ahead of family, friends, job, hobbies, etc.
- He wants your heart and soul.
- When you really surrender to Him, your happiness and reward will be great.

### ⇒ **XIII. God's Names**

- God has many names, some of which are also used in reference to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Some of the most common are: “Everlasting Father,” “Jehovah,” or “Lord,” “Mighty God,” “Alpha and Omega,” “Lord of Lords,” and many, many more commonly used names.
- I am going to give you a list of the less common names and what they mean.
- I will first give the Hebrew name and then the meaning in English.
  - 1) “Elohim” = “One who is mighty”, or “The Lord who creates.”
  - 2) “Eleyon” = “The one who is supreme,” or “the Lord who owns.”
  - 3) “Adonai” = “The Lord our Master” or “The one who is ruling.”
  - 4) “El olam” = “The one who reveals Himself,” or “The one who is mysterious.”
  - 5) “Jehovah jireh” = “The Lord who provides.”
  - 6) “Jehovah nissi” = “The Lord our Banner.”
  - 7) “Jehovah rapha” = “The One who heals.”
  - 8) “El Shaddai” = “The all sufficient One.”
  - 9) “Jehovah shalom” = “The Lord our Peace.”
  - 10) “Jehovah sabaoth” = “The Lord of Hosts.”
  - 11) “Jehovah tsidkenu” = “The Lord of our Righteousness.”
  - 12) “Jehovah shammah” = The One present” or “The One close by.”
  - 13) “Jehovah elyon” = “The One who is blessing” or “The Lord our Blessor.”
  - 14) “Jehovah raah” = “The Lord our Shepherd.”

⇒ **XVI. Conclusion**

- In conclusion, I have presented only a few of the characteristics of God.
- There are many more such as: His wisdom, faithfulness, fatherhood, goodness, grace, longsuffering, mercy, etc.
- However you should by now have a better understanding of God prior to this lesson.
- There is much more to be found in the Bible on this subject.
- In fact you could write a whole book on the characteristics and nature of God.
- My friend, He is an awesome God.
- Worship Him!!