

THE
KING
ETERNAL
Exploring the Nature of God

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THE KING ETERNAL

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Preface

In the following lessons, we will study nine of the attributes of God. I believe this study will be more meaningful to you if you know this awesome, eternal King about Whom we will be learning new truths each week.

How can you be sure you know God? John 14:6–7 says, “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh to the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.” If you know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you also know God. How do we get to know God and His Son, Jesus Christ, better and better? By reading God’s Word, the Bible, each day. God’s Word is each believer’s guidebook for living. Psalm 119:105 says God’s Word is our light to guide us in this dark world: “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

Is Jesus Christ as your own Savior? If so, at some time in your life you realized you are a sinner and believed that Jesus is God’s Son, Who came into this world to take the punishment you deserved, and you believed on Christ as your Savior from the penalty of sin. If you have never done that, it could happen today! Read the plan of salvation from sin (p. 7).

Plan of Salvation

Ephesians 2:8–9 tell us that salvation is a gift; we can't work for it: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

The book of Romans tells us why we need salvation: "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). And "the wages of sin is death [physical death and eternal separation from God]; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

John 3:16 says, "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." Jesus Christ provided the gift of salvation when He died on a cross for us. But we must each individually receive the gift of forgiveness and eternal life.

John 1:12, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

How do we receive this gift? Romans 10:13 provides the answer: "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Calling "upon the name of the Lord" means using His name, thus recognizing His authority, so you can appeal to Him for help. Have you ever called upon the name of the Lord to be saved? If not, you could do that right now by praying something like this:

God in Heaven, I know I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ died to take the punishment for my sins and that I cannot do anything to earn entrance into Heaven. I now trust only in Christ to save me and to take me to Heaven someday.

“Why Sink When You Can Swim” Verses

Genesis 18:25—“Shall not the Judge [Ruler] of all the earth do right?”

Job 23:10—“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried [tested] me, I shall come forth as gold.”

Psalm 18:30—“As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried [proved]: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.”

Psalm 31:15—“My times are in thy hand.”

Psalm 34:4—“I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.”

Psalm 37:23—“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.”

Psalm 46:10—“Be still, and know that I am God.”

Psalm 91:1, 2—“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.”

Proverbs 3:5, 6—“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Proverbs 17:22—“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.”

Isaiah 26:3—“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

Isaiah 40:31—“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Isaiah 43:2—“When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”

Isaiah 50:10—“Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.”

Jeremiah 29:11—“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

Jeremiah 31:3—“Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love.”

Jeremiah 33:3—“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”

Habakkuk 3:17, 18—“Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”

Luke 1:37—“For with God nothing shall be impossible.”

Romans 8:28, 29—“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son.”

1 Corinthians 10:13—“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

Philippians 4:4—“Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”

Philippians 4:6, 7—“Be careful [anxious] for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:11—“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”

Philippians 4:13—“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Philippians 4:19—“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18—“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

2 Timothy 1:7—“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

Hebrews 13:5—“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

James 1:2, 3—“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers [different in kind and number] temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.”

1 Peter 5:7—“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

An Introduction to Ten of God's Attributes

Most often when we think of the qualities or characteristics of God we refer to them as “the attributes of God.” In this introductory chapter we will review the ten attributes we will be studying in the following lessons. What is God like? He is triune, sovereign, holy, omnipotent (has unlimited power), omnipresent (is everywhere—all the time), omniscient (has infinite knowledge), immutable (never changes), merciful, faithful, good.

The Trinity of God

God's *trinity* refers to the fact that God is a single being Who exists eternally as three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This can be a difficult concept for us to understand, but it is clearly taught in the Bible, and it has been a foundational doctrine of the Christian church for nearly its entire history. Christians do not believe that there are three gods or that God is only one person; rather, we believe that there is only one God and that He is three persons. This is usually called the doctrine of the *trinity*.

The Sovereignty of God

In his book *The Attributes of God*, Arthur W. Pink defined God's sovereignty:

The sovereignty of God may be defined as the exercise of His supremacy. . . . Being infinitely elevated above the highest creature, He is the Most High, Lord of heaven and

earth. Subject to none, influenced by none, absolutely independent; God does as He pleases, only as He pleases, always as He pleases. None can thwart Him, none can hinder Him. . . . Divine sovereignty means that God is God in fact, as well as in name, He is one on the Throne of the universe, directing all things, working all things “after the counsel of His own will” (Eph. 1:11).¹

1. After reading the above statement about the sovereignty of God, how would you describe God’s sovereignty in just a few words?
2. If you believed and continually remembered this truth, how might it affect your life?

The Holiness of God

3. Without looking up the definition of holy, what words come to your mind?
4. How does the dictionary define holy?

I appreciate Chip Ingram’s description of God’s holiness in *God as He Longs for You to See Him*: “When applied to God, holiness is that which divides him from everyone and everything else. It is the quality of ‘awesome mystery’ in God’s being, his essential nature and character that makes him different, distinct, and unique from any other things or person in the universe.”²

5. First Peter 1:16 says, "Be ye holy, for I am holy." Read Matthew 5:16. Christ has given born-again believers His Holy Spirit to accomplish holiness in us. How should this make us "different, distinct and unique" (Matthew 5:16)?

The Omnipotence of God

In *Exploring the Attributes of God*, Robert A. Morey says, "Omnipotence means that God is an infinite Power who can never be depleted, drained or exhausted. He is infinitely perfect in that He is limitless, eternal, and self-existent. God does not need to draw on any source of power outside Himself for anything."³

6. Ephesians 1:19–20 says that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is in us who are believers. Knowing this, how can we live out Philippians 4:13 with confidence?

The Omniscience of God

Arthur Pink made this observation about God's omniscience: "None of us know what a day may bring forth, but all futurity is open to His omniscient gaze. The infinite knowledge of God ought to fill us with holy awe. Nothing we do, say, or think, escapes the cognizance of Him with whom we have to do: 'The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good' (Pro 15:3)."⁴

7. God knows what we will need tomorrow and today. How can He answer a request before you even ask for it (Isaiah 65:24; Psalm 139:4)?
8. Can you think of specific ways God prepared you in the past for the "future" He knew you would be experiencing today?

9. Read Psalm 139. List all the things God knows about you.

The Omnipresence of God

R. C. Sproul has written, “God is a spirit. . . . His presence is boundless. God is not merely a spirit, he is an infinite spirit. . . . Because God is an infinite spirit, he can be omnipresent. He is everywhere present. God fills all space. The universe is replete with His divine presence.”⁵ You cannot go where God is not (Psalm 139:7–12).

I like how Max Lucado describes God’s omnipresence in his book *Fear Not*. “We cannot go where God is not. Look over your shoulder; that’s God following you. Look into the storm; that’s Christ coming toward you.”⁶

10. How might Sproul’s and Lucado’s thoughts help you to better understand God’s omnipresence when you are in a fearful situation?
11. Psalm 16:11 says, “In thy presence is fulness of joy.” Since our great God is ever present with us, how can we experience this “fulness of joy”? See Psalms 46:10 and 119:10–12.

Immutability of God

Robert A. Morey provides words that help us understand God’s immutability, or changelessness: “consistent, faithful, dependable, the same yesterday, today, and forever in His existence, being and attributes.”⁷

12. Have you ever seen or known someone whose moral character would be described as “above reproach” but that changed overnight. What happened?

13. Malachi 3:6 says, "For I am the LORD, I change not." God is the only person whose character could never change. Why won't He ever change?

Arthur Pink has said, "God is immutable in His essence. . . . Altogether unaffected by anything outside Himself, improvement or deterioration is impossible. He is perpetually the same. He only can say, 'I AM THAT I AM' (Exod. 3:14). He is altogether uninfluenced by the flight of time."⁸

14. Many people marry those who say they will love them until "death do us part." But they don't; they changed their minds. Read Romans 8:37–39. How do you know God's love for you will never change?

The Mercy of God

The Merriam-Webster dictionary says that mercy is "refraining from punishing or harming offenders, enemies; showing compassion and kindness in excess of what might be expected; the power to forgive." This goes along with Psalm 103:8, "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy." Grace is giving us what we don't deserve, while mercy is not giving us what we deserve.

15. Read Lamentations 3:22–23. How do we see God's mercies in our lives every day?

Warren W. Wiersbe wrote in *Live like a King*: "Mercy is one of the spiritual bridges that God has built so He can relate to you and me; and mercy is a bridge you and I must build if we are going to relate lovingly to others. . . . Mercy puts me in the place of God in

somebody's life! . . . 'Be ye therefore followers (imitators) of God, as dear children' (Ephesians 5:1)."⁹

16. What is the difference between human mercy (Luke 6:31) and God's mercy (Ephesians 4:32)?

Faithfulness of God

17. Read Genesis 9:8–11. After the Flood, what promise did God make in His covenant with Noah and all flesh?

God is faithful! Every time we see a rainbow, the attribute of God's faithfulness is displayed.

Jeremiah reminds us not to dwell on our miseries but on God's mercy and faithfulness, which are new every morning: "It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22–23).

18. Think of a time when you were in a pit of despair with a "poor me" spirit. Yet God in His faithfulness began to remind you of all the things you have to be thankful for. What was happening to cause such despair? How did God encourage you?

Are you worried or discouraged? Don't forget that God's mercies are new every morning because God is faithful!

The Goodness of God

Psalm 145:9 says, “The LORD is good to all: and his mercies are over all his works.”

In *God as He Longs for You to See Him*, Chip Ingram points out that dictionaries define *goodness* with synonyms like *moral excellence, worth, kindness, disposed to the well-being of others, pleasant, desirable, fair, and generous*. Then he points to Psalm 84:11, which says that “the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.”¹⁰

19. Nahum 1:7 says, “The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; he knoweth them that trust in him.” One author I read called “a strong hold” a “hiding place in tough times.” How might the words, “The LORD is good” be a stronghold or hiding place to you in the perilous times we are living in?

20. Read Matthew 5:45. How does God display His goodness to all?

Tony Evans has said in *Our God Is Awesome*, “GOD’S GOODNESS IS NOT EQUAL. GOD IS GOOD TO ALL IN SOME WAYS, BUT HE’S GOOD TO SOME IN ALL WAYS.”¹¹

Pastor Evans then explains how these truths apply to believers: “God has provided Christians with the ability to enjoy His goodness in ways that the world can never appreciate. He’s given us His revelation, His Holy Spirit to guide us, and a divine perspective on life that opens our eyes to see and enjoy His goodness.”¹²

What are some of the “all ways” born-again believers enjoy God’s goodness in ways unbelievers cannot?

John 3:16

John 14:6

Jeremiah 33:3

Philippians 4:19

If you have never been born again, read the Plan of Salvation on page 7.

As I was writing lesson 11, on the goodness of God, I became reacquainted with Psalm 27:13–14: “I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.”

Who is this Lord on Whom we are waiting to strengthen our hearts?

- He is our triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- He is our sovereign God, Who is in total control everything.
- He is our holy God, Who fills us with awe and wonder.
- He is our omnipotent God, Who is almighty and awesome in power.
- He is our omniscient God, Who sees every tear we shed.
- He is our omnipresent God, Who is right beside us every day.
- He is our immutable God, Who never changes, He will love us no matter what.
- He is our merciful God, Who forgives even when we don't deserve it.
- He is our faithful God, Who never leaves us or forsakes us.
- He is our good God, Who will always be good even when He doesn't seem good.

I pray you will enjoy your time in God's Word as you study these ten attributes of our eternal King.

Endnotes

- ¹ Arthur W. Pink, *The Attributes of God* (Bibliotech Press, 2019), 28.
- ² Chip Ingram, *God As He Longs For You To See Him* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2004), 105.
- ³ Robert A. Morey, *Exploring The Attributes of God* (Iowa Falls, IA: WORLD Bible Publishers, Inc., 1989), 126.
- ⁴ Pink, 15.
- ⁵ R. C. Sproul, *Enjoying God* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1995), 47, 50.
- ⁶ Max Lucado, *Fear Not* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2009), 35.
- ⁷ Morey, 39.
- ⁸ Pink, 34.
- ⁹ Warren W. Wiersbe, *Live like a King* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1976), 96–97.
- ¹⁰ Ingram, 57.
- ¹¹ Tony Evans, *Our God Is Awesome* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), 221–22.
- ¹² Evans, 222.