

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Each member of the Godhead – Father, Son and Holy Spirit has the same attributes. When we speak of God's attributes, we are speaking of His essential being or character. His character is a composition of all His attributes. In other words, when we talk of one of God's attributes, we are not talking about a part of His being, but rather His whole character. For example, God is love... but not just a part of Him is love. Love is the essence of His being; however, He is also wrathful. One attribute does not contradict the other; rather they make God who He is. Therefore, whenever God acts, in any given situation, all His attributes are used simultaneously in perfect harmony. He never suspends one so He can use another.

There are two classes of God's Attributes. They all apply to God all at the same time.

A. His natural attributes relate to God inwardly as He is in Himself. These natural attributes are as follows:

- a. Omniscient
- b. Omnipotent
- c. Omnipresent
- d. Eternal
- e. Immutable
- f. Incomprehensible
- g. Self-existent
- h. Self-sufficient
- i. Infinite
- j. Transcendent
- k. Sovereign

B. His moral attributes reveal God outwardly in His relation to His creation. These moral attributes are as follows:

- a. Holy
- b. Righteous
- c. Just
- d. Merciful
- e. Longsuffering
- f. Wise
- g. Loving
- h. Good
- i. Wrathful
- j. Truthful
- k. Faithful
- l. Jealous

NATURAL ATTRIBUTES RELATE TO GOD INWARDLY AS HE IS IN HIMSELF.

OMNISCIENT – God knows all. He has a perfect knowledge of everything that is past, present or future.

- **Job 37:16** "Do you know about the layers of the thick clouds, The wonders of one perfect in knowledge,

- **Psalm 139:1-6** 1 for the choir director. A Psalm of David. O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.
2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar.
3 You scrutinize my path and my lying down, and are intimately acquainted with all my ways.
4 Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all.
5 You have enclosed me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me.
6 *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is *too* high, I cannot attain to it.

OMNIPOTENT - God possesses all power. He is able to bring about anything that He has decided to do... with or without the use of any source beyond Himself.

- **Genesis 18:14** "Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son."
- **Job 42:22** "I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted."
- **Jeremiah 32:27** "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?"

OMNIPRESENT – God is present everywhere in all the Universe at all times, in the totality of His character.

- **Proverbs 15:33** The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.
- **Jeremiah 23:23-24** "Am I a God who is near," declares the LORD, "And not a God far off?
24 "Can a man hide himself in hiding places so I do not see him?" declares the LORD. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the LORD.

ETERNAL - God has no beginning, and He has no end. He is not confined to the finiteness of time or to man's reckoning of time. He is, in fact, the cause of time.

- **Deuteronomy 32:40** 'Indeed, I lift up My hand to heaven, And say, as I live forever,
- **Isaiah 57:15** for thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, And *also* with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

IMMUTABLE - God is always the same in Nature, His Character and His will. He never changes, and he can never be made to change.

- **Psalm 102:25-27** "Of old You founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.
26 "Even they will perish, but You endure; and all of them will wear out like a garment; like clothing You will change them and they will be changed.
27 "But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end.
- **Malachi 3:66** "For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.
- **Hebrews 13:8** Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - Because God is God, He is beyond our understanding of man. His ways, character and acts are higher than man's. Man only understands as God choose to reveal Himself, His ways, or His purposes.

- **Job 11:7** "Can you discover the depths of God? Can you discover the limits of the Almighty?"
- **Romans 11:33** Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

SELF EXISTENT – God depends upon nothing for His existence beyond Himself. The whole basis of His existence is within Himself. At one time nothing but God Himself existed. He added nothing to Himself by creation.

- **Exodus 3:14** 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.’”
- **John 5:26** “For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself;

SELF SUFFICIENT – Within Himself, God is able to act, that is, to bring about His will without any assistance. Although He may choose to use assistance, it is His good pleasure, not His need that governs that choice.

- **Psalm 50:7-12** “Hear, O My people and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you; I am God, your God.
8 “I do not reprove you for your sacrifices, and your burnt offerings are continually before Me.
9 “I shall take no young bull out of your house nor male goats out of your folds.
10 “For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills.
11 “I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is Mine.
12 “If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is Mine, and all it contains.
- **Acts 17:24-25** “The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;
25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things;

INFINITE - God has no limits or bounds whatsoever in His person or dominion.

- **1 Kings 8:27** “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built!
- **Psalm 145:3** Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.

Man is finite and sometimes has problems when trying to understand God.

Believers understand Him by His indwelling Spirit

TRANSCENDENT – God is above His creation, and He would exist if there were no creation. His existence is totally apart from His creatures or creation.

- **Isaiah 43:10** “You are My witnesses,” declares the LORD, “And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me.
- **Isaiah 55:8-9** “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.
9 “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.

SOVEREIGN – God is totally supremely and preeminently over all His creation. There is not a person or thing that has escaped His control and foreknown plan!

- **Daniel 4:35** “All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’

GOD'S MORAL ATTRIBUTES (outwardly) – GOD'S RELATIONSHIP TO HIS CREATION

God's moral attributes which shows God's relationship to His creation. To understand how God responds to us personally. God is immutable, He never changes. Therefore we cannot alter His character or His response to us. He never acts contrary to Himself... what peace, security and confidence this should bring.

HOLY – God is a morally excellent, perfect being. He is totally other than man. His is purity of being in every aspect.

- **Leviticus 19:2** "Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.
- **Job 34:10** "Therefore, listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from God to do wickedness, And from the Almighty to do wrong.
- **Isaiah 47:4** Our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name, The Holy One of Israel.
- **Isaiah 57:15** For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, And *also* with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

RIGHTEOUS – God is always good. It is essential to His character. He always does the right thing. Ultimately, since He is God, whatever He does is right. He is the absolute. His actions are always consistent with His character. Which is love.

- **Deuteronomy 32:4** "The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.
- **Psalms 119:142** Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness and Your law is truth.

Just – God is fair in all of His actions. Whether He deals with man, angels, or demons. He acts in total equity by rewarding righteousness and punishing sin. Since He knows all, every decree is absolutely just.

- Numbers 14:18 (NASB95)
¹⁸ 'The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth *generations*.'
- Numbers 23:19 (NASB95)
¹⁹ "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"
- Psalm 89:14 (NASB95)
¹⁴ Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Loving-kindness and truth go before You.

Merciful – God is an actively compassionate being. He responds compassionately toward those who have opposed His will in their pursuit of their own way. Note: NASB translate mercy as "loving-kindness" and "compassionate".

- Psalm 62:12 (NASB95)
¹² and loving-kindness is Yours, O Lord, for You recompense a man according to his work.
- Psalm 89:14 (NASB95)
¹⁴ Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Loving-kindness and truth go before You.

- Psalm 106:44-45 (NASB95)

⁴⁴ Nevertheless He looked upon their distress when He heard their cry; ⁴⁵ And He remembered His covenant for their sake, and relented according to the greatness of His loving-kindness.

- Psalm 116:5 (NASB95)

⁵ Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; Yes, our God is compassionate.

- Romans 9:14-16 (NASB95)

¹⁴ what shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! ¹⁵ For He says to Moses, "I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION."

¹⁶ So then it *does not depend* on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

Longsuffering - God's righteous anger is slow to be kindled against those who fail to listen to His warnings or to obey His instructions. His eternal Longing for the highest good for His creatures holds back His holy justice.

- Numbers 14:18 (NASB95)

¹⁸ 'The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth *generations*.'

- 2 Peter 3:9 (NASB95)

⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

WISE - God's actions are based on His character. His wisdom causes Him to choose righteous ends and to make the most fitting plans to achieve those ends.

- Isaiah 40:28 (NASB95)

²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.

- Daniel 2:20 (NASB95)

²⁰ Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him.

LOVING - God's love moves Him to give Himself for another, even to the laying down of His own life. His love causes Him to desire His creatures' highest good. This love is not based upon the worth, response, or merit of the object being loved.

- Jeremiah 31:3 (NASB95)

³ The LORD appeared to him from afar, *saying*, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with loving-kindness.

- Romans 5:8 (NASB95)

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

- 1 John 4:8 (NASB95)

⁸ the one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

GOOD – In His goodness God gives to others, not according to what they deserve but according to His good will and kindness toward them.

- 2 Chronicles 5:13 (NASB95)

¹³ in unison when the trumpeters and the singers were to make themselves heard with one voice to praise and to glorify the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice accompanied by trumpets and

cymbals and instruments of music, and when they praised the LORD *saying*, “*He* indeed is good for His loving-kindness is everlasting,” then the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud

- Psalm 106:44-48 (NASB95)

⁴⁴ Nevertheless He looked upon their distress When He heard their cry;

⁴⁵ And He remembered His covenant for their sake, and [\[ac\]](#)relented according to the greatness of His loving-kindness.

⁴⁶ He also made them *objects* of compassion In the presence of all their captors.

⁴⁷ Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the nations, to give thanks to Your holy name And glory in Your praise.

⁴⁸ Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting even to everlasting. And let all the people say, “Amen.” Praise the LORD!

- Psalm 5:1 (NASB95)

¹ Give ear to my words, O LORD, Consider my groaning.

- Psalm 106:1 (NASB95)

¹ Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His loving-kindness is everlasting.

WRATHFUL – There is within God a hatred for all that is unrighteous and an unquenchable desire to punish all unrighteousness. Whatever is inconsistent with His holy standard must ultimately be consumed.

- Exodus 34:6-7 (NASB95)

⁶ Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving-kindness and truth; ⁷ who keeps loving-kindness 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.”

- 2 Chronicles 19:2 (NASB95)

² Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, “Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD and so *bring* wrath on yourself from the LORD?”

- **Romans 1:18 (NASB95)**

¹⁸ **For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,**

TRUTHFUL - All that God says is reality. Whether believed by man or not, whether seen as reality or not, what God has spoken is reality. Whatever He speaks in truth.

- Numbers 23:19 (NASB95)

¹⁹ “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

- Psalm 31:5 (NASB95)

⁵ Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth.

- Titus 1:2 (NASB95)

² in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

FAITHFUL – God is always true to His promises. He can never draw back from His promises of blessing or of judgment. Since He cannot lie, He is totally steadfast to what He has spoken.

- Deuteronomy 7:9 (NASB95)

⁹ “Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His loving-kindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

- 2 Timothy 2:13 (NASB95)

¹³ If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

JEALOUS – God is unwilling to share what is rightfully and morally His with any other creature.

- Exodus 20:5 (NASB95)

⁵ “You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,

- Exodus 34:14 (NASB95)

¹⁴ —for you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God—

Daniel 11:32 (NASB95)

³² **but the people who know their God will display strength and take action.**