

**“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must
worship in spirit and truth.”**

John 4:24.

Symbolism is frequently used to give us connections to abstract ideas. The American flag waving in a gentle spring breeze may represent freedom to a farmer, patriotism to a soldier, hope to an immigrant. We cannot touch freedom, patriotism, or hope, but we all have a concrete sense of what those things are and what they mean to us. We can grasp the difficult concept of love when we see it represented by a mother holding a child. Faith is more clearly understood when we see someone in great despair clutching the Holy Bible.

But our God, our immeasurable and Holy God, transcends even the broadest symbols. He is spirit. He is everywhere, not limited by time and space. As humans, we are so overwhelmed with the very being of God, that He instructs us to simply walk by faith. The only known symbol given to us that even begins to capture His greatness are the words that He himself uses. God is the “I AM”.

How does one describe his creator? How can you begin to understand God? God is so much more than our minds can possibly conceive. Where do you begin in seeking this understanding? The answer to where we begin is simple. God Himself has chosen to reveal Himself to us (His children). These revelations began with Adam and Eve, continued through His prophets and priests, and, ultimately, God was revealed through his Son Jesus and our Comforter, the Holy Spirit. Gordon Lewis, quoted in the Moody Handbook of Theology, provides us with this beginning understanding of who God is. He states, “God is an invisible, personal, and living Spirit, distinguished from all other spirits

by several kinds of attributes: metaphysically God is self-existent, eternal, and unchanging; intellectually God is omniscient, faithful, and wise; ethically God is just, merciful, and loving; emotionally God detests evil, is longsuffering, and is compassionate; existentially God is free, authentic, and omnipotent; relationally God is transcendent in being, immanent universally in providential activity, and immanent with His people in redemptive activity.” (Emphasis mine).

It is impossible to gain a full understanding of God, but He has allowed us enough of an insight to gain an appreciation of Him. To begin to comprehend God let’s study some of His attributes.

1. Read John 4:24. _____

1.1. In this verse we learn that God is not a spirit, but that God is spirit. He does not have physical form or a material body. Being spirit means that He is everywhere, He cannot be limited by anything, neither time nor space. He is the source of all creation and all life. In the Second Edition of the New Bible Dictionary it states; “Spirit is not a limited or restricted form of existence; it is the perfect unit of being. When we say that God is infinite spirit, we pass completely out of the reach of our experience. We are limited as to time and place, as to knowledge and power. God is essentially unlimited, and every element of His nature is unlimited.” He exists outside of all of nature.

1.2. Because God does not have physical form, it is forbidden to make a likeness or idol of Him. Read Exodus 20:4. “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.”

1.3. We use words and phrases to make Him more like humans, but these are anthropomorphisms, to help make us gain in our understanding of God. Read Genesis 3:8 and 1 Kings 8:29. _____

2. Nothing existed before God. God alone is self existence. He is independent of everything else. He relies on nothing or no one. He is the “I Am”. Read Exodus 3:14.

2.1. His source of life is Himself. Read John 5:26. _____



3. **God never changes.** He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is immutable. Change is always for the better or worse. God on the other hand is perfect. He does not need to change. Read Malachi 3:6 and James 1:17. _____

4. **God is Holy.** This means that he is pure, worthy of respect and divine. He is set apart; there is no other like Him. Read Exodus 15:11. _____

4.1. **God dwells in a high and holy place.** Read Isaiah 57:15. _____

4.2. **“Be Holy, for I am Holy.”** Read Leviticus 11:44-45. _____

5. **God is truth.** Truth conforms to knowledge and fact. Truth identifies things as they really are. God is the real God; there are no other Gods beside Him. Read Isaiah 44:8-10. _____

5.1. **His words are reliable.** They are absolute truth. They are not relative. Read Numbers 23:19 and Hebrews 6:18. _____

5.1.1. **God cannot lie.** Read Titus 1:2. _____

6. **God is Love.** Read 1 John 4:8. _____

6.1. **God’s love knows no bounds.** Read John 3:16 and Romans 5:5.

7. **God is One.** Read Deuteronomy 6:4 & Mark 12:29-30. _____



7.1. Timothy also teaches that there is one God. Read 1 Timothy 2:5. _____

8. **Trinity.** Trinity is defined as: *“While there is one God, there are three eternally distinct and equal persons in the godhead, existing as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each is distinct from the other, yet the three are united as one God.”* In the Second Edition of *The New Bible Dictionary* under the word *God* it states; *“In His essential life God is a fellowship. This is perhaps the supreme revelation of God given in the Scriptures: it is that God’s life is eternally within Himself a fellowship of three equal and distinct persons, Father, Son and Spirit, and that in His relationship to his moral creation God was extending to them the fellowship that was essentially his own.”* The essential oneness of God is taught in Deuteronomy 6:4. This verse not only teaches the uniqueness of God but also the unity of God.

9. As in Deuteronomy 6:4, God is one in essence but three persons. They do not operate as three different persons but as one God. In other words, the Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Holy Spirit, but they are all God. Each has all of the qualities of God and each possesses the fullness of God. In order to gain a better appreciation of God the Father as God, and God the Son (Jesus) as God, and God the Holy Spirit as God, let’s examine several scriptures that describe each one.

9.1. **God the Father.**

9.1.1. Read Romans 8:15. **Our Father** - _____

9.1.2. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. **Father of Grace** - _____

9.1.3. Read 1 Peter 1:3. **Father of Jesus** - _____

9.1.4. Read Genesis 1:1. **Before all God was** - _____

9.1.5. Read Exodus 3:14. **God cannot be defined** - _____



9.1.6. Read Psalm 24:7-10. **Our King** - _____

9.1.7. Read Psalm 46:1. **Our strength and security** - _____

9.1.8. Read Malachi 3:6. **He never changes** - _____

9.2. **God the Son.**

9.2.1. Read John 1:4-5. **The source of Life** - _____

9.2.2. Read Hebrews 9:26. **The ultimate sacrifice** - _____

9.2.3. Read 1 John 4:14. **Our Savior** - _____

9.2.4. Read Colossians 1:16. **Our Creator** - _____

9.2.5. Read Hebrews 4:14. **Our High Priest** - _____

9.2.6. Read John 15:5. **Jesus the vine** - _____

9.2.7. Read John 8:58. **Before all** - _____

9.2.8. Read Romans 5:8. **Jesus is love** - _____

9.2.9. Read Revelation 19:16. **King of Kings** - _____



9.3. **God the Holy Spirit.**

9.3.1. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13. **He chose us** - _____

9.3.2. Read John 14:16. **Our Helper** - _____

9.3.3. Genesis 1:2. **Creator of all** - _____

9.3.4. Read John 16:13. **Spirit of truth** - _____

9.3.5. Ephesians 1:13. **Seals us** - _____

9.3.6. Read Romans 8:26. **Helps us pray** - _____

9.3.7. Read Romans 12:6-8. **Giver of gifts** - _____

9.3.8. Read Galatians 5:22. **He teaches us** - _____

10. The passage in **Isaiah 40** is a very insightful passage in understanding God. Parts of Isaiah 40 are often quoted, but we should understand that this passage is Isaiah's way of describing who God is. Read Isaiah 40 very carefully. Record your thoughts.

11. **Can we, a finite people, really know an infinite God?**



11.1. Read Hosea 6:6. *“For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.”* _____

11.2. Read John 17:3. *“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”* _____

11.3. Read John 17:25-26. *“O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; /and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”* _____

11.4. Read Proverbs 9:10. - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. _____

12. Is it arrogant to think we can even approach, much less have an intimate relationship with God?

12.1. Read Hebrews 4:16. _____

12.2. Read James 4:8. *“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”* _____

13. What value is placed on knowing God?



13.1. Read Philippians 3:8-10. *“More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, /and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, /that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death...”*

13.2. Read Isaiah 26:8. _____

13.3. Read Psalms 73:25-26. *“Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth. /My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”*

14. How has God revealed facts or knowledge about Himself to us?

14.1. Read Hebrews 1:1-2. _____

14.2. Read Romans 1:19-20. *“...because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. /For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”*

15. In what way has He made it possible for us to come to Him?

15.1. Read John 10:14. _____



15.2. Read John 14:6-9. *“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me./If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.’ / Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.’ /Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’”?* _____

15.3. Read 1 Timothy 2:3-4. _____

15.4. Read Matthew 11:25-27. *“At that time Jesus said, ‘I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. /Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. /All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”* _____

16. After working through this lesson on Who God is, can a person who rejects God’s offer of salvation through Jesus truly know God? _____

17. Lastly, you cannot cover in one lesson all of the quality or attributes of God. Let’s look at a few more terms that are generally used in reference to God.

17.1. **Eternity.** Eternity is related to time; however, we know that God is not bounded by time. He has always been and will always be.

17.2. **Immensity.** This is related to space. We also know that God is not bounded by space. He transcends all space limitations, yet is everywhere.



- 17.3. **Omnipresence.** God is everywhere present.
- 17.4. **Omniscience.** God knows everything. Past, present, Future.
- 17.5. **Omnipotence.** God is all-powerful.
- 17.6. **Grace.** The unmerited or undeserving favor to all those who are under condemnation.
- 17.7. **Justice.** He is entirely correct and just in all His dealings with humanity.
- 17.8. **God is Love.**
- 17.9. **God is sovereign.** That means that He makes his own plans and carries them out in His own time and way. God's will is not arbitrary, but acts in harmony with his character.

During the week read/sing the following song as a reminder of this lesson.

Praise Ye the Triune God - Elizabeth R. Charles

Praise ye the Father, for his loving kindness; tenderly cares He for His erring children.
Praise Him, ye angels, praise Him in the heavens, praise ye Jehovah!

Praise ye the Savior, great is His compassion; graciously cares He for His chosen people, young men and maidens, ye old men and children, praise ye the Savior!

Praise ye the Spirit, Comforter of Israel, sent of the Father and the Son to bless us,
praise ye the Father, Son and Holy Spirit - Praise ye the Triune God.