

GOD



We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

There is only one living and true God. He is an intelligent and spiritual Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. The idea of "One God" was unique in the world when the Bible was born. All other societies had many gods. Israel alone worshiped the One God, Jehovah.

God is omnipotent (all powerful), Omnipresent (everywhere at all times), and Omniscient (all wise and knowing). He rules with providential care over His universe. He is the God of love, justice, mercy, and wrath. He is eternally existent in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is referred to as the Trinity.

Through man's mental faculties he cannot know God.

1 Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

God can only be known through Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.

Those who try to know God in any other way rob themselves of truth and block their entrance into the kingdom of God.

John 10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

In the Old Testament God revealed Himself to man through the prophets, but in our day He reveals Himself through Jesus, His Son.

Hebrews 1:1-2

¹ God, Who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, Whom He hath appointed Heir of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds;

I. GOD IS ETERNAL

1 Timothy 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.

We live in a world of beginnings and endings. Therefore, it is difficult for us to understand everlasting life. The Bible tells us God was, is, and ever shall be. Once a child asked her mother how God could have no beginning and no end. The mother took off her ring and said, "*Honey, where does this ring start and end?*" Of course the child could find no beginning or ending for the ring. "*God is like that*", the mother told the child.

A. God's existence.

The Bible does not argue for God's existence. It merely assumes that God is and says those who know Him have to believe in His existence, and that it is worthwhile for them to seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

Nature teaches us there is a God.

Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

God gives testimonies of His existence through the provision for life He has given all men.

Acts 14:17 Nevertheless He left not Himself without witness, in that He did good, and gave us rain from Heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

However, to not merely know about God, but to really know Him, we must accept Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.

B. God is Forever.

Four times in the book of Revelation we are told God is the beginning and end, the first and the last.

Revelation 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.

Revelation 1:11 *Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.*

Revelation 21:6 *And He said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*

Revelation 22:13 *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*

To help us understand the eternal nature of God, the Bible uses terms we can know. He is the first and the last of the alphabet, the start and the finish of all we know. But after this earth is gone and time sweeps away all traces of earthly life, God and His kingdom will march on.

2 Peter 1:11 *For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

The Kingdom and we who join it are immortal.

Romans 6:22 *But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

C. We exist in Him.

Life not only has its origin in God but also its sustenance.

Acts 17:28 *For in Him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also His offspring.*

All things in this natural world and our spiritual world belong to God, and our existence depends on Him.

Romans 11:36 *For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to Whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

With John we can shout, ***“The Lord God omnipotent reigneth”***.

Revelation 19:6 *And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.*

D. He is the only true and living God.

Beside Him there is no other. The wise man turns from his worship of material things to absolute devotion to the only living and true God.

1 Thessalonians 1:9 *For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;*

Think of your mind as a rubber ball attached to a paddle. During the day your mind goes out to many things, but that to which it returns when at rest is “The God of your life”. It may be money, sex, power, or position. The wise man dethrones these material idols and takes the one and true living God as the center of his thinking and existence.

II. WHAT GOD IS LIKE

James 1:17 *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. And cometh down from the Father of lights, with Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

God is a great force, but He is also personal. He has emotions. The Bible says He loves.

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.*

He Cares.

1 Peter 5:7 *Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.*

He is touched by our needs.

Hebrews 4:14-15

14 *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

15 *For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

And He hates.

Romans 9:13 *As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.*

Thus God is more than just a creative force, He is a person.

A. He is a Spirit

John 4:24 *God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.*

We must worship Him in Spirit and Truth. Paul adds that God is a spirit, and where He is there is liberty.

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

B. He never changes.

Change is the constant with this world, but not so with God. He is and ever will be as He was. According to the above scripture, there is not even a shadow of turning with God. This constant attribute of God gives assurance of His eternal love and care.

Hebrews 1:11-12

¹¹ They shall perish; but Thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;

¹² And as a vesture shalt Thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but Thou art the same, and Thy years shall not fail.

He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

C. He is eternal truth. There is a fixed star by which we can guide the ship of our lives. That fixed star is God Who is the embodiment of truth. He and His Word form the foundation for society on this earth and in that eternal Kingdom.

Romans 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

When we accept Christ, our lives affirm that God is eternal truth.

John 3:33 He that hath received His testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.

D. He is manifest in Jesus. One day Philip asked what God is like. Jesus answered saying the same attributes that the Son possesses are the attributes of God.

John 14:8-11

⁸ Philip saith unto Him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself: but the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works.

11 Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me: or else believe Me for the very works' sake.

Jesus came to show us God.

Hebrews 1:1-3

1 God, Who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, Whom He hath appointed Heir of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:

Jesus was the express image of The Godhead.

Colossians 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

In Christ, the whole personality of God is expressed.

Colossians 2:9 For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

III. GOD IS FATHER, SON AND HOLY GHOST.

1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear record in Heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

One of the most difficult doctrines of the Bible for us to understand is that of the Trinity. It is important to understand we do not serve three God's (Father, Son and Holy Ghost), but only one existent in three distinct personalities. This truth is emphasized when Jesus told His disciples to baptize in the "name" (not names") of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

In the above verse of Scripture, John says clearly these three are one.

A. Three in one. Jesus said He and the Father are one.

John 10:30 I and My Father are one.

Paul emphasized the Oneness of God when writing to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 8:6 *But to us there is but one God, the Father, of Whom are all things, and we in Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom are all things, and we by Him.*

Again to the Ephesians Paul notes the oneness of God.

Ephesians 4:6 *One God and Father of all, Who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

Just as the United States is one government with many states, God is one Being with three distinct expressions. God is Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

B. Expressed in baptism. When Jesus was baptized, we see the individual expression of each member of the Godhead.

Matthew 3:13-17

13 *Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.*

14 *But John forbad Him, saying, I have need to be baptized of Thee, and comest Thou to me?*

15 *And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered Him.*

16 *And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him:*

17 *And lo a voice from Heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.*

As Jesus is being baptized, the Holy Spirit descends from Heaven like a dove, and the voice of the Father is heard. ***“This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased”***. On another occasion we see the expression of the Father and the Son at the same time.

Mark 9:2-9

2 *And after six days Jesus taketh with Him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and He was transfigured before them.*

3 *And His raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them.*

4 *And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus.*

5 *And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be*

here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for Thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

6 For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid.

7 And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is My beloved Son: hear Him.

8 And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves.

9 And as they came down from the mountain, He charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead.

Jesus is standing with Moses and Elias when the Father's voice is heard from Heaven, **"This is My beloved Son, hear Him"**.

C. Each is recognized as God. Throughout Scripture, each personality of the Godhead is recognized as God. The Father is God.

1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the Blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

As noted by Peter, John recognized the Father as God.

John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him.

The Son is recognized as God in Hebrews.

Hebrews 1:8 But unto the Son He saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of Thy Kingdom.

John says of Jesus, that God was made flesh and dwelt among us in Christ.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The Holy Spirit is recognized as God clearly in the case of Ananias and Sapphira.

Acts 5:3-4

³ But Peter said, Ananias, why hath satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

⁴ Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

Jesus said it was necessary for Him to go away so God the Holy Spirit could come into the world.

John 16:7-11

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you.

8 And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9 Of sin, because they believe not on Me;

10 Of righteousness, because I go to My Father, and ye see Me no more;

11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

While difficult to grasp with our limited human minds, the doctrine of the Trinity stands at the cornerstone of our faith. God is Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

IV. GOD REVEALS HIS NATURE

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 does not play hide and seek with man. Rather from the beginning of the Bible we see His search for fallen man and His desire to reconcile man to Himself. Throughout God's Word we find vivid pictures of what God's nature is. These word pictures tell of His greatness, love, mercy, and holiness.

A. He is Love. Love alone caused God to give His only begotten Son, so that man might not die, but have everlasting life. One of the most meaningful and clearest pictures we have of God is simply that He is Love.

1 John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

Love is the most beautiful thing in all of life, and that is what God is.

B. He is Light. Darkness brings fear because we cannot see what lurks there. God is the opposite of darkness. He is light. Light is warm, wonderful, life giving, and sustaining. Without light we would not exist. John says that in God there is not even a hint of darkness.

1 John 1:5 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.

C. He is a consuming fire. Love and Light are wonderful attributes, but there is still another facet of God's personality. He is a consuming fire. Fire burns away all that is trash and melts the hardened stones, bringing forth pure gold. God desires

that we actualize our very best, bringing us to His holiness. He wants us to become like His Son.

Romans 8:29 For Whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Thus, God is a consuming fire burning away the dross of our lives, drawing us unto Himself.

Hebrews 12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.

D. He is a Father. Forty eight times from **John 14** through **John 18** Jesus mentions His Father. Eight times He says, ***“I go to The Father”***. In one of His more famous parables, Jesus lets us see God’s heart by likening Him to the father of the prodigal son.

Luke 15:11-32:

11 And He said, A certain man had two sons:

12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing.

26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant.

27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound.

28 And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him.

29 And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends:

30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

31 And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.

32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

All the kindness, concern, love, tenderness, and unselfishness of the earth's finest father is but a portion of that great love our heavenly Father has for His children. He is love, He is light, He is a consuming fire, and He is a father.

V. WHAT GOD WANTS FROM YOU.

John 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these? He saith unto Him, Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee. He saith unto him, Feed My lambs.

Knowing about God is not enough. We must know Him. When we come to know Him through Jesus, there are four facts we must always remember about God.

A. God loves you.

Without God, man is heading for destruction and death. God could have forgotten man, but He did not. Rather, He gave His only begotten Son Jesus to come and take our punishment for sin.

1 Peter 2:24 Who His Own self bare our sins in His Own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by Whose stripes ye were healed.

Jesus did not come to condemn the world, but that the world could be saved.

John 3:17 For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

God sent His Holy Spirit into the world to let us know we have done wrong.

John 16:8 And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

God loves us so much He does not let us go on unaware of our evil, but lets us know our need for God through His Holy Spirit. God so loved that He gave.

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.

B. God forgives you.

To just want to change is not enough. We must come to God and ask Him to forgive us and start us all over again.

John 3:18 He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the Name of the only begotten Son of God.

When we come to Jesus and ask Him to forgive us, we experience a “new birth”. This means God has forgiven us of our sins and helps us to begin again. The only way we can ever be saved is through this new birth.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.

When we came to ask God to forgive us, He did just that. We were reborn and given a new start. All our sins were washed away and our souls were cleansed from all unrighteousness. But although we are forgiven and clean, God still does something else for us.

C. God helps you be better. Without God we simply cannot live above sin. Try as you might, you cannot break those old habits by yourself. This is why God must help you be better.

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:

When this power comes into our lives, it is like suddenly we are alive for the first time ever.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

We are no longer slaves to our sins and passions. Once we were “dead” in sin. Now we are “alive” in Christ. And there is more.

D. God wants you to work for Him.

Three times Jesus tells Peter to, “***Feed My sheep***”.

John 21:15-17

15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these? he saith unto Him, Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee. He saith unto him, Feed My lambs.

16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me? he saith unto Him, Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee. He saith unto him, Feed My sheep.

17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me? Peter was grieved because He said unto him the third time, Lovest thou Me? And he said unto Him, Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed My sheep.

By this He meant we are to do the same work that Jesus did. His life on this earth was spent helping and healing people. We are to spend our lives doing the same. It is important that we obey God’s commandments.

John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed;

Our lives are to bear the same fruit that Jesus’ life did on earth.

John 15:8 Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples.

God wants us to work for Him. Today let your life be led by God’s Spirit.

Romans 8:14-15

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

In doing so you will begin bearing the fruit God desires you to bear.

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(all three men are in Heaven)

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