

## GREAT BIBLE TRUTHS



### 3. God

#### An Introduction

What is God like? Who is he? What we know about God is limited, but God himself has revealed all we need to know. (1 Corinthians 13:12) However the truths that God has revealed are so amazing, we will never fully grasp them in a lifetime.

#### WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

God is Spirit, he is life giving and extremely powerful, and yet he is personal.

##### 1. Spirit

- The Bible has no definition of God, but the nearest is in John 4:24.
- As Spirit he is infinite, eternal, omnipresent and not subject to physical or material limitations. 1 Timothy 6:16
- God has no physical body, flesh or bones.
- He is invisible, no one has ever seen him. John 1:18

##### 2. Personal

- God isn't an impersonal force or power, but as Spirit has a personality: He thinks, feels, wills and can engage in a personal relationship with personal spirits whom he created. When God created Adam and Eve, he spoke with them, then later he entered into a covenant with Abraham.
- God revealed himself in person (John 14:9) and he comes to dwell within believers so he can have fellowship with us. 1 John 1:3

##### 3. Infinitely great and perfect

- His being and attributes are limitless and perfect, above all creation.
- He is unique Isaiah 40:18, 45:6
- He has no limits as far as space – he is everywhere
- He has no limits as far as time – he is eternal
- He has no limits as far as knowledge – he knows everything



*What does it mean in Genesis 1:26 when it says God made us in his image?*

*Why did God command us not to make an image of him?*



**Let's consider for a moment how great God is.  
Don't you think it is arrogant of man to think he knows better than God?  
How amazing that he wants to have a relationship with us!**

#### GOD'S ATTRIBUTES

There are attributes that belong to God alone, but there are other attributes that he can give us out of his unlimited resources. The more we allow God's Spirit to fill our lives, the more these attributes will be seen in our lives too. Let's begin with looking at those attributes that belong to God alone:-

### 1. Self-existent and eternal

God's existence is in himself, he does not depend on anyone outside himself for his existence or his abilities.

- The Bible begins with: "In the beginning God..."
- The meaning of God's name is "I am who I am". Exodus 3:14
- God says, "I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End". Isaiah 41:4
- Jesus confirmed this when he said "the Father has life in himself". John 5:26

### 2. Unchanging

- God says, "I am the Lord, I change not." Malachi 3:6
- The New Testament authors affirm this. Hebrews 1:12, James 1:17
- His nature is always the same. He is always holy, love ...
- He is unchangeable in his purposes and promises. Numbers 23:19, Psalm 33:11, Hebrews 6:17
- This doesn't mean God is static, as his relationships with man can change. However God is always consistent with his unchanging nature. Jeremiah 18:7-10

### 3. Omnipotent

- God has such power that he is able to do all he desires in his love, wisdom and holiness. Psalm 115:3, Isaiah 43:13, Revelation 19:6
- This does not mean God has power to do absolutely anything, as God will never act inconsistently with his own nature, therefore he cannot lie, sin, change or deny himself. Numbers 23:19, 1 Samuel 15:29, 2 Timothy 2:13, Hebrews 6:18

### 4. Omniscient

- God knows all things and this knowledge is not from without, but within himself.
- His knowledge is complete and always present.
- He knows all things past, present, future, actual and possible. Isaiah 46:10-11
- He knows all our ways and our deepest thoughts. Psalm 139:2-3, Hebrews 4:12-13



**If we really believe God is unchanging and knows best, then we should give ourselves to him without reserve. So often we think we know best! No-one can offer God advice. 1 Corinthians 2:16**

Let's look now at those attributes that God can give us. The more we allow his Spirit to fill our lives, the more these attributes will be seen in us too.

### 5. Wise

- Wisdom is not the same as knowledge. God knows the beginning from the end, and in his wisdom he chooses the best way to reach those ends.
- God is the source of all wisdom and wisdom belongs to him. Job 12:13, Daniel 2:20
- He is the giver of wisdom. Daniel 2:21, James 1:5
- His wisdom is seen in creation (Proverbs 3:19), in human history (Isaiah 28:29, 31:2) and in all his ways. Romans 11:33

### 6. Good

- God is good in himself (Psalm 106:1) and he alone is good. Mark 10:18
- His goodness is seen in creation (Genesis 1:31, 1 Timothy 4:4), in what he does (Psalm 119:68), in his gifts (James 1:17), commandments (Romans 7:12), his discipline (Hebrews 12:10), and his will and purposes for our lives. Romans 12:2



*If God is good why is there evil in the world? Discuss.*

## 7. Righteous

- God is righteous (John 17:25) and this is constant. Zephaniah 3:5
- God is righteous in all he does, and in his judgments and laws.

## 8. Holy

- The root meaning of holy is 'to be separate'. His ethical holiness is:
  - ve He is separate from sin and evil. Habakkuk 1:13
  - +ve He is above all in perfection. Exodus 15:11
- Each person in the Godhead is holy. John 14:26, 17:11, Acts 4:27
- His holiness is revealed in the moral law and through Jesus Christ, who is called the 'Holy One'.



*Jesus was holy, and yet he mixed with sinners. From his example, what do we learn about the true meaning of holiness?*

*How do you understand the fact that we can be called 'saints', which means 'holy ones', and yet we are commanded to be holy like God? Hebrews 12:10, 1 Peter 1:15-16*

## 9. Love

- This is God's very nature. 1 John 4:16
- Everything about God displays his love. Psalm 25:10
- His love goes beyond human love. Psalm 36:5
- The basis for redemption is God's love and this is supremely seen in the cross. 1 John 4:8-10

## 10. Love and Holiness

- God's love and holiness are not opposed to each other, but complementary. His love is holy.
- The greatest revelation of this is seen in the cross. God in accord with his perfect holiness, and at great cost to himself, because of his love, dealt with sin and the barriers that prevent us having fellowship with him.



*We are told to love one another with the same love that God has for us. Is this possible? Romans 5:5*

*If God loves why does he allow eternal judgment and death? How can love and holiness be reconciled?*



<b>Because God is love</b>	-	<b>he wants the best for us</b>
<b>Because he is wise</b>	-	<b>he knows what is best for us</b>
<b>Because he is powerful</b>	-	<b>he can bring about what is best for us</b>