

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

(The Greatness of God)

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Faithfulness - God is faithful to act by His character, to do what He says, to stand by the righteous, and to inflict judgment on unrepentant sinners. Great is the faithfulness of the Lord. (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 36:5; 40:10; 89; 91:4; 100:5; 119:75, 90, 138; 143:1; Lamentations 3:23; Romans 3:3.)

Glory - The totality of God's greatness, attributes, and character qualities is His glory. Believers can get a glimpse of it. (Psalm 19:1; 72:19; 104:31; 138:5; Isaiah 35:2; Matthew 6:13; Romans 5:2; 6:4.)

Grace - The fact that God through the Cross is willing to forgive all sin and bring us into fellowship with Himself demonstrates His grace and mercy. Grace brings God's best to those who do not deserve it. (Acts 11:23; 13:43; 14:26; 15:11; 20:24; Romans 3:24; 5:2; 2 Corinthians 4:15; 8:9; 9:8; Ephesians 1:7; 2:7-9; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:7; Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 5:10.)

Holiness - God's holiness is His perfect moral excellence. He is without sin or error. His holiness demands that everyone live holy lives or face judgment for breaking His spiritual laws. (1 Samuel 2:2; Psalm 22:3; 99:9; Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8; 15:4.)

Immensity - God fills the entire universe (all universes) with His presence. (1 Kings 8:27; Jeremiah 23:24.)

Immutability - God never changes. He can be relied upon to always act the same way, according to His spiritual laws and character qualities. He cannot improve or get worse. (1 Samuel 15:29; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17.)

Justice - God's holiness and righteousness require that His justice be satisfied for sin, transgressions of His laws. Only His perfect righteousness can satisfy this justice. (Job 36:6; Psalm 89:30-37; 111:7; Isaiah 42:1-4; 51:4; Amos 4:2; Jeremiah 4:2; 23:5; Matthew 12:18; Luke 7:29; Romans 3:21-30.)

Light - God provides His light to guide our lives in truth and righteousness. He is the light Himself. His light is His presence, His righteousness, and the commandments we are to keep. His light guides our paths into righteous living and into an intimate relationship with Himself. (Psalm 27:1; 36:9; 37:6; 44:3; 78:14; 89:15; 119:105, 130; Proverbs 6:23; 29:13; Isaiah 9:2; 60:19, 20; Matthew 4:16; John 1:4-9; 3:19; 8:12; 9:5; 12:35-36, 47; et al.)

Long-Suffering - God acts in long-suffering with kindness, patience, and forbearance to withhold His judgment for sin, so that many will be led to repentance, as He continues to draw people into a personal relationship with Himself in salvation and in spiritual growth. He does not desire that anyone go to the Lake of Fire. (Romans 2:1-8; 2 Peter 3:9.)

Love - God is love, and He loves everyone. His love acts sacrificially on the behalf of others. The fact that the Father was willing to lose fellowship with His Son on the Cross to satisfy His justice for our sin demonstrates His great love for us. This kind of love may not be known by any way other than through sacrifice at a high cost. (John 3:16; 1 John 4:8, 12.)

Lovingkindness - God acts to help those who love Him and keep His commandments and do His will. God gives lovingkindness to afflicted believers. Through His lovingkindness, He provides salvation and

help to those in need. God acts in lovingkindness toward His repentant subjects who turn toward Him in obedience from their sin. (Psalm 5:7; 6:4; 25:7, 10; 31:7, 16; 33:5, 22; 36:7, 10; 40:10-11; 59:17; 61:7; 63:3; 64:3; 66:20; 69; 85:10; 86:5, 13; 89:2; 95:18; 106:1; 118:2; 119:76, 88; 136.)

Mercy - God's mercy provides for us when we do not deserve anything. Even when we have sinned, and are in great need, He brings us salvation and provides for us by His mercy. When we deserve judgment, He holds back and gives us another chance. (Luke 1:54, 78; Romans 9:16, 18; 11:32; 15:9; 1 Corinthians 7:25; Ephesians 2:4; Philippians 2:27; 1 Timothy 1:2, 13; 2 Timothy 1:2, 18; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 1:3.)

Omnipotence - With His great power, God created the entire universe, heaven, the earth, people, and angels. He has infinite power to do anything without any effective resistance. (2 Chronicles 20:6; Jeremiah 32:17; Psalm 115:3.)

Omnipresence - God is everywhere present throughout all universes and space. He deals with each person in the world at the same time, even though there are billions of people and angels. (Psalm 139:7-12; Proverbs 15:13; Hebrews 4:13.)

Omniscience - God has always known everything that can ever be known — past, present, and future. Thus, there is nothing new that He can ever learn. (Job 37:16; Psalm 139:6; 145:3; Isaiah 40:28; 55:9; Romans 11:33; 1 John 3:20.)

Provider - God provides life's necessities to His own people, as they obey Him and do His will. He also makes provision for all people during times of prosperity and testing. But His provision may be withdrawn from those in disobedience when the time of His judgment comes. (Genesis 22:14; 45:11; 50:21; 1 Kings 17:4, 9; Nehemiah 9:15, 21; Psalm 78:20; Matthew 6:33; 1 Corinthians 10:13.)

Righteousness - God's thoughts and actions are always accomplished in perfection in accordance with perfect spiritual laws. He is without sin or mistakes. He always thinks and acts in a right way according to His perfect character and perfect spiritual laws. (Psalm 11:7; 111:3; 112:9; 119:142.)

Self-Existence (Eternal Life) - Self-existence is God's independent eternal life within Himself, whereby He has existence throughout all eternities of the past, present, and future. This self-existence and eternal life is independent of any outside entity. God has always existed and will always exist. Consequently, He is able to impart eternal life to others as they draw life from Him. (Genesis 21:33; Psalm 9:7; 41:13; 102:12; Job 36:26; Isaiah 40:28; 57:15; Daniel 4:34; John 5:26; 1 John 5:11.)

Sovereignty - God has self-rule and can do anything He wants that is in accordance with His character qualities, without any effective resistance. (Exodus 15:18; Deuteronomy 10:14, 17; 1 Chronicles 29:11-12; 2 Chronicles 20:6; Psalm 135:5-6; Luke 1:37; Acts 17:24-26; Hebrews 6:13.)

Spirit - God's substance is spirit — invisible, indivisible, and present everywhere. He does not have a physical body as humans do. He cannot be discerned by our physical senses. Those who saw God in the Old Testament times saw the Lord Jesus Christ, not God the Father. (John 1:18; 4:24; 5:37; Romans 1:20; 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:16.)

Truth - God knows all the absolute truth and laws that make and run a perfect universe, in every respect. Furthermore, He is truth. Using His truth is the only way we can live perfectly without sin and without breaking spiritual laws. All of His commandments, concepts and laws of interpersonal relationships constitute part of His truth. (Exodus 34:6; Psalm 31:5; 86:11; 108:4; 117:2; 119:142, 151; Isaiah 65:16; John 14:6; 17:17; Romans 3:8.)