

HOLINESS

A. W. Tozer gave us a good understanding of God's holiness as he wrote, "Neither the writer nor the reader of these words is qualified to appreciate the holiness of God. Quite literally a new channel must be cut through the desert of our minds to allow the sweet waters of truth that will heal our great sickness to flow in. We cannot grasp the true meaning of the divine holiness by thinking of someone or something very pure and then raising the concept to the highest degree we are capable of. God's holiness is not simply the best we know infinitely bettered. We know nothing like the divine holiness. It stands apart, unique, unapproachable, incomprehensible and unattainable. The natural man is blind to it. He may fear God's power and admire His wisdom, but His holiness he cannot even imagine." (A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, pp. 103-104).

Here are some Scriptures that speak of God being holy:

Exodus 3:5, Exodus 15:11,
Isaiah 6:1-7, I Peter 1:13-16,
I John 1:5

GRACE

Grace is another attribute of God and it means that we are getting what we don't deserve. We don't deserve eternal life with God. We don't deserve any of the blessings of God, but God freely gives them to us and He gives them to us in Christ Jesus! Here are some Scriptures that show us the grace of God:

John 1:15-17, Romans 5:1-2,
Romans 6:23, I Corinthians 15:10,
II Corinthians 12:9, Genesis 6:8,
Exodus 33:12-17, Galatians 2:21,
Ephesians 2:8-9, Ephesians 4:29,
II Peter 3:18

MERCY

Mercy is another attribute of God. When I think of this word, "mercy" I see it as meaning that we are **NOT** getting what we deserve. You see, in God's economy, we deserve **DEATH** and because of God's great mercy that He bestows upon us, we get life! Now here is the problem. If God just forgives our sins, then He is not a righteous God, He is not a good God, He is not a holy God.

So how can God extend mercy to fallen man, not giving man what he deserves, **DEATH** or **ETERNAL SEPARATION FROM GOD**? The solution to that problem is that Jesus has paid in full the penalty for my sins, your sins and thus, He can extend His mercy to us through Christ! Here are some Scriptures that speak of God's mercy:

Psalm 86:5, Psalm 51:1-2, Isaiah 55:7,
Hebrews 2:17

FAITHFULNESS

Another moral attribute of God is that He is faithful. In other words, God is trustworthy. What He has said is true and He will see that it will come to pass. We can trust in Him. We can trust in what He has told us. If God was not faithful, if He was not trustworthy or trustful, we would be in trouble. We would never know if or when we could trust Him. Imagine a relationship like that. Here are some Scriptures to show us the faithfulness of God:

Numbers 23:19, Psalm 119:89-90,
Lamentations 3:22-24,
I Corinthians 10:13, II Thessalonians 3:3,
Titus 1:2

GOODNESS

Still another attribute of God is His goodness. Now when we speak of goodness in relation to God we are saying that the goodness of God is that which disposes Him to be kind, to be cordial, to be benevolent or compassionate towards man. Here are some Scriptures that show us the goodness of God.

Psalm 23:6, Psalm 27:13, Psalm 31:19,
Psalm 107:8-9, Psalm 107:31,
Psalm 145:8-9, James 1:17

As you have seen these attributes of God the Father and seen all that He is; His character, His nature, what flows naturally from Him, I pray it has moved you to love Him even more. And in loving Him more, I also pray that it has moved you to learn even more about Him. The more you know Him the more you will love Him and the more you love Him the more you will want to know Him.

What the Bible says about . . . God the Father

HIS EXISTENCE

Here is one of those questions that many people ask, "Where did God come from?" Or the question may go like this, "Who created God?" And of course there are many other questions that people ask regarding this issue about the existence of God but the bottom line is this, nobody created God, He has no beginning and He has no end. He is eternal.

In Psalm 90:2 we are told, "**Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.**" How can that be, that He has always existed and He has always been God?

The Bible does not tell us and so, we must believe it by faith because God has said it in His Word and His Word is truth!

NATURAL ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

OMNISCIENCE (HE IS ALL-KNOWING)

When we speak of God being omniscient we are saying that He is all knowing! The idea here is that God cannot learn anything because He already has total knowledge of everything!

Therefore, you can't hide anything from God because He already knows what you will do before you even do it! Here are some Scriptures that speak of God being omniscient:

Job 37:16, Isaiah 42:9, Isaiah 44:6-7,
I Samuel 16:7, Psalm 139:1-4,
Matthew 10:29-30



OMNIPRESENCE (HE IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE)

Another attribute of God is that He is omnipresent or that God transcends all space and spatial limitations. He is present everywhere, not diffused through the universe, but present everywhere! This is another hard concept for us to understand, but it is what the Bible teaches and so we must believe it by faith!

Now don't come to the conclusion that the Scriptures are teaching a pantheistic viewpoint here. What is Pantheism? Pantheism is the view that God is everything and everyone, and that everyone and everything is God. Pantheism is similar to polytheism (the belief in many gods), but goes beyond polytheism to teach that everything **is** God. A tree is God, a rock is God, an animal is God, the sky is God, the sun is God, you are God, etc. Pantheism is the supposition or belief behind many cults and false religions (e.g., Hinduism and Buddhism to an extent, the various unity and unification cults, and "mother nature" worshippers). That is not at all what the Scriptures are teaching. They teach His presence fills the universe and is limitless, not that everything contains God.

Here is one Scripture to show us that the universe cannot contain God. We are told in I Kings 8:27 as Solomon was dedicating the temple, "**But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!**"

Here are some Scriptures that speak of God being omnipresent:

Jeremiah 23:23-24, Psalm 139:7-10,
Hebrews 4:13, Acts 7:47-50

OMNIPOTENT (HE IS ALL-POWERFUL)

The next attribute of God is that He is omnipotent or that He is all-powerful. We are told in Jeremiah 32 that, "**Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You. . . . Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?**" Jeremiah 32:17, 27.

God is all powerful, but there are things that God cannot do, which does not make Him less than all-powerful. It does not diminish the fact that He is God. Let me explain. First of all it is impossible for God to lie, (Hebrews 6:17-18).

Another thing that God cannot do is God cannot change, (Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8). God cannot let sinners into heaven, (John 3:3, 5). God cannot do things that go contrary to His nature, who He is.

That does not make Him a lesser God or negate Him from being God. Thus, when we speak of God being omnipotent it doesn't mean that God can do all things, because God cannot do anything that is contrary to His holy character!

Here are some Scriptures that speak of God being omnipotent:

Genesis 1:1, Psalm 115:3,
Isaiah 40:28, Psalm 33:6-11,
Matthew 19:26

ETERNAL (HE HAS NO BEGINNING AND NO END)

Another natural attribute of God is that He is eternal or that God has no beginning and He has no end! Now that is difficult for us to understand because everything has a beginning and everything has an end. How can this be? We may not be able to fully understand this with our finite minds but that is what the Scriptures teach and so we must believe it by faith.

In Psalm 90:2 we are told, "**Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.**"

Here are some Scriptures that speak of God being eternal:

Genesis 21:33, Psalm 93:2, 102:12,
Psalm 102:24-27, Isaiah 57:15,
Revelation 22:13

IMMUTABILITY (GOD IS UNCHANGING)

Now this is important for us to understand, that God is immutable or He is unchanging! God's character will always be the same. His nature will always be the same. His love will always be the same. His forgiveness will be forever. His salvation and promises are forever and-so-on. This is a good thing, that God is unchanging because if He did change, we would not know if we were saved or not. We would not know if He loved us or not. We would not be sure of anything. But God is unchanging and therefore we can rest on what He has said. It will stand the test of time, we can take that to the bank!

Our whole assurance in God is based in the fact that our heavenly Father is trustworthy. Thus, we can live life to the hilt because He can be trusted. May we as Christians never forget that!

Here are some Scriptures that speak of God being immutable:

Numbers 23:19, Malachi 3:6,
Hebrews 6:17-18, Hebrews 13:8,
James 1:17

MORAL ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Now keep in mind that we cannot possess the Natural Attributes of God but we can possess His Moral Attributes. In fact, we are called to manifest these attributes in our lives. They are the fruit of the Spirit. It is the way we are to live out our Christian faith. As we understand who God the Father is, what is His nature, we will see what He desires of us.

JUSTICE

When we think of justice we think of someone who has been appointed by the people to represent them. In other words, the people are not formed for him, but he or his position for them. Thus, he has been entrusted to and will administer justice for the people based on a set of standards or laws. These standards, as we know, can change from time-to-time.

That idea of justice, when you apply it to God, is wrong. He is not formed for us to represent us, but we are formed by Him to represent Him! And God has not made standards **for** man, they are His standards and thus, since He is the creator of the heavens and earth, He has the right to put forth His justice. And if you think about it, righteousness is just an expression of God's holiness. If He were not holy then He would be unjust.

Here are some Scriptures that speak of God being righteous, just:

Genesis 18:25, Psalm 16:4-7,
Isaiah 45:21, Zephaniah 3:5-7

LOVE

Love is another attribute of God; it is part of His nature. Some try to exclude the other attributes of God and just focus on His love, but you can't do that. All His attributes flow from Him and one attribute does not supersede the other. Here are some Scriptures that speak of God's love:

Jeremiah 31:3, John 3:16-17, Romans 5:8,
I John 4:7-11