

Theology – The Study of God

The Almighty God is revealed to us through the Creation, Conscience, Scripture, and Christ.

A. The Existence of God

1. God is introduced without any hesitation.

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God...”

- a. There is no debate regarding the existence of God.

“Theology Proper begins with two assumptions—that God exists, and that he has revealed Himself to man.” – R Sargent

- b. All throughout the Scriptures “the existence of God” is taken for granted.

Exodus 3:14 “I am that I am...” – God was introducing himself to Moses as “the self existing one.” This claim was also used by Jesus Christ; the Jews understood what this meant and responded by picking up stones to stone Jesus for His claim of being the Eternal God.

- c. God is Eternal – God existed before all things were made.

Psalms 90:1-2 “Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”

Revelations 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.”

Colossians 1:17 “And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

- **Note:** All things that are made depend on God because they were made by Him, but God depends on nothing for His existence.

2. Reasonable arguments of God’s existence

“These arguments may not prove conclusively that God is, but they do show that in order to argue for the existence of any knowledge, thought, reason, conscience of man, we must assume that God is.” W Evans

a. Being – God Consciousness

- How did man ever conceive the concept of God? The idea of an infinite and perfect being (as the heathen like to call it – a higher power) had to originate somewhere.

“Man’s intuition of God (regardless of race, culture, religion, or geographic location) is invariably that of an infinite, perfect being. Why? How could a finite and imperfect man devise such a concept? This must argue for the existence of such a being, for man by himself would not have devised it.” – R Sargent

“All persons everywhere have a deep, inner sense that God exists, that they are his creatures, and that he is their Creator.” – W. Grudem

- The Scripture makes it clear that some of His creatures will deny that inner sense of God, and try to explain Him away. Sin causes people to think irrationally.

Psalm 14:1 “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.”

- The fool is a fool because he knows there is a God but wants to explain Him away.

Romans 1:21-22 “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (22) Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,”

b. Cause and Effect – A commonly accepted principle is that everything must have a cause.

- Something didn't come from nothing.
- When we observe something that is beautifully made we immediately ask, “Who made that or where did that come from?” We do not assume that it just happened or appeared from thin air.
- The Eternal God is the cause of the effects we see all around us.

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

John 1:3 “All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

Colossians 1:16 “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:”

Romans 11:36 “For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.”

Hebrews 3:4 “For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.”

“The God of the Bible not only existed before all things, but all things exist because of Him. He is pure Existence, who gave existence to everything else that exists. Without Him nothing else would exist.” – N L Geisler

c. Design in Creation

- **Requires Wisdom** – Everything in the universe demonstrates clear order and design.
- The way the solar system works implies intelligence and purpose in creation.

Genesis 1:31 “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”

Proverbs 3:19-20 “The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens. (20) By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

Psalms 104:24 “O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.”

- The way people were designed with purpose depicts a wonderful masterpiece by an intelligent creator.
- The amazing senses that humans have: sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell.

Genesis 1:27 “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”

“The crown of God's work was the creation of man in His image and according to His likeness. This means that man was placed on earth as God's representative, and that He resembles God in certain ways. Just as God is a Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), so man is a tripartite being (spirit, soul, and body). Like God, man has intellect, a moral nature, the power to communicate with others, and an emotional nature that transcends instinct.” W. McDonald

- **Psalms 94:9** *“He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see?”*

Psalms 139:14 “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.”

- **Requires Power** – We see great power demonstrated in many facets of creation. This power must have had a Cause that is powerful, power/energy comes from an energizer/Almighty.

Genesis 1:3 “And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.”

Psalms 33:6 “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.”

Jeremiah 10:12 “He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.”

Jeremiah 32:17 “Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:”

d. Morality

- Man has a moral nature that can sense right from wrong and needs justice to be done. Therefore, there must be a “cause” of the morality that lies within man.
- Man’s moral nature suggests the existence of a holy Lawgiver who hates evil and loves truth.

“Conscience does not tell us what to do; it merely insists that there is fundamental moral law in the universe and that it is our duty to observe it” – H C Thiessen

- Our God-given conscience can be suppressed and seared.

1 Timothy 4:1-2 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (2) Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

“Perhaps early in their lives their conscience had been tender, but they suppressed it so often and sinned against the light so much that now their conscience has become insensitive and hardened.” W. McDonald

- The Holy Moral law of God helps to wake up our conscience and convict us of sin.

Romans 7:9 “For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.”

e. Congruity

- Congruity is a quality of agreement and correctness. When there's congruity, things fit together in a way that makes sense.

“If the key fits the lock, we have the right key. If the theory fits the facts, in all probability we have the right theory.” – W Evans

- When people try to remove God from the picture things begin to be blurred, and do not make sense.
- It is like trying to paint a picture with no paint. It is like trying to build a house with no bricks, it just won't work.
- A God who is eternal, wise, holy, just, and the Creator of all things makes more sense than something that came out of nothing.

B. The Revelation of God

1. The knowledge of the “existence God” is revealed to the heart of man.

Romans 1:18-19 *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; (19) Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.”*

“That which is “knowable” concerning God. The expression implies that there may be many things concerning God which cannot be known. But there are also many things which may be ascertained. Such are his existence, and many of his attributes, his power, and wisdom, and justice, etc.” – A Barnes

2. God reveals himself to man through several ways:

Creation

Conscience

Scriptures

Heavenly Father’s
Wisdom

Jesus Christ

Holy Spirit

3. The Revelation of God is Progressive.

- a. Creation

Psalm 19:1-4 *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. (2) Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. (3) There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. (4) Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,”*

Abraham Lincoln once said, *“I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look up into the heavens and say there is no God.”*

“There was a story of a French revolutionist who boasted to a peasant, “We are going to pull down all that reminds you of God.” The peasant replied, “Citizen, pull down the stars then!”

“No branch of science proclaims God's greatness and man's insignificance more eloquently than astronomy. The simple fact that distances must be reckoned in light-years (the distance that light travels in a year) illustrates the point...

Light travels 186,000 miles per second, and there are 31.5 million seconds in a year, so light travels roughly six trillion miles in a single year! Yet some stars are billions of light-years from the earth. No wonder we call such computation astronomical.”
– W McDonald

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:”*

- **“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world”** – God’s Attributes
- **“Being understood by the things that are made”** – Creation is a clear revelation of the Creator.
- **“His eternal power and Godhead”** – God’s eternal power and divine deity, His power and person is made manifest through His creation.
- **“So that they are without excuse.”** Creation so clearly points to a Creator-God that man is without excuse.

b. Conscience – “moral awareness” or “moral consciousness.”

- Conscience can have a distinctive awareness of God's law.

Romans 2:14-15 *“For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: (15) Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)”*

- When the conscience is violated it produces guilt.

John 8:8-9 *“And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. (9) And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.*

“Now, conscience is intended to be a goad, not a guide. The man who says, “Just let your conscience be your guide,” is mistaking the function of conscience. Conscience is God’s watchdog in the soul. Conscience can be silenced and even seared. It is quite possible to obtain the approval of conscience on a wrong act.” – J Phillips

c. The Scriptures

Psalms 19:7-9 *“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. (8) The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. (9) The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.*

John 5:39 *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”*

d. The Heavenly Father’s Wisdom

Matthew 16:15-17 *“He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? (16) And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. (17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”*

*“The fisherman had not arrived at this concept of the Lord Jesus through intellect or native wisdom; it had been supernaturally revealed to him by God the Father.”
– W McDonald*

Matthew 11:25 *“At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.”*

“This revelation was not the result of Peter’s own investigation. It came as the gracious act of God. God had hidden these things from the proud Pharisees and Sadducees and revealed them to “babes”, the humble disciples.” W. Wiersbe

e. Jesus Christ

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.”*

- Jesus Christ has fully revealed to men what God is like.

“When men saw Jesus, they saw God. They heard God speak. They felt God's love and tenderness. God's thoughts and attitudes toward mankind have been fully declared by Christ.” W. McDonald

- Jesus is “the express image of His person”

Hebrews 1:3 *“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person...”*

- Jesus is “the image of the invisible God”

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

“Jesus Christ explains God to us and interprets Him for us. We simply cannot understand God apart from knowing His Son, Jesus Christ.” W. Wiersbe

John 14:9 *“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, Shew us the Father?”*

f. The Holy Spirit

- To the Sinner

John 16:8 *“And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:”*

- To the Saint

John 14:26 *“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”*

C. The Attributes of God – Natural

Attributes = Divine qualities and characteristics

- The Attributes of God commonly fall into two categories “**natural**” and “**moral**”

<p style="text-align: center;">Natural</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The natural attributes of God point to His Existence.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Moral</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The moral attributes of God point to His Excellence.</p>
<p><i>Psalms 90:2</i> “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou <i>art</i> God.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Omniscience – All-Knowing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Omnipresence – All-Present</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Omnipotence – All-Powerful</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Eternal – Ever-Present</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Immutable – Unchanging</p>	<p><i>Job 37:23</i> “<i>Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict.</i>”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Holiness</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Righteousness, Justice, Wrath</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Love</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mercy, Grace, Patience, Goodness, Faithfulness</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Truth</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wisdom</p>

1. Omniscience – God is all knowing.

- If you combine the Latin roots Omni = "all" and Scientia = "knowledge", you'll get omniscient, meaning "knowledge of all."

- God's knowledge is His own divine intellect.
- God is all-knowing because that is His nature.
- God does not grow in knowledge like we do.
- God is complete and perfect in Knowledge.

Romans 11:33-34 “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! (34) For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?”

- Nobody has ever counselled God or taught Him, and no-one ever will.
- God's knowledge is and will always be.

Isaiah 40:13 “Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him?”

1 Corinthians 2:16 “For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

Job 40:1-4 “Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said, (2) Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it. (3) Then Job answered the LORD, and said, (4) Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth.

b. God knows everything there is to know.

- Nothing catches God by surprise.

Psalms 147:4-5 “He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. (5) Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.”

Matthew 10:30 “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”

c. God knows all things past, present, or future.

Isaiah 46:9-10 “Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, (10) Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:”

d. God is perfect in Knowledge

Job 37:16 “Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him which is perfect in knowledge?”

e. God knows everything about everyone.

Hebrews 4:13 “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

f. God knows the motives, thoughts, activities, words, and the decisions of all people.

Psalms 139:1-6 “O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. (2) Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. (3) Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. (4) For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. (5) Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. (6) Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.”

1 John 3:20 “For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.”

g. God is the source of all knowledge, and no-one can ever outsmart God.

Proverbs 21:30 “There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.”

2. Omnipresence – God is Everywhere in Everyplace (All-Present)

- a. The Omnipresence of God is not exactly an attribute of God, but rather it flows from His attributes.

- God's Presence is evident throughout the heavens and the earth.
- God is not limited in space; God is in all places at one time.

1 Kings 8:27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?"

- b. God's presence is everywhere

Psalms 139:7-8 "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? (8) If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there."

- c. Nothing is hidden or can be hidden from God

Psalms 139:12 "Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee."

Jeremiah 23:23-24 "Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? (24) Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD."

- d. God sees every move people make

Proverbs 15:3 "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

Hebrews 4:13 "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

- e. God's presence is special in the life of His people (The Church)

- Decision Making.

Matthew 18:19-20 "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. (20) For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Revelations 2:1 "Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;"

- Fulfilling the Great Commission.

Matthew 28:20 "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

- Christian living.

Hebrews 13:5 "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

f. Some distinctions of God's Omnipresence

- **God is not being dispersed** throughout the universe. God is Spirit, and His presence is in all places. *Proverbs 15:3*
- God's presence does not mean that God is found in nature or nature is a part of God. God is separate from His creation, however, His creation is not independent of Him.
- **God's presence can manifest itself** in a glorious way. God makes His presence known in various ways.

1) God's presence is on His throne

Revelations 4:2 "And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne."

2) God's presence is in earth (Solomon's Temple)

2 Chronicles 7:1-2 "Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house. (2) And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S house."

3) God's presence is in the believer's life (Temple of the Holy Spirit)

Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

4) God's presence is known in the life of wicked people.

- God presence in the life of unbelievers depicts His nature as the LORD GOD who is over all.

Revelations 14:10 "The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:"

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: (9) Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;"

g. There is no escaping God's presence.

- No person can escape from the presence of the Lord.
- They can run but they cannot hide.
- God does not have to try to find us, because he can see all that we do.
- God already knows our hiding spots, remember He is ALL-KNOWING.

Genesis 3:8-11 "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. (9) And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? (10) And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. (11) And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?"

3. Omnipotence – (All-Powerful)

- Omni = All,
- Potent = Powerful

- a. God is all-powerful and is able to do all things that are consistent within His nature. God’s power is exercised within His perfect will.

Revelations 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 thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.”*

- b. This attribute refers to God’s limitless power by which He can do what seems to be impossible to us. God is not limited in His ability like we are, He can do all things.

Matthew 19:26 “*But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.*”

Luke 1:37 “*For with God nothing shall be impossible.*”

Genesis 18:14 “*Is any thing too hard for the LORD?...*”

Job 42:1-2 “*Then Job answered the LORD, and said, (2) I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.*”

Jeremiah 32:17 “*Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:*”

- c. The Word “Almighty” is used about 56 times referring to God alone.

- God introduces himself as the “Almighty one” to Abraham

Genesis 17:1 “*And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.”*

- God introduces himself as the “Almighty one” to Moses

Exodus 6:1-3 “*Then the LORD said unto Moses, Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land. (2) And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD: (3) And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty...*”

- God introduces himself as the “Almighty one” to Christians

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 “*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, (18) And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*”

d. God's power is seen:

1) In Creation

Psalm 33:8-9 "Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. (9) For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast."

Psalm 29:4 "The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty."

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:"

- **Note:** God's eternal power - Here are two things implied:
- One, that the universe demonstrates the power of God
- Two, which this power has existed from eternity, and indicates an eternal existence in God."

2) In Christ & Christians Living

Hebrews 1:3 "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;"

Ephesians 1:19 "And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power..."

Exceeding = to exceed, to throw beyond, surpasses,

Greatness = Magnitude (Can't be measured)

of his power = "dunamis" Where we get the English word "Dynamite" (His Mightiness)

According to the working = "energeia" Where we get the English word "Energy"

Of his mighty power = "is-chus" ability force, strength and might

Ephesians 1:20-21 "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:"

- There is not enough words in the Greek or the English to describe the power of God given to us through Christ.

Ephesians 3:20 "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,"

"God is able to do more in this connection than we can ask or think. The extent of His ability is seen in the manner in which Paul pyramids words to describe superabundant blessings" – W McDonald

Able

Able to do

Able to do what we ask

Able to do what we think

Able to do what we ask or think

Able to do all that we ask or think

Able to do above all that we ask or think

Able to do abundantly above all that we ask or think

Able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think

3) In Crisis

- The Power of God delivers Daniel

Daniel 6:20 “And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?”

- The Power of God delivers Israel

Exodus 7:5 “And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them.”

4) In Crowning

Psalms 75:6-7 ‘For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. (7) But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

- Saul

1 Samuel 13:13-14 “And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. (14) But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.”

- Lucifer

Isaiah 14:12-15 “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! (13) For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. (15) Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

e. God’s power/ability is limited within the boundaries of His nature.

- God cannot lie

Titus 1:2 “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie...”

Numbers 23:19 “God is not a man, that he should lie...”

- God cannot be tempted to sin

James 1:13 “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:”

- God cannot deny Himself

2 Timothy 2:13 “If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.”

- God cannot do anything wrong

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.”

f. God’s power is expressed in the framework of His will. God chooses to exercise His power when He sees fit to do so.

- With the three Hebrew Men

Daniel 3:17-18 “If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. (18) But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

- In Life of Christ.

Matthew 26:52-54 “Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. (53) Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? (54) But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

Luke 4:3-4 “And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. (4) And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.”

- In the account of Sodom and Gomorrah

Genesis 18:28 “Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it.”

Daniel 4:35 “And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?”

God is so great!
There is nothing He does not know.
There is nowhere He is not present.
There is nothing He cannot do.

– WMcDonald

4. Eternal – (Ever-present)

a. God is beyond time.

- Eternity = Timelessness & Never-ending. Infinite duration
- This attribute is also called “God’s infinity”
- Time started when God created the universe, this means God is outside of time.
- To have made time means to be outside of it.

Job 36:26 “Behold, God is great, and we know him not, neither can the number of his years be searched out.”

- Time is determined by the relation of the sun to the earth, and God is not limited by His creation.

“The study of physics tells us that matter and time and space must all occur together; if there is no matter, there can be no space or time either. Thus, before God created the universe there was no “time,” at least not in the sense of a succession of moments one after another. Therefore, when God created the universe, He also created time”
– W Grudem

- What seems to be a long period of time with us is nothing to God, because He is outside of time.

2 Peter 3:8 “But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

- One of the reasons God has delayed His coming is because God is timeless.
- God does not live in a scope of time like we do.

Psalms 90:4 “For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.”

“A host of days and nights must be combined to make up a thousand years to us, but to God, that space of time does not make up a whole night, but only a brief portion of it. If a thousand years be to God as a single nightwatch, what must be the life-time of the Eternal!” C H Spurgeon

- God sees the past and the future as He sees the present. God is aware of the process and progression of time. However, God see it all, from the beginning to the end.

Isaiah 57:15 “For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”

- One day time will merge into eternity.

1 Corinthians 15:28 “And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.”

b. God is Eternal means = He is without Beginning or End.

Genesis 21:33 “And Abraham planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the LORD, the everlasting God.”

- The Everlasting God = The God of Eternity

“God exists endlessly; His existence extends endlessly backwards and forwards (from our viewpoint of time) without any interruptions or limitations caused by succession of events.” – C Ryrie

Isaiah 40:28 “Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.”

Jeremiah 10:10 “But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king...”

- God is, and will always be, now and forever!

Revelations 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.”

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

“He is eternal, without beginning of days, or end of life, or change of time. He is the Ancient of days, He is immortal, and the original of immortality; he only has immortality, for he cannot die.” M Henry

5. Immutable – (Unchanging)

- a. **God is Immutable** = God is unchangeable and therefore never changes. God is never inconsistent.

- All may change, but God/Jesus never changes.

Hebrews 1:11-12 “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.”

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

- If God were to change in His attributes or character He would then be less than who He is – The LORD GOD.

Malachi 3:6 “For I am the LORD, I change not...”

- b. God does not change His plans and purposes.

Isaiah 46:10 “Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:”

- c. God does not change regarding His promises.

1 Kings 8:56 “Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant”

2 Corinthians 1:20 “For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”

- d. God is completely perfect.

2 Samuel 22:31 “As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.”

Psalms 18:30 “As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.”

- God does not have to change, HE is PERFECT.
- God cannot change, He is HOLY.
- God is complete and perfect in all His attributes both **natural and moral**.

- e. God is complete and perfect in all His acts.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 “I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.”

- f. God is complete and perfect in His gifts.

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 does not change. There are no shadows with the Father of Lights. It is impossible for God to change. He cannot change for the worse because He is holy; He cannot change for the better because He is already perfect. The light of the sun varies as the earth changes, but the sun itself is still shining. If shadows come between us and the Father, He did not cause them. He is the unchanging God. This means that

we should never question His love or doubt His goodness when difficulties come or temptations appear.” W Wiersebe

*“One side of the moon is dark, and the other side is light. But in God there is no dark side. In all of us there is a shadow; you and I cast a shadow. God doesn't vary, He doesn't change, as the laws of creation reveal. God is not on a yo-yo like a lot of Christians are today—up today and down tomorrow, and round and round they go.”
– V McGee*

g. God's Immutable character is not to be confused with His dealings.

- God deals differently with the unsaved and the saved.

Joel 2:13 *“And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.”*

- God's Immutable character does not mean that He cannot express His heart.

Genesis 6:6 *“And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.”*

*“The Lord's sorrow does not indicate an arbitrary change of mind, though it seems that way to man. Rather, it indicates a different attitude on God's part in response to some change in man's behaviour. Because He is holy, He must react against sin.”
– W McDonald*

- God's Immutable character does not mean that He cannot extend His mercy.
- **Note:** Mercy is one of God's “Moral Attributes.”

Jonah 3:10 *“And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.”*

“This was no real change in God; rather, the object of His threatening was, that He might not do what He threatened. God's ‘threatenings’ are conditional, “unless they repent,” as are His promises.” – A Barnes

Jeremiah 18:7-8 *“At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; (8) If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them.”*

- God's conditional promises confirm that He is the God of His Word and that He does not change.
- God is true to His Word.

“In God all things are disposed and fixed, nor doth He anything out of any sudden counsel, which He knew not in all eternity that He should do; but, amid the movements of His creature in time, which He governeth marvelously ...” A Barnes

Numbers 23:19 *“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent...”*

- God does not have to change His ways as if He has done anything wrong. God is not imperfect, but rather demonstrates mercy to an imperfect people.

Genesis 18:26 *“And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.”*

- God withholding His wrath from a repentant sinner confirms God’s immutable attribute by God keeping His promise.
- It is important to understand that God’s mercy does not change His mind about how He feels towards sin; God still hates sin. However, while God’s moral attributes (Mercy) are made manifest, extended, and demonstrated, this never changes His Holiness.