

## what is God really like?

**I. Intro**

- A. Welcome and Announcements
- B. Prayer -

**II. Main Points to Remember****A. Our Goal is to Know God**

1. **John 17:3** “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

**III. Overview & Introduction****A. Who is God?**

1. **Last week:** Because God has revealed Himself, we can know Him.
2. **Last week: Our view of God must be formed by what He has revealed in creation and in His written words.**
  - a. Any other basis is insufficient and more often than not, Idolatrous, Human shaped & wrongly formed.
3. **Last week:** God is an Infinite Being, we are finite beings. We will never completely grasp Him in His fullness.
4. **Last Week:** A Right View of God produces a right view of true reality.

**B. This Week: What is God Like?****1. The Names of God**

- a. The names God has given to Himself (Self-Disclosure)

**2. The Attributes of God****a. Natural Attributes (Incommunicable, true only of God)**

- i. The Natural Attributes describe to us the Being of the God Who Exists

**b. Moral Attributes (Communicable, can be true of creatures)****i. The Moral Attributes describe to us the Heart of the God Who Exists**

- (1). As a Being, What is His heart, the moral character of this Being?
  - (a). We speak of the heart of the person and when we do that we are describing the character of that person or being

**c. Question:** How many attributes does an infinite Being exhibit?

- i. Will we ever know them all? No.

**Overview****TOPIC:**

Theology Proper

**CATEGORY:**

Nature of God

**KEY CONCEPTS REGARDING KNOWING GOD AS HE IS**

- God has disclosed truths about Himself through the names He has used for Himself in the Bible.
- Attributes of God are simply descriptions of the way God is.
- We speak of God’s attributes in either of two categories: Incommunicable or Communicable.
- These Attributes are also known as: His Natural Attributes or His Moral Attributes.
- God’s Incommunicable Attributes cannot be true of created beings.
- God’s Communicable Attributes can be true of created beings.
- God is One. Singular, simple, and indivisible.
- God is not an assembly of His separate attributes.

**KEY PASSAGES:**

- Exodus 3:14-15
- Isaiah 42:8

**TODAY’S BROAD OUTLINE:**

- Learning about God through the names He has used for Himself in the scripture.
- Knowing God through looking at His Incommunicable attributes.
- Asking how this topic affects me

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**d. On the Unity of God as Relates to Individual Attributes**

## i. Tozer quotes:

- (1). *“God exists in Himself and of Himself. His being He owes to no one. His substance is indivisible. He has no parts but is single in His unitary being.”*
- (2). *“The harmony of His being is the result not of a perfect balance of parts but of the absence of parts.”*
- (3). *“All of God does all that God does; He does not divide himself to perform a work, but works in the total unity of His being.” Why must this be true?*

**IV. Who Is God?****A. A Concise Starting Point for Us**

1. “God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth” – Westminster Shorter Catechism

**B. Knowing God through His Names: The Self-Disclosed Names of God**

1. In the Bible, a person's name symbolizes all that one is and does.

The meaning of a person's name comprises that person's character, position, and actions within that person's context. So a person's name is unique to that person because that person invests his or her name with individual meaning.

In the Bible, especially in the Old Testament, a person's name was important because the lexical meaning of that name reflected, or was hoped to reflect, something about the person.

To God and to the people of Israel, God's names were especially important because they revealed aspects of who he was in himself, in his actions within himself, and in relation to his creation.

**2. The Self-Disclosure of God for Us to know**

- a. Contained within the names which God has given himself are attributes by which he intends to be known.
- b. These are not inferences, nor humanly assigned attributes but attributes revealed in the very names of God found in the scripture.
- c. We will begin with the names of God. These are self-descriptions of God. What He is like.

**3. Names for God****a. YHWH - I AM****i. Attributes Contained within the Name given to Moses**

- (1). **Exodus 3:13-15** Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?”

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14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

15 God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'YHWH, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.'

This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.

- (2). Self-Existence
- (3). Aseity (God has no needs)
- (4). Self-Sufficiency
- (5). Eternality

### b. YHWH Compound Names

#### i. Yahweh-tsabaoth – God is "the Lord of hosts" or "armies."

- (1). Because he "is" and "will be" who he is, God created, governs, and leads the angels as the "armies" of heaven (Ps. 24:10; Isa. 6:1–5; 9: 7; Hag. 2:6–9; Zech. 4:6) and his people as his "armies" (Ex. 7:4; 12:41; 1 Sam. 17:45) to accomplish his purposes in his creation.

#### ii. Yahweh-yireh – God is "the Lord" who "will provide" or "will see" (Gen. 22:14).

- (1). Because he "is" and "will be" who he is, God will see and provide what is needed to fulfill his promise. In Genesis 22:14, Abraham remembered God by this name because God had provided a ram to sacrifice in place of Isaac.

#### iii. Yahweh-rophe – God is "the Lord, your healer" (Ex. 15:26).

- (1). Because he "is" and "will be" who he is, God will deliver his people to fulfill his will. In Exodus 15:22–26, Moses remembered that God sweetened the water at Marah so the people could drink and live. God's mercy, compassion, and loving-kindness are on display.

#### iv. Yahweh-nissi – God is "The Lord Is My Banner" (Ex. 17:15).

- (1). Because he "is" and "will be" who he is, God will be the "banner" or "standard" that will lead his people to victory over their enemies. In Exodus 17:15, Moses worshiped God as the One who gave his people victory over Amalek and would destroy Amalek utterly from the earth.

#### v. Yahweh-meqaddishkem – God is "the Lord" who sanctifies his people. Because he "is" and "will be" who he is, God will sanctify or set apart his people from sin and the surrounding nations to obey him. Keeping the Sabbaths holy or set apart would be a sign to the people that God makes them holy, set apart from the other nations, to belong to and serve him only (Ex. 31:13).

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**vi. Yahweh-shalom** – God is “The Lord Is Peace” (Judg. 6:24).

- (1). Because he “is” and “will be” who he is, God, through the angel of the Lord, sent Gideon to “save Israel” from the Midianites (Judg. 6: 14). The angel of the Lord gave Gideon a sign—that the angel’s staff consumed Gideon’s sacrifice with fire—to assure him that he was sending Gideon and would go with him to give him victory. The Hebrew word for “peace,” shalom, means wholeness and well-being. Through Gideon, God would grant his people wholeness in freedom from enemies and well-being in the Promised Land.

**vii. Yahweh-roiy** – God is “the Lord is my shepherd” (Ps. 23:1).

- (1). Because he “is” and “will be” who he is, according to Psalm 23, God will provide everything his people need in this life, in death, and forever. He will guide and protect his people.

**viii. Yahweh-tsidkenu** – God is “the Lord is our righteousness” (Jer. 23:6).

- (1). Because he “is” and “will be” who he is, in the future God will establish the Messiah as the Davidic King, and “he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land” (Jer. 23: 5). When this Davidic King will reign in righteousness “in the land,” then “Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely” (Jer. 23:5–6).

**ix. Yahweh-shammah** – God is “The Lord Is There” (Ezek. 48:35).

- (1). Because he “is” and “will be” who he is, God will restore Israel as a saved nation in the Promised Land and will establish a new temple in a renewed Jerusalem, which will be called by the name “The Lord Is There.”

### c. EL Compound Names

**i. El Shaddai** – God-Almighty referring to God’s omnipotence.

**ii. El Elyon** – Translated “God Most High,” this title refers to the supreme sovereignty of God.

**iii. El/ Elohey Olam** – Because God is omnipotent, he is eternal. He is God eternal or “the Everlasting God”

**iv. El/ Elohim Khayyim/ Khay** – God’s essence is consummate power, so he is life in and of himself, and he is the source of life for all (created) living beings and exercises authority over them.

Adapted from: – Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth MacArthur / Mayhue

## V. What is God Like?

### A. The Attributes of God

1. As we step into our look at the attributes of God. As we stand at the beginning of a tour of the Attributes of God, we observe:

**a. God is not made up of his attributes.**

What we call His individual attributes only describe for limited creatures like us the unity of being which is God.

**b. Since with finite intellect,** we cannot grasp the fullness of His character, His nature, His being all at the same time, we divide up, we categorize the truths revealed about God into convenient, “creature-sized” segments so we can more easily grasp them.

### 2. Intro to the Attributes

**a. Caution – God is not an assembly of his attributes.**

There is one God there are not multiple gods.

Singularity, simplicity, unity in singleness, in one-ness is essential to an accurate perception of the nature of, the character of, the being of God.

As we will see, the Holiness of God reflects the one-ness, the undividedness of God.

In fact, the word Holy has at its core the meaning of separate from, singular, apart from all other things.

### 3. Attributes: Also Known as the Perfections of God

**a. God's Perfections are Inherent in Who He Is.** The perfections of God are not “achieved.”

**i. The perfections of God** when we speak of them are not attributes which God has achieved perfectly or has grown in or increased in to the point of achieving perfection as we might think of it

**ii. But the perfections of God are simply who He is,** has always been, and will ever be.

### 4. Attributes: Incommunicable and Communicable

a. When we speak of **incommunicable or communicable** attributes of God, we mean attributes that are either **transmissible or nontransmissible**.

**i. God's incommunicable attributes** are only true of God. They are Natural to Him, that is true of His essential nature. They cannot be communicated (or transmitted) to creatures. They set Him apart from His Creation.

**ii. God's communicable attributes** are true of God but can also become true of us. Sometimes these are called God's Moral Attributes since they deal with His interpersonal, relational nature. These attributes can be expressed in limited degree by created beings.

## VI. The Natural Attributes of God - True of God by His Nature, Character, Being

### A. These Attributes are Incommunicable to Created Beings

1. God does not share these attributes with any created being.
2. To attribute God's attributes to any other being or object is idolatry.
3. **Isaiah 42:8** "I am YHWH, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.
4. **Isaiah 48:11** "For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act; For how can My name be profaned? And My glory I will not give to another.

### B. Self-Existence

1. **Description:** To say that God is self-existent means that there was no time when God started to exist and nothing caused God to come into existence. He is not derived and is independent of all that is. He is the source of all being and of all creation.
2. *"Apart from God I cannot exist; apart from me God does exist. God does not need me in order for Him to be. I do need God in order for me to be. This is the difference between what we call self-existent Being and dependent being."* – R.C. Sproul
3. **Psalms 90:2** Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.
4. **Isaiah 66:1-2** Thus says YHWH, "Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest? 2 "For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being," declares YHWH. "But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.
5. **Acts 17:24-28** "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; 26 and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'

### C. Self-Sufficiency

1. **Description:** God exists in and of Himself, eternally complete and without need for anything to fulfill Him, improve Him, or complete Him. He is not dependent on the men nor the matter of the creation which He has made and which He sustains.
  - a. *Almighty God, just because He is almighty, needs no support. The picture of a nervous, ingratiating God fawning over men to win their favor is not a pleasant one; yet if we look at the popular conception of God, that is precisely what we see. Twentieth century Christianity has put God on charity. So lofty is our opinion of ourselves that we find it*

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*quite easy, not to say enjoyable, to believe that we are necessary to God. But the truth is that God is not greater for our being, nor would He be less if we did not exist. That we do exist is altogether of God's free determination, not by our desert nor by divine necessity.*

*Probably the hardest thought of all for our natural egotism to entertain is that God does not need our help. We commonly represent Him as a busy, eager, somewhat frustrated Father hurrying about seeking help to carry out His benevolent plan to bring peace and salvation to the world; but, as said the Lady Julian, "I saw truly that God doeth all-thing, be it never so little." The God who worketh all things surely needs no help and no helpers.*

–A.W. Tozer – Knowledge of the Holy

- b. **Job 41:11** "Who has given to Me that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is Mine.
- c. **Isaiah 66:1-2** Thus says YHWH, "Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest? 2 "For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being," declares YHWH. "But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.
- d. **Acts 17:24-25** "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things;
- e. **Romans 11:33-36** Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! 34 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? 35 Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? 36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.
- f. **Revelation 4:11** "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

#### D. Infinitude

1. **Description:** Whatever God is and everything that God is, He is without limit, without bounds. The infinity of God is related to and shown by the extent of all God's perfections. God is unlimited in extent of space, duration, quantity and quality.
2. "When we say that God is unlimited, we mean that He is unlimited in His perfections.

*Now evil is not a perfection; it is an imperfection. The same is true of nonexistence, weakness, ignorance, finitude, temporality, and any other characteristic that implies limitation or imperfection.*

*We might say that God is "limited" in that He can't enter into limitations, like time, space, weakness, evil—at least not as God. He is only "limited" by His unlimited perfection." – Norm Geisler*

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3. "Of all that can be thought or said about God, His Infinitude is the most difficult to grasp." – A.W. Tozer
4. **1Kings 8:27** "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built!"
5. **2Chronicles 2:6** "But who is able to build a house for Him, for the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain Him? So who am I, that I should build a house for Him, except to burn incense before Him?"
6. **Job 11:7-9** "Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens—what can you do? They are deeper than the depths of the grave—what can you know? Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea"
7. **Psalms 147:5** "Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit"

**E. Eternality - Infinite as to Time**

1. **Description:** God has always existed and will always exist. He exists outside the limitations of time past, present, or future. Eternality is the Infiniteness of God as regards the duration of His Being.
2. *"The mind looks backward in time till the dim past vanishes, then turns and looks into the future till thought and imagination collapses from exhaustion: and God is at both points, unaffected by either."* – A.W. Tozer – Knowledge of the Holy
3. **Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
4. **Psalms 41:13** Blessed be YHWH, the God of Israel, From everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen.
5. **Psalms 90:2** Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.
6. **Isaiah 41:4** "Who has performed and accomplished it, Calling forth the generations from the beginning? 'I, YHWH, am the first, and with the last. I am He.'"
7. **Isaiah 43:13** "Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"
8. **Revelation 1:8** "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, " who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

**F. Omnipotent - Infinite as to Power and Ability**

1. **Description:** God is all-powerful and able to do whatever he wills. This power is exercised effortlessly and is limited by nothing outside God. God's Infinitude as applies to the power of God to accomplish.
2. *All His acts are done without effort. He expends no energy that must be replenished. His self-sufficiency makes it unnecessary for Him to look outside of Himself for a renewal of strength. All the power required to do all that He wills to do lies in undiminished fullness in His own infinite being.* – A.W. Tozer – Knowledge of the Holy

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3. **Genesis 18:14** “Is anything too difficult for YHWH? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”
4. **Numbers 11:23** YHWH said to Moses, “Is YHWH’s power limited? Now you shall see whether My word will come true for you or not.”
5. **Job 42:2** “I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.
6. **Psalms 115:3** But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.
7. **Jeremiah 32:17** ‘Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You,
8. **Matthew 19:26** And looking at them Jesus said to them, “With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”
9. **Luke 1:37** “For nothing will be impossible with God.”
10. **Ephesians 1:11** also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,
11. **Revelation 19:6** Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

**G. Omnipresent - Infinite as to Presence and Space**

1. **Description:** God is everywhere present in the fullness of His being. This allows Him to interact in any places at any times, even in multiple places simultaneously. Being in all locations present in the whole of His being, there is no place we can go and not be in His presence.
2. *“This is the fundamental thing, the most serious thing of all, that we are always in the presence of God.”*  
– D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones
3. *“He is not eternity and infinity, but eternal and infinite; He is not duration or space, but He endures and is present. He endures forever and is everywhere present; and by existing always and everywhere He constitutes duration and space.”* – Sir Isaac Newton
4. **Jeremiah 23:23-24** “Am I a God who is near,” declares YHWH, “And not a God far off? 24 “Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see him?” declares YHWH. “Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?” declares YHWH.
5. **Psalms 139:7-10** Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.
6. **Proverbs 15:3** The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.
7. **Matthew 28:20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
8. **Hebrews 13:5** Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,”

## H. Omniscient - Infinite as to Knowledge

1. **Description:** To say that God is omniscient is to say that He possesses perfect knowledge and therefore has no need to learn.

It is to say that God has always possessed all knowledge, including actual and possible, past, present, and future.

2. *“God knows instantly and effortlessly all matter and all matters, all mind and every mind, all spirit and all spirits, all being and every being, all creaturehood and all creatures, every plurality and all pluralities, all law and every law, all relations, all causes, all thoughts, all mysteries, all enigmas, all feeling, all desires, every unuttered secret, all thrones and dominions, all personalities, all things visible and invisible in heaven and in earth, motion, space, time, life, death, good, evil, heaven, and hell. Because God knows all things perfectly, He knows no thing better than any other thing, but all things equally well. He never discovers anything. He is never surprised, never amazed. He never wonders about anything nor (except when drawing men out for their own good) does He seek information or ask questions.”*

– A.W. Tozer – Knowledge of the Holy

3. **Psalms 94:11** YHWH knows the thoughts of man, That they are a mere breath
4. **Psalms 139:1-4** O YHWH, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. 3 You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O YHWH, You know it all.
5. **Psalms 147:5** Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.
6. **Proverbs 5:21** For the ways of a man are before the eyes of YHWH, And He watches all his paths.
7. **Proverbs 15:3** The eyes of YHWH are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.
8. **Ezekiel 11:5** Then the Spirit of YHWH fell upon me, and He said to me, “Say, “Thus says YHWH, “So you think, house of Israel, for I know your thoughts.
9. **Isaiah 65:24** “It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.
10. **Romans 11:33** Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!
11. **Hebrews 4:13** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

## I. Immutable – Infinite as to Constancy

1. **Description:** To say that God is immutable is to say that He never differs from Himself. He does not change for the better. He does not change for the worse. His character and nature never varies.
2. *“Only a being composed of parts may change, for change is basically a shift in the relation of the parts of a whole or the admission of some foreign element into the original composition. Since*

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*God is self-existent, He is not composed. There are in Him no parts to be altered. And since He is self-sufficient, nothing can enter His being from without.* – A.W. Tozer – Knowledge of the Holy

3. *“For a moral being to change it would be necessary that the change be in one of three directions. He must go from better to worse or from worse to better; or, granted that the moral quality remain stable, he must change within himself, as from miniature to mature or from one order of being to another. It should be clear that God can move in none of these directions. His perfections forever rule out any such possibility. God cannot change for the better. Since He is perfectly holy, He has never been less holy than He is now and can never be holier than He is and has always been. Neither can God change for the worse. Any deterioration within the unspeakably holy nature of God is impossible.* – A.W. Tozer – Knowledge of the Holy

**1 Samuel 15:29** “Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind.”

3. **Psalms 33:11** The counsel of YHWH stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.
4. **Psalms 90:2** Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.
5. **Psalms 103:17** But the lovingkindness of YHWH is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children’s children,
6. **Ecclesiastes 3:14** I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it, for God has so worked that men should fear Him.
7. **Malachi 3:6** “For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.
8. **Hebrews 1:12** AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END.”
9. **Hebrews 6:17** In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath,
10. **Hebrews 13:8** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
11. **James 1:17** Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

## J. Transcendent

1. **Description:** *God is not his creation. All of Creation is finite by nature and God is infinite by nature. Transcendence refers to the relation of God to creation. God is “other,” “different,” “beyond” His creation. He is independent and different from His creatures. He is beyond it and not limited by it or to it. This attribute relates to Imminence.*
2. *“The simple understanding of this awesome attribute makes it all the more humbling & praiseworthy that His transcendence never removes Him from intimate involvement in His*

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*peoples' lives. Remember that our transcendent God is also the omnipresent God & is never farther than a prayer away.* – Unknown

3. *We see the transcendent God not only drawing near to His creation but personally dwelling in the hearts and minds of His people through the power of His Holy Spirit. This is God's transcendence with His imminence.* – Unknown
4. **Isaiah 55:8-9** “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.
5. **Isaiah 57:15** For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, “I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.
6. **Psalms 113:5-6** Who is like the LORD our God, Who is enthroned on high, 6 Who humbles Himself to behold The things that are in heaven and in the earth?
7. **Acts 17:24-27** “The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; 26 and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

## K. Sovereign

1. **Description:** Sovereignty tells of God's right to rule and His divine control over everything that happens. There is nothing outside His control, not the designs of the wicked, not the workings of demons (even Satan), and not my own free will. His will is not and cannot be determined by anything outside Himself.
2. *“God's absolute, independent right of the disposing of all creatures according to His own pleasure.”*  
– Jonathan Edwards
3. *“Supreme in power; possessing supreme dominion; as a sovereign ruler of the universe. Supreme; superior to all others; chief. God is the sovereign good of all who love and obey him. Supremely efficacious; superior to all others; predominant; effectual...”*  
– 1828 Edition of Webster's Dictionary
4. *“The sovereignty of God may be defined as the exercise of His supremacy...Being infinitely elevated above the highest creature, He is the Most High, Lord of “heaven and earth. Subject to none, influenced by none, absolutely independent; God does as He pleases, only as He pleases, always as He pleases. None can thwart Him, none can hinder Him. So His own Word expressly declares: “My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure” ; “He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand.” Divine sovereignty means that God is God in fact, as well as in name, that He is on the Throne of the universe, directing all things, working all things “after the counsel of His own will”* – The Sovereignty of God, A.W. Pink

## what is God really like?

5. **Job 42:2** “I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.
6. **Psalms 115:3** But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.
7. **Psalms 135:6** Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.
8. **Isaiah 14:24,27** The LORD of hosts has sworn saying, “Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand, 27 “For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?”
9. **Isaiah 43:13** “Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?”
10. **Isaiah 46:9-11** “Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘ My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’; 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.
11. **Daniel 4:25** that you be driven away from mankind and your dwelling place be with the beasts of the field, and you be given grass to eat like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.
12. **Romans 8:28-31** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
13. **Romans 9:15-23** For He says to Moses, “I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION.” 16 So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH.” 18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires. 19 You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?” 20 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, “Why did you make me like this,” will it? 21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? 22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? 23 And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,
14. **Ephesians 1:11** also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

## what is God really like?

**VII. Why does this matter?**

A. **Question:** How does knowing about the Attributes of God affect me?

**1. Exercise: Knowing God's Attributes produces in me...**

**God's Holiness** produces in me \_\_\_\_\_

**God's Majesty** produces in me \_\_\_\_\_

**God's Grace** produces in me \_\_\_\_\_

**God's Self-Existence** produces in me \_\_\_\_\_

**God's Self-Sufficiency** produces in me \_\_\_\_\_

**God's Eternality** produces in me \_\_\_\_\_

**God's Infinitude** produces in me \_\_\_\_\_

**God's Omnipotence** produces in me \_\_\_\_\_

**God's Omnipresence** produces in me \_\_\_\_\_

**God's Omniscience** produces in me \_\_\_\_\_

**God's Justice** produces in me \_\_\_\_\_

**God's Sovereignty/Providence** produces in me \_\_\_\_\_

**God's Faithfulness** produces in me \_\_\_\_\_

**God's Love** produces in me \_\_\_\_\_

**VIII. Conclusion**

A. Prayer

**VIII. Addendum**

A. Study Sheets on the Incommunicable Attributes