

God and His Ways

Question. What is God?

Answer. God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.¹

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) was much more than an intellectual giant. He entered Yale at age thirteen.

A. W. Tozer noted some years ago that people who live fully aware of the greatness of God are uncommon indeed.

God is Spirit

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth. John 4:24 KJV	God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. John 4:24 NASB
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We should omit the indefinite article [a] before Spirit in the KJV translation. Greek has no such article. Jesus is not saying ‘God is one spirit among many.’ Rather His meaning is, ‘God’s essential nature is spirit.’

- God spiritual being is completely self-sufficient. Our service and worship do not meet some need that He has. God needs nothing. God does not _____ us, but we desperately _____ Him.
- Scripture clearly presents God as a person. God’s willingness to engage His creatures in a personal relationship sets Him apart from the lost person’s concept of deity.

God Is Infinite

When we say that God is *omnipresent*, we mean that space places no limits on Him.

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

David states that anywhere he could go, God would be present there. The reality of God’s omnipresence is a great comfort to the child of God.

When we say that God is *omniscient*, we mean that He knows all things actual and possible. By *actual* we mean all that exists or has existed and all that has happened or is happening. By *possible* we mean future things and

events, as well as events that may happen but never do. God also knows about events that never occur.

In Psalm 139, David praises God for knowing everything about him.

The Bible constantly presents God as *omnipotent*. Fifty-eight times the Bible refers to Him – and only Him – as “Almighty”.

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: James 1:13

It is not true, however, that God can do _____. He cannot do something that is contrary to His nature. God cannot lie (Heb. 6:18). He cannot be tempted to do evil.

- The fact that God is omnipotent does not mean He can create another being exactly like Himself (for God is, by nature and definition, uncreated).
- Nor does His omniscience mean He could create a being smarter than He is (for omniscience, by definition, means He already possesses all the knowledge there is).

We define *omnipotence* as God’s being able to do whatever *His perfect will* has determined to do.

God is Eternal

God’s eternity involves more than just His having no beginning and ending. He exists outside of time.

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. 2 Peter 3:8

God is Unchanging

God does not change. He never has a bad day. He always acts and reacts in a way that is consistent with His character as it is revealed in Scripture.

“All that God is He has always been, and all that He has been and is He will ever be.” Nothing that God has ever said about Himself will be modified; nothing the inspired prophets and apostles have said about Him will be rescinded. His *immutability* guarantees this.²

References

¹The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question Four.

²The Knowledge of the Holy, A. W. Tozer, , Chapter 9, 1961.

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General Reference

God and His Ways Teacher's Edition, by Layton Talbert, Ph.D., BJU Press 2001.

Chapter One Lesson Aim

List and give biblical explanations of God's attributes of: 1) greatness; 2) goodness. Demonstrate that the Bible does teach that God is triune.

Chapter One Outline

- I. God is Great
 - A. God is Spirit
 - B. God is Infinite
 - 1. Omnipresence
 - 2. Omniscience
 - 3. Omnipotence
 - C. God is Eternal
 - D. God is Unchanging
- II. God is Good
 - A. God is Holy
 - 1. Uniqueness
 - 2. Purity
 - B. God is True
 - C. God is Righteous
 - D. God is Just
 - E. God is Loving
 - 1. Kindness
 - 2. Patience
- III. God is Triune
 - A. There is One God
 - B. Three Persons Are Identified as God
 - 1. The Father Is God
 - 2. The Son Is God
 - 3. The Holy Spirit is God
 - C. These Three Persons Are Distinct

Fill in the Blanks

need (2 places)
anything