

# Biblical Solutions for Life Issues

## Topic 2 – The Attributes of God

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### Review

The Scriptures are clear that all believers (those who have exercised true saving faith) are **commanded** and **capable** to use the Scriptures in the power of the Holy Spirit to make disciples. All believers are able to use the Scriptures to address their own and others' life issues and sin. The purpose of these studies is to equip each of us so that through the sufficiency of Christ and the Scriptures we can mature, grow in our ability to apply the Scriptures to our own life issues and sin, and bring Biblical care to one another.

### Introduction

The pursuit of the knowledge of God is the highest pursuit.

<sup>23</sup>Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; <sup>24</sup>but **let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,**" declares the LORD. Jer 9:23-24

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."  
A.W. Tozer in "The Knowledge of the Holy"

God's creation displays His "invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made" (Rom 1:20). Yet, it is only in God's word (His specific revelation) that we see God's self-revealing of His character and works (See Psalm 19 for a description of both).

Our understanding of God and what we think about Him affects us deeply. When we understand God for who He has revealed Himself to be in His Word, all other affections fall away and we are driven to our knees in worship. Having a proper God-consciousness is critical to living a life pleasing to God.

<sup>6</sup>Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; <sup>7</sup>who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations." <sup>8</sup>**Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship.** Ex 34:6-8

<sup>3</sup>You keep him in perfect peace **whose mind is stayed on you**, because he trusts in you.

<sup>4</sup>Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. Isa 26:3-4 (ESV)

"When you study the Bible carefully with regard to the character of God, you wonder how we could possibly be distracted from something so incontestably foundational. But further when you plunge into the depths of His attributes, you wonder how anything else so soul-possessing could be a rival for man's attention. After all, if God be God, then nothing but nothing could be more important for man than, "the high and exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy" (Is. 57:15)." Barry E. Horner in "Who is the Lord? A Study of the Attributes of God"

"Focusing on the Attributes of God is one of the most proactive and preventive activities you can undertake in order to be prepared to overcome the snares of sin and Satan." Kenneth Mick Sr. in "Lion slayer: Using the right truth to slay the enemy"

There is no shortcut to the study of God. It is a lifelong pursuit and something that we should never be satisfied in the depth of our learning.

“There can be no condensed learning of God; the very thought is an insult to His transcendent majesty. Rather we have to learn ... what it is to slow down and meditate on the truth of His Being, to ruminate over, to ingest and digest the revelations concerning His holy character, to wonder overwhelmingly, to “be still [cease striving] and know that I am God” (Ps. 46:10) Barry E. Horner in “Who is the Lord? A Study of the Attributes of God”

### God’s Attributes

An attribute of God is either something that the Bible says is true about God or what the Bible shows is true about God. The attributes of God can be categorized multiple ways. Since God is transcendent over all (1 Kings 8:27; Isa 40:21-25) and also immanent (existing in all parts) in the world (Psa 139 see v7-10), theologians often discuss the attributes of God by dividing them into those two categories. Attributes that deal with God’s transcendency and belong to Him alone are called absolute or incommunicable or divine attributes. Those that deal with His immanency and are in some way found in man are called relative or communicable or personal attributes.

The resources consulted for this study were Wayne Grudem’s “Systematic Theology-An Introduction to Bible Doctrine”, Paul Washer’s “The One True God”, and Kenneth Mick’s “Lion Slayer-Using the right truth to slay the enemy”.

Following is a partial list of the attributes of God.

### Absolute, Incommunicable, or Divine Attributes

1. Glory – The composite of God’s attributes and essence; the sum total of what He is. Glory is the created brightness that surrounds God’s revelation of himself.

<sup>10</sup>Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, **He is the King of glory.** Psa 24:10

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great; **You are clothed with splendor and majesty,** <sup>2</sup>**Covering Yourself with light as with a cloak,** Stretching out heaven like a *tent* curtain. Psa 104:1-2

<sup>8</sup>“I am the LORD, that is My name; **I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.** Isa 42:8

<sup>18</sup>Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!" <sup>19</sup>And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion." Ex 33:18-19

“Name” refers to all that God is, the sum of His attributes. God’s glory is essential to His being. It is the composite of His attributes and essence; the sum total of what He is. It is the beauty, power, wisdom, and splendor of His character. God is infinitely glorious in nature, so we cannot add anything to Him.

“It is very appropriate that God’s revelation of himself should be accompanied by such splendor and brightness, for this glory of God is the visible manifestation of the excellence of God’s character. The greatness of God’s being, the perfection of all his attributes, is something that we can never fully comprehend, but before which we can only stand in awe and worship. Thus, it is appropriate indeed that the visible manifestation of God be such that we would be unable to gaze fully upon it, and that it would be so bright that it would call forth both great delight and deep awe from us when we behold it only in part.” Wayne Grudem in “Systematic Theology”

2. Beauty – God is the sum of all desirable qualities.

<sup>4</sup>One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, **To behold the beauty of the LORD** And to meditate in His temple. Psa 27:4

<sup>4</sup>For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. <sup>5</sup>For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens. <sup>6</sup>**Splendor and majesty are before Him, Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.** Psa 96:4-6

3. Greatness – God is high and lofty, He is above all things.

<sup>3</sup>**For the LORD is a great God And a great King** above all gods, Psa 95:3

<sup>4</sup>I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed and said, “Alas, **O Lord, the great and awesome God**, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, Dan 9:4

4. Infinity – God has no bounds or limits. He is not limited by time-space. He is beyond comprehension.

<sup>27</sup>“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! 1 Kings 8:27

<sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised, And **His greatness is unsearchable.** Psa 145:3

<sup>5</sup>Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; **His understanding is infinite.** Psa 147:5

<sup>8</sup>“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.

<sup>9</sup>“For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts. Isa 55:8-9

<sup>33</sup>Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! **How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!** Rom 11:33

5. Eternality – God always was and always will be; existing endlessly from eternity past to eternity future. He is free from the succession of time; all past, present, and future events are equally vivid to Him.

<sup>2</sup>Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, **Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.** Psa 90:2

<sup>28</sup>Do you not know? Have you not heard? **The Everlasting God**, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. Isa 40:28

<sup>17</sup>Now to the King **eternal, immortal**, invisible, the only God, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. 1 Tim 1:17

6. Independence – God does not need us or the rest of creation for anything.

<sup>24</sup>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; <sup>25</sup>**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;** Acts 17:24-25

<sup>13</sup>Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has informed Him? <sup>14</sup>With whom did He consult and *who* gave Him understanding? And *who* taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge And informed Him of the way of understanding? Isa 40:13-14

7. Immutability – God is unchanging and unchangeable. He is never inconsistent or developing.

<sup>17</sup>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.** James 1:17

<sup>6</sup>“For **I, the LORD, do not change**; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed. Mal 3:6

8. Omnipresence – God is present everywhere at all times.

<sup>7</sup>Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? <sup>8</sup>If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. <sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, <sup>10</sup>Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. <sup>11</sup>If I say, “Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night,” <sup>12</sup>Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike *to You*. Psa 139:7-12

<sup>3</sup>**The eyes of the LORD are in every place**, Watching the evil and the good. Prov 15:3

<sup>23</sup>“Am I a God who is near,” declares the LORD, “And not a God far off? <sup>24</sup>“Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see him?” declares the LORD. “Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?” declares the LORD. Jer 23:23-24

9. Omniscience – God knows all actual and possible things.

<sup>21</sup>For the **ways of a man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He watches all his paths.** Prov 5:21

<sup>21</sup>“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, **they would have repented** long ago in sackcloth and ashes. Matt 11:21

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*. <sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. <sup>3</sup>You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup>Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all. <sup>5</sup>You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup>*Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is *too* high, I cannot attain to it. Psa 139:1-6

10. Omnipotence – God is all powerful and able to accomplish anything consistent with His nature.

<sup>1</sup>Then Job answered the LORD and said, <sup>2</sup>“I know that **You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.** Job 42:1-2

<sup>3</sup>But our God is in the heavens; He **does whatever He pleases.** Psa 115:3

<sup>17</sup>“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,** Jer 32:17

<sup>6</sup>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.** Rev 19:6

11. Sovereignty – God is the supreme ruler – in control of all events. All things are under His rule and control, and nothing happens without His direction or permission. He works all things after the counsel of His own will. God's purpose is all inclusive and is never thwarted. Nothing takes Him by surprise.

<sup>25</sup>Have you not heard? Long ago I did it; From ancient times **I planned it Now I have brought it to pass**, ... 2 Kings 19:25

<sup>24</sup>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**, Isa 14:24

<sup>9</sup>"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, <sup>10</sup>**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'**; <sup>11</sup>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**. Isa 46:9-11

<sup>11</sup>also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined **according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will**, Eph1:11

<sup>28</sup>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. Rom 8:28

### Relative, Communicable, or Personal Attributes

1. Faithfulness – God will always do what He has promised to do. He is steadfast, unchanging, perfectly reliable, utterly dependable, and completely trustworthy.

<sup>89</sup>Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. <sup>90</sup>**Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations**; You established the earth, and it stands. Psa 119:89-90

<sup>9</sup>Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, **the faithful God**, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments; Deut 7:9

<sup>4c</sup>The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; **A God of faithfulness** and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He. Deut 32:4

<sup>4</sup>For the word of the LORD is upright, And **all His work is done in faithfulness**. Psa 33:4

<sup>13</sup>If we are faithless, **He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself**. 2 Tim 2:13

2. Righteousness – God always acts in accordance with what is right and is himself the final standard of what is right.

<sup>7</sup>For **the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness**; The upright will behold His face. Psa 11:7

<sup>14</sup>**Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne**; Lovingkindness and truth go before You. Psa 89:14

<sup>5</sup>**Gracious is the LORD, and righteous**; Yes, our God is compassionate. Psa 116:5

<sup>31</sup>because He has fixed a day in which **He will judge the world in righteousness** through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." Acts 17:31

<sup>25</sup>For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that **without partiality**. Col 3:25

3. Truth – God is the only real God. He acts only in truth and is exactly as He has revealed Himself.
- <sup>5</sup>“**I am the LORD, and there is no other**; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; Isa 45:5
- <sup>3</sup>This is eternal life, that they may know You, **the only true God**, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3
- <sup>2</sup>in the hope of eternal life, which **God, who cannot lie**, promised long ages ago, Titus 1:2
- <sup>18</sup>so that by two unchangeable things in which **it is impossible for God to lie**, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. Heb 6:18
4. Holiness – God is pure and separate from sin.
- <sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that **God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all**. 1 John 1:5
- <sup>11</sup>“Who is like You among the gods, O LORD? Who is like You, **majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?** Ex 15:11
- <sup>5</sup>Exalt the LORD our God And worship at His footstool; **Holy is He**. Psa 99:5
- <sup>3</sup>And one called out to another and said, “**Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.**” Isa 6:3
- <sup>15</sup>but **like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves** also in all your behavior; 1 Pet 1:15
5. Wrath – God intensely hates all sin.
- <sup>2</sup>A jealous and avenging God is the LORD; **The LORD is avenging and wrathful. The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies**. Nah 1:2
- <sup>6</sup>For it is because of these things that **the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience**, Col 3:6
- <sup>36</sup>He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but **he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.**” John 3:36
6. Jealous – God continually seeks to protect his own honor.
- <sup>4</sup>“You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>**You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God**, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, Ex 20:4
- <sup>14</sup>—**for you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God**— Ex 34:14
- <sup>58</sup>For they provoked Him with their high places **And aroused His jealousy with their graven images**. Psa 78:58

7. Love – God eternally gives of himself to others for their benefit.

<sup>3</sup>The LORD appeared to him from afar, *saying*, “**I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.** Jer 31:3

<sup>4</sup>But God, **being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,** <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), Eph 2:4-5

<sup>8</sup>The one who does not love does not know God, **for God is love.** 1 John 4:8

<sup>16c</sup>For **God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son**, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16

<sup>8</sup>But **God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.** Rom 5:8

8. Lovingkindness – God is benevolently good.

<sup>1</sup>**Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;** According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. Psa 51:1

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for **He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.** Psa 106:1

<sup>9</sup>**The LORD is good to all**, And His mercies are over all His works. Psa 145:9

<sup>7</sup>**The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble**, And He knows those who take refuge in Him. Nah 1:7

9. Compassion – God is good to those in difficulty.

<sup>19</sup>You, **in Your great compassion**, Did not forsake them in the wilderness; The pillar of cloud did not leave them by day, To guide them on their way, Nor the pillar of fire by night, to light for them the way in which they were to go. Neh 9:19

<sup>22</sup>**The LORD’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail.** Lam 3:22

<sup>13</sup>Just as a father has compassion on *his* children, So **the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.** Psa 103:13

10. Grace – God gives unmerited favor to undeserving people in salvation and sanctification.

<sup>13</sup>And rend your heart and not your garments.” Now return to the LORD your God, **For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness And relenting of evil.** Joel 2:13

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, **full of grace and truth.** John 1:14

<sup>8</sup>For **by grace you have been saved through faith;** and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; Eph 2:8

<sup>10</sup>After you have suffered for a little while, **the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ**, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you. 1 Pet 5:10

11. Longsuffering – God is patience toward those who deserve to be punished.

<sup>18</sup>‘The LORD is **slow to anger** and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth *generations*.’ Num 14:18

<sup>4</sup>Or do you think lightly of **the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?** Rom 2:4

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, <sup>15</sup>and **regard the patience of our Lord as salvation**; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 2 Pet 3:14-15

<sup>16</sup>Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, **Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience** as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. 1 Tim 1:16

### **Conclusion**

We must cultivate a deep understanding of who God is and what He has done for us in Christ (to come in a later lesson). When we see the high and lofty King for who He has revealed Himself to be in His Word it drives us to our knees in worship; it moves us to deep love for our creator; it cultivates a heart motive to obey, please, honor, and glorify Him.

<sup>1</sup>O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water. <sup>2</sup>Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. <sup>3</sup>Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise You. <sup>4</sup>So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. <sup>5</sup>My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips. Psa 63:1-5



**Biblical Solutions for Life Issues**  
**Topic 2 – The Attributes of God – Additional Study**

Re-read the passages on each attribute and answer the questions.

Glory – What does this tell me about my pride?

Beauty, greatness, infinity, and eternity – How should I view God?

Independence – How should I view my own importance?

Immutability – How should I view God's promises?

Omnipresence – How does this relate to my "secret" sins?

Omniscience – What does this tell me about my sinful thoughts?

Omnipotence – How is this related to my difficult times?

Sovereignty – How does God's glory and sovereignty work together in my difficult times?

Faithfulness – In addition, read 2 Pet 1:3 and explain what God's faithfulness means to believers who are committed to be doers of God's Word; read Heb 12:4-13 and explain what God's faithfulness means to those who have decided to continue in willful sin; read Psa 96:11-13 and Rev 19:11 and explain what God's faithfulness means to those who have not bowed in submission to Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Righteousness – How does this impact my view of God's fairness?

Truth – How should I view God's Word?

Holiness – What is preventing me from pursuing holiness?

Wrath – How motivated should I be to make disciples?

Jealous – Do I ascribe worth to things other than God?

Love, lovingkindness, compassion, grace, longsuffering – How thankful am I for God not giving me what I deserve?