

## *Attributes & Character of God*

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Taken from *The Knowledge Of The Holy* by A.W. Tozer

### Reading: Psalm 116

- An attribute of God is something that may be correctly ascribed to God, those things that God has in any way revealed to us as being true of Himself.
- If an attribute is something true of God, something that we can actually perceive as being true of Him, then knowing that God is infinite, He must then also possess attributes about which we can know nothing.

*“The heavens declare thy glory, Lord,  
In every star thy wisdom shines;  
But when our eyes behold Thy word,  
We read Thy name in fairer lines.”*  
Isaac Watts

- The study of God as He is revealed in Scripture is supremely important because every other doctrine in scripture refers to Him – it’s all about Him.
- What comes into our mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us.
- Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God.
- Our idea of God should correspond as closely as possible to the true being of God.
- Our traditions and false notions about God need to be discarded, we must instead adopt that which God speaks of Himself as revealed through the Word of God and through His Son Jesus.

**John 14:9** “... he that hath seen Me, hath seen the Father...”

1. **God is Incomprehensible:** God is beyond our understanding, beyond our ability to fully grasp.

**Job 37:5** “God thundereth marvelously with His voice; great things doeth He, which we cannot comprehend.”

**Isaiah 55:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith 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.”

**Psalm 145:3** “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable.”

2. **God is the Trinity:** God is a Unity and a Tri-unity all at once:

**1 John 5:7** “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are One.”

3. **God is Self-existent:** God’s existence is not dependent upon anything outside of Himself.

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

**Exodus 3:14** “And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and He said, thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.”

**Isaiah 41:4** “Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the Lord, the first, and with the last; I am He.”

**John 1:1** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

4. **God is Self-sufficient:** He is what He is, in Himself.

**John 5:26** “For as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself.”

- All life is in and from God, whether it be the lowest form of unconscious life or the highly self-conscious, intelligent life. No creature has life in itself; all life is a gift from God.

5. **God is eternal, from everlasting to everlasting:**

**Genesis 21:33** “And Abraham planted a grove in Beer-sheba, and called there on the name of the Lord, the everlasting God.” (El-Elyon)

**Psalm 90:2** “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”

6. **God is infinite:** “the infinitude of God”, the limitlessness of God. It is impossible for a limited mind to grasp the Unlimited. His love for us knows no bounds.

**Romans 11:33** “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!”

**Isaiah 48:13** “Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.”

**Psalms 113:4-6** “<sup>4</sup>The Lord is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens. <sup>5</sup>Who is like unto the Lord our God, who dwelleth on high, <sup>6</sup>who humbleth Himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth!”

7. **God is immutable, un-changing:**

**Malachi 3:6** “For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.”

**Romans 11:29** “For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.”

**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.”

**Hebrews 6:17-18** “<sup>17</sup>Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath: <sup>18</sup>That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.”

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

8. **God is omniscient, all knowing:** He knows all things.

**Proverbs 15:3** “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”

**Psalms 147:5** “Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite.”

**Romans 11:33** “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!”

9. **God is wise:** Wisdom is the proper application of knowledge.

**Daniel 2:20-21** “<sup>20</sup>Daniel answered and said, blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are His: <sup>21</sup>And He changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings and sitteth up kings: He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding.”

**Proverbs 2:6** “For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.”

**James 1:5** “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

10. **God is omnipotent, all powerful:** He is the Almighty God.

**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.”

**Matthew 19:26** “... but with God all things are possible.”

**Jeremiah 27:5** “I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by My great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto Me.”

**Revelation 4:8** “And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”

11. **God is transcendent:** God transcends, He is not limited by time and space.

**Psalms 90:2** “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”

- When we speak of God's as transcendent we mean that He is exalted far above the created universe, so far above that human thought cannot imagine it.

**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.”

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12. **God is omnipresent:** God is present everywhere at once. (He's not “in” everything)

**Psalms 139:7-10** “<sup>7</sup>Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? <sup>8</sup>If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. <sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; <sup>10</sup>even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.”

**Jeremiah 23:23-24** <sup>23</sup>“Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off? <sup>24</sup>Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? Do not I fill heaven and earth? Saith the Lord.”

13. **God is faithful:** because He is un-changing / immutable; He is at the same time faithful.

**1 Peter 4:19** “Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to Him in well-doing, as unto a faithful Creator.”

**1 John 1:9** “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

**Psalm 89:2** “For I have said, mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens.”

**2 Timothy 2:13** “If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself.”

14. **God is good:**

**Exodus 34:6-7** “And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, the Lord, the Lord is God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth...”

**Psalm 25:8** “Good and upright is the Lord: therefore will He teach sinners in the way.”

**Matthew 19:17** “... why callest thou Me good? There is none good but one, that is, God:...”

15. **God is just, righteous:**

**Psalm 89:14** “Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.”

**Revelation 19:2** “For true and righteous are his judgments:...”

**2 Timothy 4:8** “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.”

16. **God is merciful:**

**Psalm 103:8** “The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.”

**Psalm 36:5** “Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.”

17. **God is gracious:**

**Exodus 22:7** “... it shall come to pass, when he crieth unto Me, that I will hear; for I am gracious.”

**Psalm 86:15** “But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, gracious, and longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.”

**John 1:14** “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

18. **God is forgiving:**

**Psalm 103:2-3** “<sup>2</sup>Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: <sup>3</sup>Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;”

**Psalm 130:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? <sup>4</sup>But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.”

**Exodus 34:6-7** “<sup>6</sup>And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, the Lord, the Lord is God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, <sup>7</sup>keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,...”

19. **God is tenderhearted and compassionate:**

**Psalm 86:15** “But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, gracious, and longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.”

**Psalm 145:8** “The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.”

**Lamentations 3:22** “It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.”

20. **God is Spirit\*:**

**John 4:24** “God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

21. **God is alive\*:**

**Jeremiah 10:10** “But the Lord is the true God, He is the living God, and an everlasting king...”

**Matthew 22:32** “I am (“not I was”) the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”

**2 Corinthians 6:16** “And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God and they shall be My people.”

**1 Timothy 4:10** “For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.”

## 22. **God is love:**

**1 John 4:7-8** “<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. <sup>8</sup>He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”

**1 John 4:16** “And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.”

## 23. **God is Holy:**

**Joshua 24:19** “And Joshua said unto the people, ye cannot serve the Lord: for He is an Holy God; He is a jealous God;...”

**Psalms 99:9** “Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy.”

**Isaiah 30:15** “For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; in returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.”

**1 Peter 1:15-16** “<sup>15</sup>But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; <sup>16</sup>because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy.”

## 24. **God is Sovereign:**

**Deuteronomy 32:39** “See now that I, even I, am He, and there is no god with Me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of My hand.”

**Isaiah 46:9-10** “<sup>9</sup>Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like Me, <sup>10</sup>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.”

25. **God is Incomparable:** He cannot be compared to anything.

**Isaiah 40:18** “To whom then will ye liken God? Or what likeness will ye compare unto Him?”

**Isaiah 46:5** “To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like?”