

The Way of Christ Ministries
 Rev. Kevin Zwack
 PO Box 1545
 Westcliffe, CO 81252
<http://TheWayOfChrist.Church/>



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About God

John 17:3 *Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*¹

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1 Introduction

“The Bible does not argue about the existence of God, it declares it. The Bible does not give any proofs of the existence of God, it assumes it.” —Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones [14, pg. I:48]

The apostle John asserted that the world lacked the capacity to store all the books required to record the remarkable deeds of Jesus during his three-year ministry.² How much more extensive is the record of God’s actions since the dawn of time?

Upon disclosing all the revelations he had received from his Father, Jesus affectionately referred to his disciples as “friends”:

John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

We can establish a friendship with God by gaining knowledge of him, adhering to His commandments, and forming a personal connection with him, which is the central theme of this discourse.

1.1 The Importance of Learning About God

“Disregard the study of God, and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through life blindfolded, as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you. This way you can waste your life and lose your soul.” — J. I. Packer [18, pg. 19]

Jeremiah 9:23–24 This is what the LORD says: “Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the LORD.

To comprehend the essence of God is the most profound, noble, and significant endeavor that any individual can undertake. What could possibly surpass the importance of understanding the creator of all existence, the architect of the universe, and the source of our own creation? The apostle Paul eloquently expressed this sentiment:

Colossians 1:15–17 The Son [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

² *John 21:25 Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.*

Philippians 3:7–11 *But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.*

Indeed, it is an extraordinary concept to comprehend the almighty God, at least to the extent that mortal beings with finite minds can grasp. There are aspects of God that transcend our comprehension, as theologians refer to this as the *incomprehensibility of God* or *Divine incomprehensibility*. Consequently, the knowledge we acquire of God through His revelations is limited and partial. For further insights into the coexistence of knowability and incomprehensibility in relation to God, please refer to the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/59jkr8ca>.

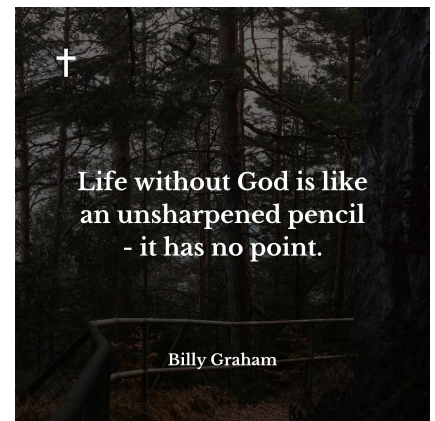
Deuteronomy 29:29 *The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever; that we may follow all the words of this law.*

Isaiah 55:8–9 *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

Romans 11:33–34 *Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?”*

As our understanding of God’s infinite power, glory, and majesty expands, we are naturally humbled and compelled to both worship and glorify him. Fortunately, God descended upon humanity in the form of His son, Jesus, whom we can comprehend and relate to due to His physical presence and ability for human interaction. As created in God’s image, we lack the capacity to fully comprehend ourselves or the world without knowledge of God.

Undoubtedly, God possesses immense attributes such as vastness, complexity, intelligence, and power. Consequently, no finite number of books or sermons can provide a comprehensive understanding of His nature. In this discourse, we will briefly explore the fundamental aspects of God’s existence. However, achieving a complete comprehension of God’s revelation requires years of dedicated study and prayer. I firmly believe that an individual can dedicate their entire life to learning about God yet still fall short of grasping all that he has disclosed to us.



It is reassuring to know that we can receive divine blessings, including the forgiveness of our sins, ultimate salvation, and the promise of eternal life, despite our sinful imperfections. Nevertheless, our knowledge of God should take precedence over the acquisition of blessings. Our focus should be on comprehending the source of these gifts rather than solely on the gifts themselves.

Regrettably, there exist individuals who reject God or deny His existence, thereby jeopardizing their eternal well-being.

2 Thessalonians 1:8 *He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*

1.2 Theology and Theology Proper

Theology is the academic discipline that explores the nature of God and, in a broader context, the principles and teachings of Judeo-Christian religion. The term theology may be somewhat misleading, as God is not a subject that can be examined under a microscope in the manner of scientific disciplines. Unlike other “-ology” branches of science, theology focuses on understanding what God has revealed about himself. If one’s study is limited to God alone, excluding other aspects of Judeo-Christian religion, this discipline is referred to as *Theology Proper*.

In addressing the profound question of “Who is God?”, the Westminster Shorter Catechism presents a succinct and comprehensive response:

“God is a spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.”

Human philosophy or contemporary thought typically commences with humanity and may potentially culminate in the formulation of a divine entity or the creation of a false deity. However, this approach is erroneous, as the existence of God predates mankind, and God created humanity in His own image. The foundation of existence lies in God.

Throughout this discourse, it is crucial to distinguish between an impersonal, unknowable superbeing and our God, who is a person (actually three persons in one, as elucidated in the subsequent section). This divine being possesses an unwavering love and desires a personal relationship with humanity. He yearns for us to seek him out and establish a connection with him.

1.3 The Holy Trinity

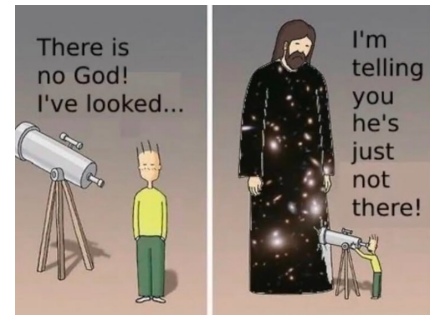
To prevent this teaching from becoming excessively lengthy, I have composed a separate teaching on the blessed *Holy Trinity*, with the intention of elucidating this doctrine concerning the nature of God. Essentially, God is three distinct persons united in one: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each of these persons is a fully realized being, yet they are all part of the same divine essence, each is fully God.

2 General Revelation

There are numerous phenomena in nature that provide insights into the existence of God, including the night sky, human history, and the human conscience. Theologians collectively refer to these natural sources of revelation as *General Revelation*. The existence of God is evident to anyone who observes nature, as the Apostle Paul aptly stated:

Romans 1:20 *For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.*

Furthermore, anyone who has engaged in outdoor activities such as hiking or observing birds in flight, or witnessed the birth of a child, should recognize the divine presence in creation. The contemporary understanding of the material universe encompasses space, time, energy, and matter. (It is also possible that it contains dark matter and spiritual elements, neither of which are readily observable to us.) All of these elements were brought into existence by God, implying that God created the universe and all its contents.



Over the past century, scientific advancements have revealed that our universe and life itself exhibit a remarkable level of sophistication in their design, challenging the initial human perception of their simplicity. This suggests the existence of an intelligent designer, as proposed by various scholars such as Behe, Dembski, Gonzalez, McGrath, and Meyer [1, 6, 9, 16, 17], who is responsible for the creation of all things. Notably, this concept aligns with the Christian belief in the divine creation, as outlined in a portion of the Bible:

Genesis 14:19 . . . *and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.*

Psalms 95:6 *Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker;*

Psalms 121:2 *My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

Psalms 147:4–5 *He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.*

Isaiah 40:28 *Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.*

Acts 4:23–24 *On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.*

Throughout history, God has manifested his presence, particularly in his interactions with the nation of Israel. God could have simply permitted the Israelites to depart from Egypt, but by fortifying the Pharaoh's heart, God demonstrated His immense power and grandeur through the ten plagues inflicted upon Egypt and the subsequent parting of the Red Sea, as recorded in the Book of [Exodus 5:1–14](#).

God has also manifested himself in the human conscience. This means that God has imprinted himself upon our hearts by bestowing upon us intuitive moral principles:

Jeremiah 31:33 *“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.*

Romans 2:14–15 *(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.)*

Humans possess an innate inclination to believe in the existence of a divine being and a profound desire to establish a connection with this entity. New Christian converts frequently express an inexplicable “longing” that they endeavored to fulfill. Renowned mathematician, physicist, and philosopher Blaise Pascal eloquently articulated this sentiment, stating:

“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ.” — Blaise Pascal (1623–1662).

If we attempt to fill the void with anything other than God, as many individuals do to their own detriment by resorting to alcohol, drugs, materialism, inappropriate relationships, and so forth, we inevitably fall into many troubles. Consequently, due to humanity's fallen state and sinful disposition, we do not seek God as we ought to. Fortunately, in an enigmatic manner, God draws certain individuals to himself:

John 6:44 *“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.*

Only if we seek God with all our heart will we find him:

Jeremiah 29:13–14 *You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”*

We must exercise caution, as the teaching of our Enemy, the *Devil*, employs extensive measures to prevent us from believing in the existence of God:

2 Corinthians 4:4 *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

3 Special Revelation

The acts in which God reveals himself or His Word to specific individuals on certain occasions are known as *Theophanies*, e.g. Moses and the burning bush (*Exodus 3:1–22*). These are collectively referred to as *Special Revelation*. Genuine miracles performed by God or one of His agents are also considered Special Revelation. Other forms of Special Revelation include prayer, prophecy, Scripture, Christ himself, dreams, and other personal experiences. In the following subsections, we will examine specific instances from the Bible that illustrate God's revelation.

3.1 God in the Psalms

The *Book of Psalms* in our bible tells us a great deal about God, as shown in [Table 1](#).

Table 1: *God in the Psalms*

God is . . .	Scripture
All-knowing and ever present	Psalms 139
Beautiful and desirable	Psalms 27; 36; 45
The Creator	Psalms 8; 104; 148
Good and generous	Psalms 34; 81; 107
Great and sovereign	Psalms 33; 89; 96
Holy	Psalms 66; 99; 145
Loving and faithful	Psalms 23; 42; 51
Merciful and forgiving	Psalms 32; 111; 130
Powerful	Psalms 76; 89; 93
Willing to reveal his will, law, and direction	Psalms 1; 19; 119
Righteous and just	Psalms 71; 97; 113
Spirit	Psalms 104; 139; 143
Our Protector	Psalms 18, 28, 31, 52, 62, 71, 78, 84, 89, 90, 92, 95, 115, 121, 144

Partially adapted from the *Life Application Study Bible NIV — Study Bible Notes*, re. Psalms 104

3.2 God in the Proverbs

The *Book of Proverbs* is a literary work that delves into the realm of *wisdom* and wise living. It frequently centers on an individual's response and attitude towards the divine, who is regarded as the source of profound wisdom. Numerous proverbs elucidate various aspects of God's character. Acquiring knowledge of God serves

as a pivotal catalyst in the journey towards wisdom. The Book of Proverbs provides valuable insights into the nature of God, as elucidated in [Table 2](#).

Table 2: God in Proverbs

God is . . .	Scripture
Aware of all that happens	Proverbs 15:3
Knows the hearts of all people	Proverbs 15:11; 16:2; 21:2
Controls all things	Proverbs 16:33; 21:30
Is a place of safety	Proverbs 18:10
Rescues good people from danger	Proverbs 11:8, 21
Condemns the wicked	Proverbs 11:31
Hears and delights in our prayers	Proverbs 15:8, 29
Loves those who obey him	Proverbs 15:9; 22:12
Cares for the poor and needy	Proverbs 15:25; 22:22, 23
Tests and purifies hearts	Proverbs 17:3
Hates evil	Proverbs 17:5; 21:27; 28:9
Our response should be . . .	
To fear and revere God	Proverbs 10:27; 14:26, 27; 15:16; 16:6; 19:23; 28:14
To obey God's Word	Proverbs 13:13; 19:16
To please God by doing what is right and just	Proverbs 21:3
To trust in God	Proverbs 22:17–19; 29:25

Adapted from the *Life Application Study Bible NIV* — *Study Bible Notes*, re. Proverbs 15:3

3.3 Names of God

God employed an intriguing strategy to establish his identity with his people by employing a diverse array of names. Individuals proficient in the Hebrew language would have readily comprehended the significance of these names., [Table 3](#). For detailed explanations, kindly consult [\[23\]](#) or [\[11\]](#).

3.4 God in the Old Testament Law

As God communicated through Moses, the nation of Israel received the Mosaic Law, also known as the Old Testament Law, comprising approximately 613 regulations that the Israelites were to adhere to until the advent of the Messiah, Jesus. For further insights into the contemporary relevance of the Old Testament Law for Christians, please refer to my teaching [The Old Testament Law](#).

Psalms 1:1-2 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night.

By diligently studying and meditating upon God's divine laws, we gain profound insights into His character, moral principles, and most notably, His unwavering holiness.

Table 3: Names of God

Name	Meaning	Scripture
Adonai	Lord/Master (plural)	Deu 10:17, Psm 8, Isa 40:3–5, Ezk 16:8, Hab 3:19
El/Elim/Eloah	God (mighty, strong, prominent)	Exo 15:2, Num 23:22, Deu 7:9
El Elohe Yisrael	God, God of Israel	Gen 33:20, Exo 5:1, Ps 68:8, 106:48
Elohim	God/Deity (plural)	Gen 1:1–3, Deu 10:17, Psm 68
El-Shaddai	God almighty	Gen 17:1–3, 48:3, 49:25, 35:11, Psm 90:2
El Elyon	God most high	Gen 14:18–22, Psm 78:35, Dan 4:34
El Olam	Everlasting God	Gen 21:33, Psm 90:1–2, Isa 40:28
El-Roi ⁴	God who sees	Gen 16:11–14, Psm 139:7–12
Immanuel	God with us	Isa 7:14, 8:8–10, Mat 1:23
YHWH (Yahweh)	God's proper name, "to be"	Gen 4:1, Exo 3:14, Mal 3:6
Jehovah	Lord, derived from YHWH/Adonai, I AM, one who is, self-existent one	Exo 3:14, 6:2–4, 34:5–7, Psm 102
Jehovah-Jireh	the Lord will provide	Gen 22:13–14, Psm 23
Jehovah-Raphe	the Lord that heals	Exo 15:25–27, Psm 103:3, 147:3
Jahovah-Nissi	the Lord our banner	Exo 17:15–16, Deu 20:3–4, Isa 10–12
Jehovah-M'Kaddesh	the Lord who sanctifies	Lev 20:7–8
Jehovah-Shalom	the Lord our peace	Num 6:22–27, Jdg 6:22–24, Isa 9:6
Jehovah-Rohi	the Lord my shepherd	Psm 23:1–3, Isa 53:6
Jehovah-Tsidkenu	the Lord our righteousness	Jer 23:5–6, 33:16, Ezk 36:26–27
Jehovah-Shammah	the Lord is present, the Lord is my companion	Ezk 48:35, Psm 46
Jehovah-Sabaoth ⁵	the Lord of Hosts, Lord of armies	1Sa 1:3, 17:45, Psm 46:76, Mal 1:10–14
Jehovah-Maccaddeshem ⁵	the Lord thy sanctifier	Exo 31:12–13
Joshua/Jesus	the Lord saves	Mat 1:21
Ishmael	the Lord hears	Gen 16:11
Ancient of Days	Eternal	Dan 7:9,13,22

⁴ [22, pg. 53]

⁵ [7, pg. 198]

Psalms 119:97–98 *Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands are always with me and make me wiser than my enemies.*

3.5 God in the Gospel Accounts

As we delve into the four gospel accounts of Jesus' ministry, we gain insights into the nature of God and the three persons of the *Holy Trinity*. Notably, all books of the Bible impart knowledge about God. Each book serves as a component of a larger puzzle, and only by comprehending the entirety of the Bible can we obtain a comprehensive understanding of God's attributes and teachings.

4 The Nature of God

Attempting to fully encapsulate the essence of God is an insurmountable challenge. Theologians typically employ lists of qualities, attributes, or characteristics that God has disclosed to humanity about His divine nature. Charles Ryrie, as cited in [22, pg. 39], prefers to refer to these as “perfections” because all of God's attributes are flawless. Recognizing the inadequacy of human language in adequately describing God, we must acknowledge that His essence transcends any limitations imposed by our attempts to articulate him.

4.1 God is One

Despite the existence of three persons in the divine trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), God is considered indivisible or atomic, lacking any constituent parts that can be separated. While the Messiah and the Holy Spirit are mentioned in the Old Testament, the concept of the Holy Trinity was not taught to the Israelites during that era as they were susceptible to believing in numerous false deities.

Jeremiah 2:27–28 *They say to wood, ‘You are my father,’ and to stone, ‘You gave me birth.’ They have turned their backs to me and not their faces; yet when they are in trouble, they say, ‘Come and save us!’ Where then are the gods you made for yourselves? Let them come if they can save you when you are in trouble! For you, Judah, have as many gods as you have towns.*

Deuteronomy 6:4 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*

4.2 God is Eternal

God is eternal, which means infinite in relation to time. God has always existed without a beginning or an end. The Bible does not attempt to explain God's origin; rather, it simply asserts that God's existence is axiomatic.

Genesis 21:33 *Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the LORD, the Eternal God.*

Deuteronomy 33:27a *The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.*

Jeremiah 10:10a *But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King.*

Psalms 90:2 *Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*

Psalms 93:1-2 *The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength; indeed, the world is established, firm and secure. Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity.*

Psalms 102:24–27 *So I said: “Do not take me away, my God, in the midst of my days; your years go on through all generations. In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.*

Please refer to the entry for “El Olam” (Everlasting God) in [Table 3](#). God is eternal and transcends time, yet this does not imply a lack of comprehension of time or the concept of succession. In the act of creation, God established time.

Daniel 6:26 *“I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. “For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end.*

4.3 God is Spirit

John 4:24 *God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”*

God is a spiritual entity, which defines His essence, therefore, God is immaterial and incorporeal, as that which is spiritual does not possess flesh and bones. This is one of the reasons for the second commandment and other commands against creating graven images and idols:

Deuteronomy 5:8 *“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.*

Deuteronomy 4:15–19 *You saw no form of any kind the day the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the fire. Therefore watch yourselves very carefully, so that you do not become corrupt and make for yourselves an idol, an image of any shape, whether formed like a man or a woman, or like any animal on earth or any bird that flies in the air, or like any creature that moves along the ground or any fish in the waters below. And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars—all the heavenly array—do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshiping things the LORD your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven*

God descended upon Earth in the form of a human being, Jesus Christ, through his incarnation. Following Christ's atoning death on the cross, his body was

laid to rest in a tomb. On the third day, he rose again, not as a spirit, but as his physical flesh and bones emerged from the tomb. Subsequently, his physical body ascended into the heavens:

Luke 24:39 *Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.*"

Acts 1:9 *After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.*

4.4 God is Invisible

Since God is a spirit and we typically cannot perceive spiritual entities in our current state, God remains invisible to us. Nevertheless, we can witness His presence and actions in our lives and the world. Furthermore, we can discern His nature through the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 1:17 *Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

Colossians 1:15 *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*

Hebrews 11:27 *By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.*

One day, we may be fortunate enough to witness the presence of God. It is an exciting prospect to imagine such an encounter! May we earnestly pray that God will purify our hearts, enabling us to perceive him as he truly is.

Matthew 5:8 *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

4.5 God is Alive

The Bible contains approximately thirty verses that refer to the "living God." Since God is a spirit, which excludes God from being either a material substance or an inanimate substance; we must conclude that God is alive. Consequently, this eliminates the erroneous worldview known as Pantheism, which posits that God exists in rocks, trees, and other objects, which God created. It is imperative to maintain the distinction between the creator and his creation, ensuring that the creator remains infinitely greater than his creation. For further reference, please see section [5.2](#) below.

4.6 God is Self-Existent

God's self-existence posits that His existence is not contingent upon any external entity. It is important to note that God's self-existence is rooted in His inherent nature, not His will. Refer to God's name "Jehovah" in [Table 3](#).

Conversely, the existence of our world and, consequently, the entire universe is contingent upon the existence of God, who sustains and maintains His creation. Refer to [Psalm 104:1—35](#).

Psalms 3:5 *I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.*

Psalms 54:4 *Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me.*

Psalms 147:6 *The LORD sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground.*

4.7 God is Immortal

Romans 1:23 . . . *and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.*

1 Timothy 1:17 *Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

As previously asserted, God is self-existent, eternal, and everlasting. Consequently, it is logically inferred that God possesses immortality, rendering the notion of God's death entirely erroneous. Throughout history, certain individuals have asserted the notion that "God is dead," but their statements are utterly false and devoid of any basis in reality.

4.8 God is a Person

God is a person, not a human being. Rather, God possesses a personality and is a rational, sentient, and self-aware being. God is male, as are all three persons of the Holy Trinity, as the Bible consistently employs masculine pronouns for them (he, him, his) and the terms father and son.

God possesses numerous human characteristics, such as intellect ([Psalms 139:17](#), [Isaiah 55:8–9](#)), emotions ([Psalms 78:40–41](#)), and self-will ([1 Corinthians 1:1](#), [Luke 22:15](#)). It is crucial to emphasize that human beings were created in the image of God ([Genesis 1:26–27](#), [Genesis 9:6](#)), implying that we were endowed with many of God's attributes, not the other way around.

Some individuals, including self-proclaimed Christians, erroneously construct a fabricated deity that aligns with their own perceptions, ideologies, and interpretations of God. They disregard the sacred text and devise a god that conforms to their own preconceived notions.

Although God is a spiritual being rather than a physical entity, he bestowed upon humanity the five senses, which are analogous to His anthropomorphic attributes. Each of the three persons of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—possesses these same qualities, and each is an individual entity. Unlike human beings, God, as a person, embodies perfection in all aspects and holiness.

4.8.1 God Sees

God sees:

Genesis 16:13 *She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me.”*

Proverbs 15:3 *The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.*

Proverbs 5:21 *For your ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all your paths.*

Hebrews 4:13 *Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

4.8.2 God Hears

God hears:

Psalms 34:15–16 *The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry; but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to blot out their name from the earth.*

1 John 5:14 *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*

God listens to and delights in the prayers of the upright:

Proverbs 15:8 *The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him.*

Proverbs 15:29 *The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.*

4.8.3 God Understands Taste

Although God does not consume food or require sustenance, he comprehends the concept of taste:

Proverbs 24:13 *Eat honey, my son, for it is good; honey from the comb is sweet to your taste.*

4.8.4 God Understands Aromas

God comprehends our sense of smell:

Genesis 8:21 *The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.*

Numbers 15:3 . . . *and you present to the LORD food offerings from the herd or the flock, as an aroma pleasing to the LORD—whether burnt offerings or sacrifices, for special vows or freewill offerings or festival offerings—*

4.8.5 God Feels

Although God lacks the sensory experience of touch, God comprehends the concepts of pleasure and pain, as well as sensations of heat and cold, etc.

4.9 The Creator of All Things

Since God is the sole entity of eternity, he is the creator and sustainer of all existence. Consequently, God brought the universe into existence *ex nihilo* (from nothingness). Astrophysicists are highly certain that the universe emerged during the —em Big Bang, and there was nothing preceding this event. However, they lack a plausible explanation for the cause of the Big Bang. In contrast, Scripture asserts that God created the universe, likely through the initiation of the Big Bang. As the creator, God holds dominion over the universe and all its contents:

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

2 Chronicles 2:12a *And Hiram added: "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who made heaven and earth!"*

Nehemiah 9:6 *You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.*

Psalms 8:3–8 *When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.*

Psalms 33:6 *By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath[/Spirit] of his mouth.*

Psalms 74:15–17 *It was you who opened up springs and streams; you dried up the ever-flowing rivers. The day is yours, and yours also the night; you established the sun and moon. It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.*

Psalms 95:3–5 *For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.*

Acts 7:48–50 *"However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands. As the prophet says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord. Or where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things?"*

Psalms 115:15 *May you be blessed by the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

Jeremiah 27:5 *With my great power and outstretched arm I made the earth and its people and the animals that are on it, and I give it to anyone I please.*

The phrase “Maker of heaven and earth” also occurs in [Psalms 124:8](#), [Psalms 134:3](#), [Psalms 146:6](#). See also [Psalms 104:1–35](#).

Colossians 1:16–17 *For in him [Jesus] all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

Hebrews 11:3 *By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*

Revelation 4:11 *“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”*

There is also overwhelming scientific evidence that the universe had an intelligent designer; the universe did not form itself by random chance. See the selection of resources in the bibliography and the bookstore at the Discovery Institute, <https://www.discovery.org/> for more information.

Jesus addressed God as “Lord of heaven and earth,” affirming that God is not only the creator of all things but also the supreme ruler of His entire creation:

Matthew 11:25a *At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. . .*

4.9.1 God Controls All Things

God, the omnipotent deity, governs all aspects of the universe, encompassing even the most minute details:

Proverbs 16:33 *The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.*

It is noteworthy that we can discern God’s will through methods such as casting lots, for instance, by flipping a coin or rolling dice. Christians should refrain from relying on democratic principles to guide their churches, as human wisdom is inherently flawed and susceptible to demonic influence ([James 3:13–17](#)).

Proverbs 21:30 *There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD.*

Proverbs 21:31 *The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the LORD.*

Psalms 44:6–7 *I put no trust in my bow, my sword does not bring me victory; but you give us victory over our enemies, you put our adversaries to shame.*

Ephesians 1:11 *In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will. . . .*

“This control extends as much to sentient beings as to inanimate objects. He can turn the heart of the king into any direction he

sees fit ([Proverbs 21:1](#)). *He is the potter who has the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use ([Romans 9:21](#)). There can be no degrees of difficulty with an omnipotent God.* — D.A. Carson [2, pp. 49–50]

4.9.2 God Loves Variety

Observe the remarkable diversity in God's creation, encompassing plants, aquatic life, birds, land animals, and humans. God cherishes variety. We should never harbor contempt for individuals based on their physical attributes, such as skin color or differences from our own. Instead, we should recognize and appreciate the reflection of God's love for diversity in these individuals.

Our divine creator possesses an artistic and creative nature. In imbuing us with His divine essence, he bestowed upon us a diverse array of talents and professions, including artists, musicians, explorers, scientists, doctors, nurses, and countless others who embody the essence of godliness. Through these unique interests, abilities, and gifts, he empowers us to serve His kingdom with distinction and purpose.

False believers, children of the devil, seek homogeneity. They desire a world where everyone is white, English-speaking, holds the same social and political ideologies, and shares their animosity towards the same individuals and entities.

5 God's Non-Moral Attributes

Subsequently, we will explore the concept of "God's non-moral attributes," also referred to as "God's Omnis."

5.1 Omnipotent

Omnipotence, a defining characteristic of God, encompasses the boundless nature of His power, enabling him to accomplish any task that aligns with His divine essence. God, the Almighty, exercises His infinite authority in accordance with His will, rendering the impossible and the seemingly insurmountable mere stepping stones in His divine plan.

Genesis 18:14a *Is anything too hard for the LORD?*

Jeremiah 10:12 *But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding.*

Jeremiah 32:17 *"Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.*

Jeremiah 32:27 *"I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?"*

Matthew 19:26 *Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

Luke 1:37 (ESV) *For nothing will be impossible with God.*

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”*

The divine possesses the authority to control the processes of life and death:

Deuteronomy 32:39 *“See now that I myself am he! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of my hand.*

1 Samuel 2:6 *“The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up.*

Psalms 68:20 *Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign LORD comes escape from death.*

Luke 12:5 *But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.*

The omnipotent deity exercises control over even the most minute and seemingly random aspects of existence:

Proverbs 16:33 *The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.*

Even seemingly insignificant events, such as the flipping of a coin or the rolling of dice, adhere to the principles of physics and randomness. Despite this, God maintains control over the outcomes, ensuring that everything transpires in accordance with His divine will.

5.2 Omnipresent

God is immeasurably vast, encompassing an infinite extent within the confines of space-time. God transcends the boundaries of the universe, yet simultaneously permeates it. God's presence is omnipresent, encompassing all of creation, including the Earth and the vast expanse of the cosmos:

Deuteronomy 4:39 *Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other.*

Joshua 2:11 *When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.*

1 Kings 8:27 *“But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!*

Psalms 139:7–12 *Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I*

say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,” even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Jeremiah 23:23–24 “Am I only a God nearby,” declares the LORD, “and not a God far away? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?” declares the LORD. “Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the LORD.

The concept of God’s omnipresence does not equate to [Pantheism](#), which posits that God and the universe are one and the same, encompassing both the creator and the creation. The doctrine of God’s omnipresence asserts that God is present throughout the universe, but it does not imply that God is the universe itself. It is crucial to distinguish between the creator and the creation. As the creator of all things, God maintains a separate existence from his creation, similar to how a builder can occupy a house but is not synonymous with the house itself. See also my teaching titled [World Views](#).

5.3 Omniscient

God possesses infinite knowledge, comprehending His own nature and the entirety of all living beings and other phenomena with absolute perfection:

Psalms 139:1–4 You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.

Isaiah 55:8–9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Our divine God possesses an unparalleled understanding of our innermost thoughts, motivations, and emotions:

Proverbs 15:11 Death and Destruction lie open before the LORD—how much more do human hearts!

Proverbs 16:2 All a person’s ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD.

Proverbs 21:2 A person may think their own ways are right, but the LORD weighs the heart.

God possesses an unparalleled ability to discern even the most minute details:

Luke 12:6–7 Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

1 John 3:20 If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Hebrews 4:13 *Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

5.4 Omnitemporal

God is transcendent, existing beyond the confines of time and space. This attribute enables God to possess knowledge of the past, present, and future simultaneously. Consequently, God transcends the linear progression of time. Two theories exist to explain this phenomenon:

1. Given the omnipresence of God, it is logically inferred that he occupies all three dimensions of space: height, width, and depth. The concept of a fourth dimension, encompassing time, which is widely accepted by physicists, it follows that God's presence extends to this fourth dimension as well.
2. Astrophysicists posit that time emerged concurrently with the universe's formation. Consequently, it is believed that God, the creator of the universe, also created time. This implies that God exists independently of or beyond the confines of time.

In contrast, we, as physical beings, are confined within the confines of God's creation. Our existence in our current form is contingent upon this spatial-temporal continuum, and for us, time flows in a monotonous progression, akin to the relentless flow of a river.

5.5 Immutable

God's character remains unchanging, and His plans are unwavering. He possesses absolute perfection, and there is nothing for him to learn or improve upon:

Psalms 33:11 (NET) *The LORD's decisions stand forever; his plans abide throughout the ages.*

Malachi 3:6 *"I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.*

James 1:17 *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*

Hebrews 13:8 *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

God's character remains unchanging, yet His interactions with individuals undergo alterations, as documented in Scripture. This raises a pertinent inquiry regarding the efficacy of *prayer*. When we engage in prayer, God not only anticipates our requests but also orchestrates them to fulfill His divine purpose. In the following instance, God's demeanor appears to undergo a shift, or at the very least, His approach to individuals changes:

Exodus 32:7–14 *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have been quick*

to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.' 'I have seen these people,' the LORD said to Moses, 'and they are a stiff-necked people. Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.'

But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. "LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.' ". Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

God said he would destroy the Israelites because they created and worshiped an idol in the form of golden calf. However, Moses pleaded with the Lord on their behalf, and the Lord relented and did not destroy them.

While prayer does not alter God's nature, it can sometimes influence His decisions. Typically, God transforms us through our prayers. In the aforementioned example, Moses demonstrated increased assertiveness before God and intervened for the Israelites for the first time.

5.6 Sovereign

Psalms 135:6–7 The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths. He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth; he sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from his storehouses.

Isaiah 25:8 . . . he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken.

God is the supreme and primary being and power in the universe. His sovereignty implies that God acts according to his own will, at his own time, and in his own manner, and he is not subject to any external authority or permission. He is not bound by any constraints or limitations. He possesses absolute freedom to act as he pleases.

Job 42:1–2 Then Job replied to the LORD: "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Psalms 115:3 Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.

Proverbs 19:21 *Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.*

Isaiah 14:27 *For the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?*

Isaiah 43:13 *Yes, and from ancient days I am he. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?"*

Isaiah 61:1a *The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.*

Daniel 4:35 *All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"*

Ephesians 1:4–5 *For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—*

The concept of God's sovereignty and human free will presents one of the numerous antinomies found in the Scriptures. This topic has been a subject of profound theological debate for millennia. Despite God's sovereignty, human beings are not absolved of responsibility for their actions, as the Apostle wrote in [Romans 9:1–33](#).

5.7 Wise

God's [wisdom](#) infinitely surpasses that of man; man's wisdom is demonic and foolishness to God ([James 3:13–17](#)).

Isaiah 28:29 *All this also comes from the LORD Almighty, whose plan is wonderful, whose wisdom is magnificent.*

Romans 11:33 *Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!*

1 Corinthians 1:21–24 *For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

6 Moral Attributes of God

Exodus 34:6–7 *And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the*

children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

Deuteronomy 10:17 *For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes.*

It is crucial to maintain a comprehensive perspective on all of God's attributes [8, pg. 367]. Placing an excessive emphasis on God's love or benevolence can result in the erroneous doctrine of *Universalism*, which posits the salvation of all individuals. Conversely, focusing solely on God's sovereignty can lead to extreme forms of *Calvinism*. Individuals frequently acknowledge God's positive qualities while disregarding or denying God's justice and wrath.

God's moral attributes include holiness, righteousness, justice, goodness and love. The order here is important, notice the attributes that come before love. Some people have shipwrecked their faith by getting these in the wrong order, often putting love and goodness first and ignoring the other attributes. —Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones [14, pg. I:74].

6.1 Holy

Leviticus 11:45 *I am the LORD, who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.*

Isaiah 57:15 *For this is what the high and exalted One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.*

Holiness is the complete absence of evil, distinct from all that is unclean or common. It holds the highest rank of God's attributes, as this is the one by which God particularly desired to be known in the Old Testament:

Psalms 92:12–15 *The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, “The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him.”*

The holiness of God creates a chasm separating God from sinners:

Habakkuk 1:13 *Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?*

Given God's holiness, he commands us to emulate His holiness in our own lives:

1 Peter 1:15–16 *But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”*

This provides evidence for the Bible's veracity. It is highly improbable that anyone would conceive or fabricate a human-made deity with holiness as its defining characteristic. Such an idea is simply unimaginable.

God's holiness necessitates a profound aversion to evil, deception, sin, and injustice:

Psalms 5:4–6 For you are not a God who is pleased with wickedness; with you, evil people are not welcome. The arrogant cannot stand in your presence. You hate all who do wrong; you destroy those who tell lies. The bloodthirsty and deceitful you, LORD, detest.

Proverbs 6:16–19 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

Proverbs 11:20 The LORD detests those whose hearts are perverse, but he delights in those whose ways are blameless.

Proverbs 15:9 The LORD detests the way of the wicked, but he loves those who pursue righteousness.

Proverbs 15:26 The LORD detests the thoughts of the wicked, but gracious words are pure in his sight.

Proverbs 16:5 The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

Proverbs 17:15 Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent—the LORD detests them both.

Zechariah 8:16–17 These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts; do not plot evil against each other, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this," declares the LORD.

6.2 Righteous

1 Kings 3:6a LORD, the God of Israel, you are righteous!

Psalms 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.

God's righteousness can produce His righteous anger:

Exodus 32:10 Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."

Proverbs 11:31 If the righteous receive their due on earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner!

Proverbs 17:5b . . . whoever gloats over disaster will not go unpunished.

6.3 God is Perfect

2 Samuel 22:31 *“As for God, his way is perfect: The LORD’s word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him.*

Psalms 18:30 *As for God, his way is perfect: The LORD’s word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him.*

Matthew 5:48 *Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

6.4 Just

Deuteronomy 32:4 *He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.*

Regarding his own nature and actions, God does not deviate from his character. Concerning his creation, there are punishments and rewards administered according to God’s impartial and flawless judgment. Individuals are subject to God’s wrath unless they accept the gift of salvation through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ:

John 3:18 *Whoever believes in him [Jesus] is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.*

6.5 Kind

Psalms 33:5 (NASB) *He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the LORD.*

Psalms 107:8 (WEB) *Let them praise Yahweh for his loving kindness, for his wonderful deeds to the children of men!*

Note that most modern translations use the expression “unfailing love” or “steadfast love” instead of the word kindness.

6.6 God’s Love

1 Chronicles 16:34 *Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.*

1 John 4:10–12 *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

1 John 4:13–16 *This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.*

The Bible extensively expounds upon the profound love of God for humanity, as we are His creation:

Psalms 117:1–2 Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD.

John 14:21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

John 15:9–10 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

John 16:27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

1 John 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 John 4:16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

The Bible does not explicitly state that God loves every individual unconditionally. While it is common to walk into home or business and see a sign proclaiming “Jesus loves you,” this notion contradicts the teachings of Scripture. Neither Jesus nor the Apostles publicly asserted such a universal love. Instead, the Bible emphasizes that God’s love is reserved for genuine believers, contingent upon their faith and obedience:

Proverbs 8:17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.

Proverbs 15:9 The LORD detests the way of the wicked, but he loves those who pursue righteousness.

Psalms 86:5 You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you.

Psalms 103:11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

Psalms 103:17–18 But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children—with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.

John 14:23–24 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

Jesus said he would reveal himself to his disciples, not to the world. True disciples keep the word of God. Keeping God's word and loving others distinguishes true Christians from the rest of the world and false believers.

John 13:34–35 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Jesus asserted that if we love him, we will adhere to his teachings. Adhering to God's word serves as the ultimate test of our love for him and his teachings. Love serves as the driving force behind obedience, whereas obedience to the Old Testament Law was motivated by fear. While fear may be effective in motivating children for a limited period, it is ineffective in fostering long-term obedience. The sole genuine motivator for obedience is love.

God holds a unique affection for the nation of Israel, yet not all of its individual members. Today, the nation of Israel refers to the children of faith, the Church (capital 'C'). For further insights into the relationship between Israel and the Church, please refer to my teaching titled [Supersessionism](#).

Galatians 3:6–7 So also Abraham "believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham.

Jesus exemplified the most profound act of love for humanity by voluntarily accepting our sins upon himself and sacrificing His life on the cross:

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Romans 5:6–8 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

6.6.1 Love of Enemies

Psalms 11:5 The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked, those who love violence, he hates with a passion.

In the Old Testament, there are numerous examples of God destroying his enemies, being swallowed up by the Earth, diseases and plagues, and by enemy armies. Fortunately, under the New Covenant, God holds back his wrath, patiently giving everyone the opportunity to come to repentance and faith.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

There exists a profound complexity in the nature of God's love that demands our attention. He exhibits at least two distinct levels of love. Just as a virtuous

Christian should extend love to a stranger, God possesses a degree of love for unbelievers and those whom he perceives as adversaries. Similarly, as a devoted parent loves their own children, God possesses an even higher degree of love for those genuine Christians whom he refers to as His children. Jesus instructs us to emulate the Father's behavior and cultivate love for our enemies:

Luke 6:35–36 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Matthew 5:43–47 You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

God still puts up with his enemies: he cares for them, feeds them, waters their fields. This then, is a kind of love, where God is showing his grace, mercy, and patience to his enemies, because God wants everyone to be saved:

1 Timothy 2:3–4 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Demonstrating love and kindness towards individuals outside of the church serves as a means of evangelism. Our compassion for others is what distinguishes us as “the light of the world,” as outlined below. Through these acts of love, we draw individuals towards Jesus and the Church.

Matthew 5:14–16 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

False Believers exhibit disdain, judgment, and condemnation towards individuals outside the church. They do not serve the kingdom of our Lord but rather the devil, as their actions discourage people from embracing Christianity. In their self-righteousness, they attempt to impose morality upon unbelievers, unaware of the biblical teachings and blind to their own hypocrisy. It is advisable to maintain a distance from such individuals, as they represent the epitome of hypocrisy.

6.7 Merciful

God's goodness is made manifest by his characteristics of love, benevolence, mercy, and grace:

Deuteronomy 4:31 *For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your ancestors, which he confirmed to them by oath.*

God's mercy is mentioned 150–250 times in the Bible, depending on the translation you are using. Some examples:

Mark 5:18–19 *As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”*

Luke 1:50 *His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.*

Luke 1:77–79 *... to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”*

The New Testament teaches us to likewise be merciful to others:

Matthew 5:7 *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

Matthew 9:13 *But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*

The parable of the unforgiving debtor, found in [Matthew 18:21–35](#), serves as a profound moral lesson, emphasizing the importance of cultivating forgiveness and mercy towards others.

Matthew 23:23 *“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.*

Luke 6:36 *Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.*

After Jesus the parable of the Good Samaritan ([Luke 10:29–35](#)), Jesus asked an expert of the law:

Luke 10:36–37 *“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”*

6.8 Full of Grace

The Old Testament does not explicitly mention the concept of God's grace, although there is a single prophecy that hints at its presence:

Zechariah 12:10 *“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they*

have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

God's grace is revealed through Jesus Christ in the New Testament:

John 1:14, 16–17 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 1:14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

God's grace was upon Jesus:

Luke 2:40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

God's divine grace liberates us from the constraints of the Old Testament Law, which is impossible for any of us to fulfill:

Romans 6:14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

God's divine grace enables us to perform miraculous signs and wonders as necessary to disseminate the Gospel message:

Acts 14:3 So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.

To dispel any potential ambiguity, mercy refers to God's refraining from inflicting upon us the consequences of our actions, such as eternal damnation. Conversely, grace encompasses God's bestowing upon us blessings that we do not merit, including His divine love and mercy. We are profoundly grateful for His dual actions, which are all for our ultimate benefit!

6.9 Truthful

God embodies truth, devoid of any form of darkness or deception. He maintains absolute consistency within himself, and all that he communicates is entirely trustworthy:

Numbers 23:19 God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

6.10 Faithful

Although faithfulness is a component of righteousness and immutability, as noted by Dr. Lloyd-Jones [14, pg. I:76], he believes faithfulness merits its own heading due to its prominent emphasis in the Scriptures. His definition of faithfulness is as follows:

“... when you say that God is faithful you mean that he is the one upon whom you can safely lean. It means one on whom you can absolutely rely; one upon whom you can depend; one upon whom you can stay yourself, without ever being in any doubt that he will suddenly let go and let you go.” [14, pp. I:76–77]

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

Lamentations 3:22–23 Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Psalms 36:5 Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.

2 Timothy 2:11–13 Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Revelation 2:10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.

The Bible admonishes us to maintain unwavering devotion and faithfulness to God:

Joshua 24:14 *“Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.”*

Revelation 14:12 *This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.*

With God's faithfulness, reciprocity must be maintained:

Psalms 18:25 *To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless,*

Matthew 24:45–46 *“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.”*

1 Peter 4:10 *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

Faithfulness is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit:

Galatians 5:22–23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

6.11 Empathetic

God has empathy for us:

Luke 7:13 *When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don't cry.”*

John 11:35 *Jesus wept.*

6.12 Compassionate

God is compassionate:

Psalms 86:15 *But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.*

Psalms 103:13 *As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;*

Isaiah 54:8 *In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you,” says the LORD your Redeemer.*

God exhibits exceptional compassion towards the impoverished and destitute:

Deuteronomy 24:14–15 *Do not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether that worker is a fellow Israelite or a foreigner residing in one of your towns. Pay them their wages each day before sunset, because they are*

poor and are counting on it. Otherwise they may cry to the LORD against you, and you will be guilty of sin.

Psalms 12:5 "Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise," says the LORD. "I will protect them from those who malign them."

Proverbs 15:25 The LORD tears down the house of the proud, but he sets the widow's boundary stones in place.

Proverbs 22:22–23 Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, for the LORD will take up their case and will exact life for life.

6.13 Patient

Isaiah 30:18 (ESV) Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Through God's unwavering patience, we are spared the immediate condemnation of hell and are instead granted ample time to acknowledge our sins and embrace repentance and faith.

6.14 God is Gentle

2 Samuel 22:36 (ESV) You have given me the shield of your salvation, and your gentleness made me great.

Matthew 11:29–30 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

6.15 God Grieves

John 11:33–36 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

The capacity for grief, a profound human emotion, has been bestowed upon us by God. Consequently, true Christians should experience a profound sense of sorrow upon witnessing the prevalence of evil and suffering in the world. However, we do not grieve the death of a fellow Christian like the rest of mankind (unbelievers) do:

1 Thessalonians 4:13–14 *Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.*

6.16 God Rejoices

Isaiah 62:5 *As a young man marries a young woman, so will your Builder marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.*

Luke 15:7 *I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.*

In [Luke 15:1–32](#) Jesus tells three parables of God rejoicing when a sinner repents. God wants to see us come to salvation. God wants us to succeed, to repent and be saved by our faith in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:31 *What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

6.17 God is a Jealous God

Exodus 20:5 *You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,*

Exodus 34:14 *Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.*

Deuteronomy 4:23–24 *Be careful not to forget the covenant of the LORD your God that he made with you; do not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything the LORD your God has forbidden. For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.*

Joshua 24:19–20 *Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.”*

It is hoped that no one still possesses wooden or stone idols in their homes. Nevertheless, it is imperative that individuals conduct a self-reflection exercise to ascertain the obstacles that hinder their connection with God. Are there individuals or objects in your life that you hold in greater reverence than God? It is crucial to prioritize God’s presence in all aspects of your life.

7 Summary

Ephesians 1:17–19a *I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may*

know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

Dr. Lloyd-Jones elucidated that in the crucifixion, the divine attributes of God converge: holiness and love, justice and mercy—attributes that may appear contradictory to one another. Dr. Lloyd-Jones asserted that “righteousness and peace have kissed each other” at the cross. [12, pg. 82]

1 Corinthians 1:21 *For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.*

The existence of God cannot be ascertained through human philosophical inquiry, scientific endeavors, or human wisdom alone. Although scientific evidence overwhelmingly suggests the presence of an intelligent designer responsible for the creation of the universe, and that it did not arise through random chance. The revelation of God to humanity is the sole source of our knowledge of him. Without this revelation, we would be unable to comprehend His existence; the absence of divine revelation would result in the absence of sacred texts like the Bible, leading to uncertainty regarding the appropriate form of worship. Consequently, we would be akin to pagan societies who venerated natural phenomena such as rocks and trees.

Derek Prince's excellent book *Why Bad Things Happen to God's People — Making Sense of Trials & Tribulations in Your Life* [20], is a study of the Bible's *Book of Job*, which tells us a great deal about God. Prince concludes his book with a list of ten take-aways, which is worthy of inclusion here [with some small edits for clarity]:

1. We can never understand all of God's dealings.
2. God never surrenders His sovereignty. He is never subject to a set of religious rules.
3. God deals with each of us as individuals.
4. It is foolish to compare ourselves with others.
5. God has a special, unique purpose for every individual's life.
6. God is relentless in pursuing his purpose.
7. God's priorities are different from ours. He puts the spiritual above the physical, the eternal above the temporal. [Our holiness before our happiness.]
8. God is pleased with his righteous servants. [Not religious servants.]

9. We have a high destiny. We are going to be the demonstration of God's grace to all the universe throughout all ages.
10. The only authorized interpreter of the Scripture is the Holy Spirit. The Scripture is the piano; the Holy Spirit is the pianist. If we want to hear a melody, we have to let the pianist play. Otherwise we just have an instrument.

Despite the extensive exposition provided, it remains an arduous task to provide a comprehensive description of God. God is an incomprehensible entity, encompassing all aspects of existence. While God is not an integral part of everything, he is the creator and sustainer of the universe. The absence of God would result in the non-existence of the cosmos, celestial bodies, planets, and life as we know it. Diligent time spent in prayer and studying of scripture will grow our personal knowledge of God.

8 Application

As our creator, God imbues us with the capacity for knowledge. Consequently, we should strive to acquire as much knowledge about him as possible. Regrettably, the majority of individuals lack an understanding of God, exhibiting a lack of interest or desire to seek him:

Romans 3:10–12 *As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."*

One significant factor is that most people do not read His book, the Bible. Instead, they construct their own concept of God in their minds. Their conception of God is a benevolent deity who serves us, providing us with our desires, maintaining our well-being, and ensuring our prosperity. Individuals often perceive God as a helpful entity akin to a genie or a vending machine. When our fabricated notion of God fails to fulfill our expectations in some manner, we reject him; we dismiss him, and we resort to unhealthy and sinful means to achieve our objectives.

In the 1940s, a book titled "God is My Co-Pilot" was published. Even during my upbringing in the 1970s, I occasionally encountered this phrase or its printed version on t-shirts. However, merely referring to God as your co-pilot falls short of the true essence of Christianity. To become a genuine Christian, one must elevate your relationship with God to that of a pilot.

While it is possible to excel academically in a Systematic Theology course, gaining comprehensive knowledge about God does not necessarily equate to personal knowledge or understanding. Knowledge and light are distinct concepts. While it is possible to acquire knowledge about God, it is fundamentally different and

essential to establish a genuine relationship with him. Knowledge alone does not constitute a personal connection or understanding.

Recall that the devil, Satan, possesses a profound understanding of God's nature, surpassing that of any human. This understanding was acquired through direct observation of God, yet it was tainted by disobedience. In contrast, we are compelled to establish an unwavering and obedient relationship with God.

Satan is a master theologian. He's talked to God, interacted with God, believes in God's existence, and knows more about God's attributes and abilities than most...

...and yet Satan doesn't love God.

Knowledge about God doesn't equal faith in God.

8.1 Seek God

God desires us to find him and establish a relationship with him. This is the reason behind the universe's grandeur. He imparted His teachings through the Bible. He sent His son, Jesus, to us so that we may genuinely know him. He instilled in our hearts a yearning to seek and comprehend him.

Deuteronomy 4:29 *But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.*

We can only know God if we have the desire and the appetite to know him as the greatest people of the Bible did, e.g., Moses, David, and Paul. God will do great things through people who truly know him.

Exodus 33:13 *If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."*

Psalms 42:1-2 *As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?*

Philippians 3:10-11 *I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.*

8.2 Believe in God

John 1:12-13 *Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

John 3:17-18 *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.*

Hebrews 11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

Faith is of paramount importance as it is the means by which we attain salvation. It is an affront to express disbelief in someone or, even more egregiously, to harbor such thoughts towards one's creator.

8.3 Listen for God's Voice

We are commanded to pay meticulous attention to the Lord's voice and teachings. Some older Bible translations employ the phrase "diligently hearken," emphasizing the importance of careful listening.

Exodus 15:26 *He said, "If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."*

Exodus 23:21–22 *Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since my Name is in him. If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you.*

Luke 9:35 *A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."*

A calloused or hardened heart is incapable of hearing God's voice. Conversely, we must cultivate a humble and sensitive heart to facilitate communication with God. Rarely does God speak in thunderous tones; instead, he typically communicates with us in hushed whispers.

Isaiah 55:3 *Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live.*

8.4 Trust God

Despite the inherent mystery surrounding divine actions and the occurrence of seemingly unjust events, it is essential to acknowledge a fundamental truth: God's goodness is unwavering. Every action God takes is ultimately beneficial to His children. For further insights into this concept, please refer to my teaching titled [Why Does God...?](#) for frequently asked questions.

*God is good—all the time.
All the time—God is good.*

— Lyrics from "God is Good All the Time" by Don Moen

Although we may not fully comprehend God's divine plans for our lives, it is imperative that we surrender ourselves completely to him. Trusting in God's unwavering benevolence, we can confidently believe that His actions are always in our best interests, leading us to the fulfillment of His abundant blessings:

Romans 8:28 *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

Psalms 125:1–2 Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and forevermore.

We can trust God because he is our protector:

2 Samuel 22:32 (NET) Indeed, who is God besides the LORD? Who is a protector besides our God?

In the NET translation, there are over 40 verses that refer to God as our protector. With such a powerful protector, there is no need for God's children to fear anything in this world, not even death. Inflicting fear is the devil's second favorite tool to manipulate and control us (next to spreading lies). If you begin to experience fear, remember that your protector is the all-powerful Lord Almighty! In him, we have complete victory over the world and over evil. Refrain from listening to the devil's lies!

Trust God's promises:

2 Peter 1:4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

The Apostle Peter referred to these promises as "great and precious." It is estimated that there are approximately 30,000 promises from God in the Bible.⁶ It is an exciting endeavor to read the Word of God and discover these promises.

I once encountered a pastor who asserted that doubting God's promises is equivalent to asserting that God is a liar. Therefore, it is imperative to maintain unwavering trust in God's veracity and to recognize that all His words are truthful. Furthermore, we can confidently anticipate the fulfillment of all His promises.

Although God's promises are not unconditional, we must be in alignment with His will, living in obedience, and maintaining faith—completely trusting in His divine plan.

Psalms 119:148 My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises.

2 Peter 3:13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

Proverbs 20:6 Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?

Trusting in God entails recognizing His superior ability to manage any situation with greater efficacy than we possess. He possesses the capacity to overcome life's challenges more effectively than we can; He can confront our adversaries with greater fortitude; and He can navigate the complexities of the world with

⁶ <https://tinyurl.com/yrbk366y>

greater wisdom. By placing our trust in God, we can alleviate our anxieties, reduce stress, and experience profound peace and liberation.

In the realm of human relationships, we have observed that individuals often exhibit a lack of dependability. The weather is unpredictable, and even when constructing a building, one cannot guarantee its uninterrupted existence due to potential threats such as earthquakes, fires, or floods. Can you see how foolhardy it would be to depend on anyone or anything rather than depending on God?

Despite their reputation, Christians should be known for their reliability. If you make a promise, fulfill it. If you fail to keep your word, you will diminish your credibility and present an unfavorable image of what a Christian should be.

God is our rock and our fortress:

Proverbs 11:8 *The righteous person is rescued from trouble, and it falls on the wicked instead.*

Proverbs 18:10 *The name of the LORD is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.*

Not only must we trust and rely on God, but we must also become dependent on him. Allow God to be your God, Lord, and redeemer. Entrust him with your care and let him fulfill His plans for you.

2 Samuel 22:1–3 *David sang to the LORD the words of this song when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said: “The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior—from violent people you save me.*

Do you trust in God’s ability to make sound decisions in your life? Do you submit to His sovereignty? We cannot demand explanations from God, as he is not accountable to us; however, we are accountable to him.

8.5 Obey God

Each day, our faith and love for God are subjected to testing. If we genuinely love him, we will obey His commands:

John 14:23–24 *Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.*

If you are about to disobey God, before committing a sin, stop and ask yourself “Do I love God?” How you proceed will answer that question. Your actions will serve as a testament to your love for the divine.

Recall that God is the potter, and we are the clay. Consider the remarkable account in [Jeremiah 18:1–12](#), which speaks of the “potter’s house.”

8.6 Serve God

Our purpose is to serve God by submitting our will to His will. This entails relinquishing our own plans in favor of His. A significant aspect of [Repentance](#) is the cultivation of the kingdom of God through evangelism, which serves as the sole means of addressing sin. Additionally, we are tasked with addressing suffering in the world through acts of compassion. For further insights, please refer to my teaching titled [Sin and Suffering](#).

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

8.7 Worship God

Isaiah 42:8 (NET) *"I am the LORD! That is my name! I will not share my glory with anyone else, or the praise due me with idols.*

We should dedicate our worship and reverence solely to God, adhering to one of the [five solas](#) of the Reformation, known as the *Soli Deo Gloria* (glory to God alone) doctrine, which emphasizes the exclusive glory of God. Conversely, we have strayed from this path, engaging in self-worship and excessive self-praise.

1 Corinthians 10:31 *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

8.8 Walk with God

Genesis 5:22 *After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters.*

Genesis 6:9 *This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.*

Deuteronomy 10:12-13 *And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?*

Micah 6:8 *He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

Amos 3:3 (NLT) *Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?*

To walk with God, we must be traveling in the same direction, obeying His guidance, and submitting to His authority.

8.9 Conclusion

It is insufficient to merely possess knowledge about God. This would be akin to dedicating years to studying plumbing without ever wielding a wrench or fixing

even a minor leaky faucet. We have to know God himself and be in a relationship with him. You never truly know someone unless you've been in a relationship with them, or especially having gone through hardship with them. To know God, we have to spend time studying his word and we have to spend time with him, which we accomplish through prayer. Our knowledge of God must transcend the realm of our minds and permeate our hearts and spirits as well.

1 Corinthians 8:1 *Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.*

An intimate relationship with God and knowledge about him is not enough. As the apostle Paul wrote, "knowledge puffs up." With our knowledge of God, we must develop Christ-like character, including humility, faith, empathy, grace, mercy, and love.

1 Corinthians 13:13 *And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

9 Prayer

"Heavenly Father, thank you for your Scripture to help us better know you and your will, and for the various ways you reveal yourself to us. Thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus, in whom we have eternal life. Please fill us with your Holy Spirit to give us light and understanding of your words. Make your home in our hearts so that we may truly know you and be one with you. May you be glorified by the accurate understanding of your words. Amen."

May God bless you, your family, and your friends.
Your brother in Christ,
Kevin

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