

# DG Guide: Attributes of God

## #9 - Immortal

### Opening Prayer

Begin by acknowledging what the sermon opened with: God alone possesses immortality by nature. He cannot die. Death has no jurisdiction over Him. Thank Him that through the resurrection of Jesus, He has opened what was sealed shut and shared what belonged to Him alone. Ask the Holy Spirit to make that reality feel more solid and more present than it usually does.

### Starter Question

Don asked: "If you could live forever in your current body, in the world as it is right now — would you want to?" (He mentioned The Good Place, where everyone eventually agreed: immortality in cursed creation sucks.)

So — would you? Why or why not?

### Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. God alone is immortal — and that changes everything. It is not just that God doesn't die. He cannot die. Death has no jurisdiction over Him. We are "dust animated by His breath." Immortality is what aseity looks like when it touches the question of death.
2. Adam and Eve were never inherently immortal. The Platonic view is not in Scripture. They were sustained by access to the tree of life. God barred that access not as punishment but as mercy: "Can't let humans be immortal and go on sinning forever."
3. The Immortal dies so the mortal can live. The flaming sword of divine judgment fell on Jesus instead of us. He took our wages; He gifted us His. The incommunicable immortality became communicable through the gospel.
4. Union with Christ is the mechanism. Like a marriage, two becoming one. In that union we share His inheritance, His Spirit, and His immortality. We already have eternal life. Immortality is guaranteed at resurrection.
5. The whole story comes full circle. Genesis 3: garden sealed, cherubim with a flaming sword. Revelation 22: garden city opened, tree of life on both sides, no barrier, and we see His face. "What changed between them? The cross and the resurrection. Changed everything."

# Scripture Reading

Read together: 1 Timothy 6:15-16 and 1 Corinthians 15:42-57

## Discussion Questions Immortality in Our Culture

1. The culture test: Don surveyed Marvel's immortals who are ultimately miserable, The Good Place ending with everyone choosing to stop existing, and transhumanists trying to upload consciousness. What do all these attempts have in common? What are they revealing that they cannot quite name?
2. The Plato problem: Most Western Christians hold a Platonic view — the soul is inherently immortal, death liberates it from the body. Does that describe the picture of the afterlife you grew up with? How does the biblical hope (bodily resurrection, new creation) land differently?

## God Alone Is Immortal

1. Only one word: 1 Timothy 6:16 — God "alone has immortality." Not angels. Not us. Not the universe. What does it do to your sense of everything else in existence to sit with that word "alone"?
2. The equation: "Dust plus divine breath equals a living soul." And: "You don't have a soul — you are a soul." What difference does it make that body and spirit are inseparable? How does that shape what we're actually hoping for?

## The Garden Closed

1. Merciful expulsion: God barring Eden was mercy — preventing immortal, unredeemed sinners from being forever cursed. Every fictional portrayal of immortality in a broken world ends in misery. Does this reading change how you have thought about the expulsion?
2. Death as grievous: Death still hurts. How do you hold both — death as mercy's precondition, and death as genuine loss?

## The Immortal Dies

1. The mechanism: Jesus destroys death's power through death (Hebrews 2:14-15). The sword of judgment fell on Him instead of us. Why was that the only path? What does it reveal about God that He chose to absorb it rather than bypass it?
2. Emancipation: Christ "abolished death" (2 Timothy 1:10). Don called it an emancipation proclamation. Hebrews 2:15 says fear of death had kept people in lifelong slavery. Where does that fear still function as slavery in your own life?

3. The firstfruits guarantee: Once the firstfruits were presented, the harvest was secured — not hoped for, secured. Christ's resurrection is not "maybe this will happen to you" — it is the legal guarantee of what will. How does living with a guarantee change things?

## The World Resurrection Opens

1. Not a ghost: Our hope is this body, transformed, in a new creation. Don made it personal mid-40s back pain, knees that hurt getting up. "Sown in weakness, raised in power." Is there something about your current body that makes this promise feel specifically hopeful?

2. Same word, two passages: The same Greek word — *athanasia* — describes God's exclusive property (1 Timothy 6) and what we will be clothed with (1 Corinthians 15). God shares what belongs to Him alone. How does that land as a description of grace? 3. No more sword: Revelation 22 — tree of life, no barrier, and they see His face. What does it mean to you that the whole story ends not with an idea but with a face?

## Personal Reflection

Take a few quiet minutes:

- Don addressed three groups: those grieving or facing mortality; those comfortable and distracted; and those who have never given their lives to Jesus. Which one speaks most directly to where you are right now?
- Don told a story about a man who had been a Christian for years but felt he could not return after a decade of wandering. Don said: "That is the thing." Is there somewhere you have been treating the door as narrower than it is?
- What would change about your plans, fears, and time horizon if you genuinely believed you were going to be raised with a glorified body in a new creation, forever?

## Group Commitments

Choose 1-2 of these to commit to as a group:

1. Resurrection morning: Start each day this week with Romans 8:11 — "The Spirit who raised Christ from the dead lives in you."
2. Sit with someone grieving: If anyone in your group or life is facing loss or mortality, commit to being present with them this week — with resurrection hope, not answers.
3. Read Revelation 21-22 slowly: Sit with the physical richness of what God is making. Notice what is absent and what is present. Share one thing next week.
4. Have the conversation: Is there someone sitting on the fence or walking away? Find one natural way to bring resurrection hope into a conversation this week.
5. The foolish quest: Where are you looking for life in the wrong place? Name it honestly and bring it to God this week.

## Closing Exercise

Go around the group and complete this sentence:

"Because Christ is risen, I no longer have to be afraid of..."

## Closing Prayer

Pray together, focusing on:

- **Worship:** That God alone is immortal — and He freely gave that immortality to us. What belongs to Him alone, He gives away.
- **Confession:** Of the ways we live as though this life is all there is — accumulating, fearing, looking for immortality in the wrong places. • **Thanksgiving:** That the sword fell on Jesus. That the way is open. That the harvest is guaranteed.
- **Intercession:** For those grieving, facing illness, or afraid of death — that the Spirit who raised Jesus would bring life to their mortal bodies.
- **Boldness:** To live as resurrection people — to walk into darkness because we live forever.

## For Next Week

- Follow through on your group commitment
- Memorise: 2 Timothy 1:10 — "...our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."
- Come prepared: What is one practical thing that changes this week because you believe in the resurrection?

## Leader Notes

- Death and grief are not abstract. The sermon was preached in the context of Don's uncle dying that week, his kids asking questions in the car, and his family's history with pregnancy loss. Create room without forcing it.
- The bodily resurrection surprises people shaped by a Platonic view. Don't win the argument — let Paul and Revelation speak. "You don't have a soul, you are a soul" is a simple anchor.
- Eternal life (present, relational) vs immortality (future, bodily): "We have life now; we get the body later." Scripture is clear: eternal life starts today.
- Resurrection should produce joy, not just relief. If discussion stays in "we don't have to fear death" without moving toward anticipation, push gently: "What are you actually looking forward to?"