
The Character, Nature and Attributes of God

References:

- Knowing God by J.I. Packer
 - The Attributes of God by A W Pink
 - Concise Theology by J. I. Packer
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**What comes into our minds
when we think about God is the
most important thing about us.**

AW Tozer

**Question: Before you became a
Christian how would you describe
God?**

What happens when we have the wrong idea of God?

- We get Exodus 32:1-10. The people of Israel did not want a new God, they wanted a representation of the God who had delivered them. But that “golden calf” could not even closely describe the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Hence why we have the second commandment.
 - A visual representation of God or even a mental picture of God always falls short of Reality
 - We have a propensity to worship images. Numbers 21:4-9. 2Kings 18:4
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What are we trying to accomplish?

- To know about God (a knowledge of God)
 - 1Corinthians 8:12. Knowledge puffs up. Is our study a desire to have all the answers and theoretical knowledge?
 - To know, really know God intimately
 - Is our goal to, by learning of God, fall in love with He who loved us first and is the only one in which our souls will find rest?
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Is There a God?

- The complexity of life
 - The perfectly fine tuned universe
 - The universality of morals, (right and wrong)
 - Beauty, wonder, awe
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If the universe points to God then how are we to know Him to worship Him?

- We know God through revelation as He reveals Himself. Matthew 11:27
 - He reveals Himself through creation.
 - Romans 1:19-22
 - Psalm 19:1-4
 - Isaiah 40:26
 - Psalm 139:14
 - Psalm 8:1,3-4
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If the universe point to God then how are we to know Him to worship Him?

- He reveals Himself through His word.
 - Through the names of God
 - Isaiah 20:48 Creator
 - Genesis 22:14 Jehovah Jireh (Our Provider)
 - Judges 6:24 The Lord is Peace
 - Exodus 15:26. Jehovah Rapha (Our Healer)
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If the universe point to God then how are we to know Him to worship Him?

- Through Psalms and Songs
 - Psalm 86:15.
 - Psalm 18:35-36
 - Through the Prophets
 - Jeremiah 1:4
 - Isaiah 6:1-5
 - Through the life and teachings of Jesus (God Incarnate)
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What happens when we know God?

- We have great energy for God
 - Think Nehemiah, Ezra, Noah, Abraham, Daniel, Paul
 - We have great thoughts of God
 - Daniel's proclamation to Nebuchadnezzar Dan 4:25
 - Daniel's song of praise Dan 2:20-22
 - Daniel's prayer. Dan 9:4,7,9,14
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What happens when we know God?

- We have great boldness for God
 - The apostles after Pentecost Acts 5:29
 - David with Goliath I Samuel 17
 - Daniel in the Lion's den. Daniel 6
 - We have great contentment in God
 - The peace of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Dan 3:16-18
 - Paul in prison, shipwrecked, etc. Philippians 4:11
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What is Eternal Life?

- John 17:3. This is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
 - The benefits of knowing God:
 - Eternal life
 - Abundant life
 - Purposeful life
 - Contented life
 - Fulfilled life

**He who has a Why to live for
can bear almost any How**

Nietzsche

How do we study the attributes of God?

- There are many ways to categorize the attributes of God. We will break them into two categories
 - The first is incommunicable. These are attributes that rest solely in the person of God. They do not communicate to us. Attributes such as:
 - Self existence, Sovereign, and Immutability
 - The second is communicable. These attributes are ones we share with Him and are called to exhibit. Attributes such as:
 - Love, Patience, and Mercy
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Jealousy
Self Existence
Transcendence
Immutable
Grace
Majesty
Love
Providence
Goodness
Omniscience
Self Disclosure
Wrath
Omnipotence
Sovereignty
Faithfulness
Patience

Where do we start?

The Holiness of God

- Definition: Everything about God that sets him apart from us and makes him an object of awe, adoration, and dread to us. It covers all aspects of his transcendent greatness and moral perfection. This is an attribute of all his attributes.
 - The core concept is God's purity which cannot tolerate any form of sin.
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The Holiness of God

- The only perfection of God that is repeated as a triplet and is done so twice! Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:8
 - Revelation 15:4. “Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. Only God is independently, infinitely, immutably holy.
 - God is often called “The Holy One”. Job 6:10, Psalm 16:10, Psalms 71:22, Psalm 78:41 Psalm 89:18, Proverb 9:10, Proverb 30:3
 - God singles out this perfection of His character in Psalm 89:35. “Once for all I have sworn by my holiness”. Why not my mighty power, or infinite wisdom? It is because His Holiness is a fuller expression of Himself than anything else.
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The Holiness of God

- Holiness is an excellency above all God's other perfections. It adorns His other attributes.
 - His righteousness is a holy righteousness. Isaiah 5:16
 - His power is a holy arm. Psalm 98:1
 - His beauty a beauty of holiness Psalm 110:3
 - His name which signifies all His attributes in conjunction "is holy".
Psalm 103:1 Leviticus 22:32, 1Chronicles 16:10, 1Chronicles 29:16.
Psalm 30:4. Psalm 33:21, Isaiah 57:15
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The Holiness of God

- God's holiness is found in His works. "The Lord is righteous in all His ways and holy in all his works." Psalm 145:17. Holiness is the rule of all His actions. In creation He pronounces it "very good." Genesis 1:31
 - God's holiness is manifested in His Law. "So the law is holy and the commandment is holy and righteous and good." Romans 7:12. "The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether." Psalm 19:8,9
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The Holiness of God

- God's holiness is manifested at the cross. It is because of God's holiness that He turned his face away from His son when the sins of the world were placed on the Son. In Psalm 22, a prophetic ode to what happened on the cross which Jesus repeats as He cries out in agony. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Psalm 22:1, Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34 is then followed by Psalm 22:3 "Yet you are holy enthroned on the praises of Israel." The holiness of God shines forth even in the cross.
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The Holiness of God

- Our response:
 - Contemplating the holiness of God reorders our perspective. We compare ourselves to others and falsely feel good about ourselves when the real standard is holy perfection. We see the world rightly when focusing on God's Holiness.
 - Reflecting on the holiness of God inspires us to more and more Christ likeness. We become what we set our minds on.
 - Dwelling on the holiness of God reminds us of God's great love for us in sending His son so that His righteousness is now ours. Christ makes us holy
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**Questions, comments, prayer
requests**
