

# White Flag (Week 2)

## Clint Craig – 20 May 2018

### Discussion and Questions:

1. Let's have a show of hands here if you've ever prayed a "small" prayer (a car park; a sunny day etc...) Is it bad to pray for small things? Why or why not?
2. Clint asked Christians to think back to a moment when the world stopped for them, in terms of a breakthrough in their faith in a mighty and powerful God. A time when you learned a huge truth about the Lord that still influences your relationship with him to this day. Do you have one of those moments? Share it now so we can all rejoice with you.
3. When someone begins a prayer with a pile of declarations of the goodness of God, what is your reaction? Do you switch off, consider that person a show-off, or enjoy and agree with it? Why is that?
4. Is it possible that the reason we don't often declare God's greatness in prayer first is because we don't know much about it, or because we just forget? What do you think?
5. God uses a range of things to teach us what his character is really like. How many can you think of? What part does suffering play in helping us relate to God through prayer? (See Habakkuk 3:17-18)
6. The bible is our supreme source of truth about the character of God. Look up Exodus 34:5-7, Psalm 19:1-4, Isa 6:1-4 and Romans 11:33-36 to start with. Can you think of other passages that help us?

Included with this week's questions is a resource listing God's attributes so we don't have to.

End with prayer that doesn't ask God for anything, but instead uses this list to help you declare his greatness.

### Upcoming Dates

- Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup> – Open Home
- Thursday June 7<sup>th</sup> - CORE

# THE ATTRIBUTES of GOD

To study God's attributes is to study his character, to answer questions like, *Who is God?* and *What is God like?* A typical classification of God's attributes divides them into those that are **incommunicable** (those that he does not share or "communicate" to anyone or anything else) and **communicable** (those that he shares with other beings). Like most theological classifications, this one is imperfect but still helpful as we seek to understand what is so far beyond ourselves.

God's communicable attributes can be further categorized into: attributes of God's being, mental attributes, moral attributes, attributes of purpose and "summary" attributes (attributes that, in a more particular way, modify each of the others).

It is important to consider that God is not simply the sum of his attributes. His attributes are not separate from one another, but each one modifies or qualifies each of the others.

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES

*Systematic Theology* | Wayne Grudem  
*The Attributes of God* | A.W. Pink

### ASEITY

*Summary attributes*  
God is self-existent and self-sufficient and has no need of human beings or the rest of creation.

### GLORY

*Summary attributes*  
The created brightness that surrounds God's revelation of himself.

### JEALOUSY

*Moral attributes*  
God always seeks to protect his own honor.

### OMNIPRESENCE

God has no size or shape and is present in all places with his entire being.

### TRUTHFULNESS

*Mental attributes*  
God is the true God whose knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth.

### BEAUTY

*Summary attributes*  
God is the possessor and the sum of all desirable qualities.

### GOODNESS

*Moral attributes*  
God is the final standard of all good, and all he is and does is worthy of approval.

### KNOWLEDGE

*Mental attributes*  
God fully knows himself and all actual and possible things. (This is also know as God's omniscience)

### PEACE

*Moral attributes*  
God, in his being and actions, is separate from all confusion and disorder.

### UNITY

God's whole being includes all of his attributes at all times. These attributes are never in opposition.

### BLESSEDNESS

*Summary attributes*  
God delights fully in himself and in all that reflects his character.

### HOLINESS

*Moral attributes*  
God is separated from sin and he is committed to seeking his own honor.

### LOVE

*Moral attributes*  
God eternally gives of himself to others.

### PERFECTION

*Summary attributes*  
God fully possesses all excellent qualities and lacks no qualities that would be desirable for him.

### WILL

*Attributes of Purpose*  
God approves and determines to bring about every action necessary for the existence and activity of all that exists.

### ETERNITY

God has always existed, having no beginning and no end, and experiencing no succession of moments.

### IMMUTABILITY

God cannot change in his being, perfections, purposes, and promises.

### MERCY

*Moral attributes*  
God is good to those in misery and distress and he is good to those who deserve punishment.

### RIGHTEOUSNESS

*Moral attributes*  
God is the final standard of what is right and he always acts in accordance with what is right. (This is also known as God's justice)

### WISDOM

*Mental attributes*  
God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals.

### FREEDOM

*Attributes of Purpose*  
God does whatever he pleases.

### INVISIBILITY

*Attributes describing God's being*  
God's total essence, all of his being, will never be visible to us.

### OMNIPOTENCE

*Attributes of Purpose*  
God is able to do all his holy will. (This is also known as God's sovereignty)

### SPIRITUALITY

*Attributes describing God's being*  
God is a being who is not made up of matter and who cannot be perceived by our bodily senses.

### WRATH

*Moral attributes*  
God intensely hates all sin.