

# ATTRIBUTES, CHARACTERISTICS, AND NAMES OF GOD:

**1. WISDOM** — “Wisdom is the ability to devise perfect ends and to achieve these ends by the most perfect means.” In other words, God makes no mistakes. He is the Father who truly knows best, as Paul explains in Romans 11:33: “Oh, how great are God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand His decisions and His ways!” (Proverbs 3:19-20)

**2. INFINITUDE** — God knows no boundaries. He is without measure. This attribute by definition impacts all of the others. Since God is infinite, everything else about Him must also be infinite. We must not think of God as simply the highest in an order of beings. This would be to grant Him eminence. But He is more than eminent. He is transcendent — existing beyond and above the created universe. (Psalm 113:4-5)

**3. SOVEREIGNTY** — This is “the attribute by which He rules His entire creation.” It is the application of His other attributes of being all-knowing and all-powerful. It makes Him absolutely free to do what He knows to be best. God is in control of everything that happens. Man still has a free will, and is responsible for his choices in life. Therefore, I can joyfully submit to His will. (Daniel 4:35; Daniel 2:21; Exodus 12:29-32; Exodus 13:13-31; Job 12:13-25; Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:4; Ephesians 3:10-11; Daniel 2:21; Ephesians 1:5,11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Timothy 1:17; 1 Timothy 6:15)

**4. HOLINESS** — This is the attribute that sets God apart from all created beings. It refers to His majesty and His

perfect moral purity. There is absolutely no sin or evil thought in God at all. His holiness is the definition of that which is pure and righteous in all the universe. Wherever God has appeared, such as to Moses at the burning bush, that place becomes holy just for God having been there. Since God is holy I can devote myself to Him in purity, worship and service. (1Peter 1:14-16; Ezekiel 36:21-23; Joshua 24:19; Hebrews 12:10; Exodus 15:11; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 1 Samuel 2:2; Revelation 4:8)

**5. TRINITY** — Though the actual word is not used in the Bible, the truth of God revealing Himself in three persons is included. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all called God, given worship as God, exist eternally, and are involved in doing things only God could do. Although, God reveals Himself in three persons, God is One and cannot be divided. All are involved completely whenever One of the Three is active.

**6. OMNISCIENCE** — “God possesses perfect knowledge and therefore has no need to learn. God has never learned and cannot learn.” Omniscience means all-knowing. God knows everything, and His knowledge is infinite. It is impossible to hide anything from God. I can go Him with all my questions and concerns. (Daniel 2:21)

**7. FAITHFULNESS** — Everything that God has promised will come to pass. His faithfulness guarantees this fact. He does not lie. What He has said in the Bible about Himself is true. Jesus even said that He is the Truth. This is extremely important for the followers of Jesus because it is on His faithfulness that our hope of eternal life rests. He will honor His promise that our sins will be forgiven and that we will live forever with Him. (1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 John 1:9; Deuteronomy 7:7-11; Psalm 100:5; Lamentations 3:22-23; 1 Thessalonians 5:24; Hebrews 10:23; Psalm 119:90; Psalm 36:5)

**8. LOVE** — Love is such an important part of God's character that the apostle John wrote, "God is love." This means that God holds the well-being of others as His primary concern. For a full definition of love, read 1 Corinthians 13. To see love in action, study the life of Jesus. His sacrifice on the cross for the sins of others is the ultimate act of love. God's love is not a love of emotion but of action. His love gives freely to the object of its affection, those who choose to follow His son, Jesus. (Romans 8:35, 37-39; Proverbs 3:12; Matthew 5:44-45; Ephesians 1:4-5; Psalm 37:28; Hosea 3:1; Psalm 100:5; John 3:16; John 14:21; Romans 5:5; 1 John 4:7-8, 20-21; Romans 8:38-39; Luke 6:35)

**9. OMNIPOTENCE** — Literally this word means all-powerful. Since God is infinite and since He possesses power, He possesses infinite power. He does allow His creatures to have some power, but this in no way diminishes His own. He can help me with anything at any time. "He expends no energy that must be replenished." When the Bible says God rested on the seventh day, it was to set an example for us and our need for rest, not because He was tired. (Jeremiah 32:17; Psalm 33:6-9; Exodus 13:3; Job 38:1-11; Psalm 29:3-9; Ephesians 1:19-20; Psalm 19:1-4; Hebrews 1:3; Revelation 1:18; Daniel 4:35; Genesis 17:1)

**10. SELF-EXISTENCE** — When Moses asked whom he was talking to in the burning bush, God said, "I AM THE ONE WHO ALWAYS IS." God had no beginning or end. He just exists. Nothing else in the entire universe is self-caused. Only God. In fact, if anything else had created Him, that thing would be God. This is a difficult concept for our minds since everything else we will ever encounter comes from something other than itself. The Bible says, "In the beginning, God." He was already there.

**1 1. SELF-SUFFICIENCY** — The Bible says that God has life in Himself (see John 5:26). All other life in the universe is a gift from God. He has no needs and there is no way He can improve. To God, nothing else is necessary. He does not need out help with anything, but because of His grace and love, He allows us to be a part of advancing His plan on earth and being a blessing to others. We are the ones who change, but never God. He is self-sufficient.

**1 2. JUSTICE** — The Bible says that God is just, but it is His character that defines what being just really is. He does not conform to some outside criteria. Being just brings moral equity to everyone. When there are evil acts, justice demands their be a penalty. Since God is perfect and has never done evil, no penalty would ever be necessary; however, because of His love, God paid the penalty for our evil deeds by going to the cross Himself. His justice needed to be satisfied, but He took care of it for all who will believe in Jesus. (2 Corinthians 5:10; Acts 17:31; Psalm 51:4; Revelation 15:3; James 4:12; Psalm 9:7-8; Psalm 19:7-9; Genesis 18:25; Deuteronomy 32:4; Jeremiah 17:10; 1 John 2:1; Isaiah 11:4-5; Jeremiah 33:16; Romans 3:25-26)

**1 3. IMMUTABILITY** — This simply means that God never changes. It is why the Bible says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” (Isaiah 41:4; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17; Numbers 23:19; Lamentations 3:22-23; Psalm 102:25-27; Hebrews 1:10-12)

**1 4. MERCY** — “Mercy is the attribute of God which disposes Him to be actively compassionate.” Since God’s justice is satisfied in Jesus, He is free to show mercy to all those who have chosen to follow Him. It will never end since it is a part of God’s nature. Mercy is the way He desires to relate

to mankind and He does so unless the person chooses to despise or ignore God at which time His justice becomes the prominent attribute. (1 John 1:9; Proverbs 3:12; Matthew 5:44-45; Ephesians 1:4-5; Psalm 37:28; Hosea 3:1; Psalm 100:5; John 3:16; John 14:21; Romans 5:5; 1 John 4:7-8, 20-21; Romans 8:38-39; Luke 6:35)

**15. ETERNAL** — In some ways, this fact about God is similar to His self-existence. God always has been and will forever be, because God dwells in eternity. Time is His creation. It is why God can see the end from the beginning, and why He is never surprised by anything. If He were not eternal, God's promise of eternal life for those who follow Jesus would have little value.

**16. GOODNESS** — “The goodness of God is that which disposes Him to be kind, cordial, benevolent, and full of good will toward men.” This attribute of God is why He bestows all the blessing He does on His followers. God's actions define what goodness is, and we can easily see it in the way Jesus related to the people around Him.

**17. COMFORTER** — Jesus called the Holy Spirit the “Comforter”. Paul writes that the Lord is “the God of all comfort”. The Holy Spirit will comfort us through all of life's circumstances. He will never leave us to fend for ourselves. He will walk through each and every situation with us. (Psalm 119:65-72; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

**18. GRACIOUS** — God enjoys giving great gifts to those who love Him, even when they do not deserve it. Grace is the way we describe that inclination. Jesus Christ is the channel through which His grace moves. The Bible says, “The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 1:5-8)

**19. OMNIPRESENCE** — This theological term means “always present”. Since God is infinite, His being knows no boundaries. So, clearly He is everywhere. This truth is taught throughout the Bible as the phrase “I am with you always” is repeated 22 times in both the Old and New Testaments. These were even Jesus’ words of assurance just after giving the challenge to His disciples to take His message to the entire world. This is certainly a comforting truth for all who follow Jesus. (Psalm 139:7-12; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 13:5; Jeremiah 32:17, 27; Jeremiah 23:23-24)

**20. PERSONAL SPIRIT** — Because God is a personal Spirit, I can seek an intimate fellowship with Him. (Psalm 143:6)

**21. ABSOLUTE TRUTH** — God cannot lie. He never misleads us or misguides us. Because He is absolute truth I can believe what He says and live accordingly. (John 8:31-32; John 3:33; John 17:3; Romans 3:4; Numbers 11:22-23; Psalm 19:9; Psalm 117:2; Revelation 21:5; Revelation 22:6; John 1:14; John 16:13; John 14:17; John 8:31-32)

**22. RIGHTEOUS — (GOD IS JEHOVAH-M’KADDESH)**. This name of God means “the God who sanctifies”. A God separate from all that is evil requires that the people who follow Him be cleansed from all evil. By definition, righteous means morally good; acting in accord with divine law; free from guilt or sin. Since God has not sin or even any evil thought, then He is the only righteous being in the world. Because He is righteous, I can live by His standards and know that He will never lead me astray. (Ephesians 4:22-24; Psalm 71:19; Psalm 97:2; Psalm 145:17; Jeremiah 9:24; 2 Timothy 4:8; Exodus 9:27; 2 Chronicles 12:6; Jeremiah 23:6; Jeremiah 33:16)

**23. INTERCESSOR** — Knowing our temptations, God the Son intercedes for us to boldly ask God the Father for mercy. Thus God is both the initiation and conclusion of true prayer. Jesus taught us how to pray to our Father and the spirit of God teaches us to cry, “Abba, Father”. The Creator of the universe cares for each one of us as if we were the only child He had. (Romans 8:15-17; Hebrews 4:14-16)

**24. GOD IS JEHOVAH** — The name of the independent, self-complete being – “I AM WHO I AM” only belongs to Jehovah God. Our proper response to Him is to fall down in fear and awe of the One who possesses all authority. (Exodus 3:13-15)

**25. GOD IS JEHOVAL-JIREH** — “The God who provides”. Just as He provided yesterday, He will also provide today and tomorrow. He grants deliverance from sin, the oil of joy for the ashes of sorrow, and eternal citizenship is His Kingdom for all those adopted into His household. (Genesis 22:9-14)

**26. GOD IS JEHOVAH-ROPHE** — This name means “Jehovah heals”. God alone provides the remedy for mankind’s brokenness through His son, Jesus Christ. The Gospel is the physical, moral, and spiritual remedy for all people. (Exodus 15:22-26)

**27. GOD IS JEHOVAH-NISSI** — This name means “God our banner”. Under His banner we go from triumph to triumph and say, “Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”! (1 Corinthians 15:57; Exodus 17:8-15)

**28. GOD IS EL-SHADDAI** — This name means “God Almighty”, the God who is all sufficient and all bountiful, the source of all blessings. (Genesis 49:22-26)

**29. GOD IS ADONAI** — This name means “Master or Lord”. God, our Adonai, calls all God’s people to acknowledge themselves as His servants, claiming His right to reign as Lord of our lives. (2 Samuel 7:18-20)

**30. GOD IS THE CHURCH’S HEAD** — God the Son, Jesus, is the head of the church. As the head, the part of the body that sees, hears, thinks, and decides. He gives the orders that the rest of the body lives by. (Ephesians 1: 22-23)

**31. GOD IS ELOHIM** — This name means “Strength or Power”. He is transcendent, might and strong. Elohim is the great name of God, displaying His supreme power, sovereignty, and faithfulness in His covenant relationship with us. (Genesis 17:7-8)