

Attributes of God

This is a helpful tool for all of the study methods we will teach.

**(taken from BSF - Bible Study Fellowship)*

Accessible

From the beginning when God made Adam and Eve, He was accessible, or near. In the covenants God made with the patriarchs, He promised to be in relationship with them always. Later God commanded the people to build the tabernacle so He could live among them. God made Himself even nearer to people when He became a man, the Lord Jesus Christ, the true tabernacle. Now He is accessible in the most intimate way possible. His Spirit lives in every believer. Whenever you pray, He hears you.

Creator

There was never a time when God did not exist. Before there was anything at all, even time, God existed. No one made God. God made everything, from the tiniest subatomic particle to the farthest galaxy in the universe. Everything came from God, what we can see and what we cannot see — heaven, angels and the whole spiritual realm. He spoke and all these things came into existence. God alone is able to bring something out of nothing.

Eternal

God exists outside of time. He is not measured by anything. We measure time by the movement of the planets and stars, which God created. God has always been and always will be. No one is like Him. Because God is eternal, He can give us eternal life.

Faithful

God knows and loves each of His own. He will do all He has promised: care for and make strong; forgive and make new; protect and purify. From the beginning, He has had a plan to restore the world that sin broke, and God is faithful to His own plan. We know God is faithful because He sent His Son to the cross to keep His promise. Now nothing can separate God's people from His love. He is faithful to Himself and His Word. We can trust Him to keep all of His promises.

Father

As the Creator, God sustains and provides for all He has made, but He is the Father only of those who believe in His Son Jesus Christ. He gives us His Spirit, adopts us into His family and makes us His children. He has a loving relationship that lasts forever with every believer. He speaks to us personally through His Word the Bible, and we speak to Him in prayer. Even the best human father has flaws but God is always good, wise and loving. God loves, protects, cares for, trains and disciplines His children.

Glory

God's glory is the total of all His attributes. God displayed His glory in the beauty and wisdom of His creation. Throughout history, God has revealed His glory to His people through His power, mercy, grace, judgment, holiness, love and every other attribute. In the Old Testament God was symbolically present with His people in the glory cloud. This cloud, known as the Shekinah glory, guided His people in the wilderness and filled the tabernacle and later the temple. The Lord Jesus Christ reveals God's glory completely.

Good

We see God's goodness in His love and faithfulness. All of God's ways are righteous. He is good to all people. God's blessing is His goodness to us personally. God is compassionate. He satisfies those in need. He offers hope, refuge and care to all who come to Him. God's children experience His goodness even when bad things happen. God promises to make all things work together for our good.

Gracious

Grace is God's kindness to those who do not deserve it. God is slow to anger and longs to forgive people. God's grace in salvation reaches out powerfully to sinful people and makes them alive in Christ when they were dead in sin. God shows grace to all people. He gives life, families, sunshine, rain, music, talents, etc., as good gifts even to people who do not love Him.

Guide

God leads us in the way we should go. His Word teaches us how we are to live and think. Because God gives His children the Holy Spirit, they recognize His voice and follow Him. We can trust God to lead us in the right way. Without God's guidance, we stumble and fall like people in the dark.

Holy

God is high and lifted up. He is set apart from His creation. Our English word "holy" is from the same root word as "whole." God is whole – perfect in goodness and righteousness. No one is like God. Even God's holy angels tremble in reverent worship before Him. God sets apart His children for Himself and commands us to be holy as He is holy. Being holy makes you whole, what God intended you to be.

Immutable

God does not change. We can count on Him always to be holy, always to be good, always to be faithful, always to love us, always to hate sin. God's Word is like Him; it does not change. We can count on His promises. Because God never changes, we can trust Him always.

Impartial

God saves people regardless of what they have done or will do. He saves people who have families in church and people who do not. He saves people who are rich and those who are poor. He saves people who are smart and those who are not smart. He is always fair. There is nothing anyone can do to force God's hand, or put God in their debt. God will always do right by every person, in every situation. No one will be able to blame God for His judgments.

Incomprehensible

We cannot understand God's thoughts and ways. God is infinite and eternal; He knows all things. God made human beings in His image, but we are finite and flawed by sin. In heaven, we will be perfect. However, we will still not know all there is to know about God because we will always be finite. We can understand all we need to know about God because He has given us His Word and His Spirit.

Infinite

God has no beginning and no end; He has always existed and He always will. This is why God declared His name to be "I AM." God IS. God also has no 'size.' There is no place that can contain God because God has no limits of any kind. There is no way to measure God, for everything that God is, is limitless. God's power has no limits. God's knowledge has no limits. God's love has no limits. God the Father, Son and Spirit are all the same: infinite.

Invisible

God is Spirit, and we cannot see spirit. We cannot see Him or feel Him physically, just as we cannot see or feel sound waves, light waves, energy and atoms. However, God has made Himself visible through the Person of Jesus Christ. We can experience Jesus' presence with us now, and we will see Him when He returns.

Jealous

God's jealousy is one of protective love. The Lord seals every believer to Himself through the Holy Spirit. Unlike human beings, God does not experience feelings of insecurity, fear and anxiety about His relationship with people. He is righteously angry when His children choose to devote their time and attention to lesser things. When God's children turn their backs on Him, He pursues them.

Just

God's justice is perfect. His decisions are always based on His righteous character. God cannot ignore sin because He is holy. It would be unjust to ignore wickedness, rebellion and sin. God is just and does not show favoritism. Every penalty will be fair and right. God does not treat His children as their sins deserve because Jesus suffered the full punishment for our sins. Because God is just, He will never punish His children for the sin for which Jesus paid on the cross.

Love

God has always been love. Before He created the world the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit loved one another. God's love never fails. God loves the world. He showed His love by sending His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as Savior. When we receive His Son as our Savior, we can love God.

Merciful

God in His mercy does not give us what our sins deserve. He limits the extent of pain. He restrains evil and holds back sin. He makes His gospel known in places where people have turned their backs on Him. God seeks those who are lost, alone, hurting and in need. He forgives and restores those who repent and turn to Him in faith.

Omnipotent (all-powerful)

God has unlimited power, authority and influence. He does all He wants and intends to do. God's powerful Word spoke creation into being from nothing. God is the source of all power whether atoms, energy, life or human strength and authority. Without God's power, everything would fall apart. His power holds the stars in the sky and sustains human lives. Nothing can stop God. Evil and death will not win. God has promised a day He will raise all His children to life that does not end, and God has the power to keep His promise.

Omnipresent (everywhere)

God is present everywhere. There is nowhere in the physical universe where God is not. There is nowhere in the spiritual world where God is not. God is with His children no matter where they are. Satan can only be in one place at a time, but God is present everywhere at all times.

Omniscient (all-knowing)

God is never surprised. He knows all there is to know. Nothing is hidden from God. God knows the past and the future; He knows every person even before we are born. He knows the number of our days and all the plans He has for us. He knows what every person thinks, feels, says and does. Only God knows the choices people would make if their circumstances were different. Therefore, we can trust God to judge perfectly. Only God knows all things.

Patient

God is patient. He could put an end to human rebellion immediately, but God has pity on people whose lives are broken by sin. He loves His creation. His plan is to restore creation and reconcile repentant sinners to Himself. Today is the day of salvation, but one day God will come to judge all people.

Perfect

Everything God is, does and says, all His attributes, His revelation, and His works, are completely free of fault or defect. Because God is unchanging and faithful, the measure of perfection begins with God. What God wills is good and perfect; His ways are flawless; His judgments are upright; His Word is without error. Therefore, everything God is, does or says is right, including His Word in Scripture.

Person

God is a person. God is not an idea or an impersonal force. Like us, He has identity and personality. He is one being in three persons. God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and all work together to accomplish our salvation. As a

person, God has a mind and a will, and He communicates. God made people in His image with a mind and a will and the ability to communicate. He speaks to us through His Word, the Bible, and we speak to Him through prayer.

Preserver

When we trust Christ, we can know that God will continue the good work He started in us. God preserves our lives for His purpose, and He preserves our salvation. Jesus promised that no one can take you out of God's hand. No temptation, no failure, no person, not even Satan can cause God's children to lose their salvation. God preserves us so He will accomplish His purpose for us because He is our preserver.

Provider

God provides for every creature He has made. He feeds the birds and gives us our daily bread. We do not have strength or goodness of our own but God gives it to us generously. He provides a way out of temptation and protects us from evil. God's greatest gift is His Son. Because He gave us His Son, we can trust Him to give us everything else we need.

Righteous

God is right in all He does. He has always been right and always will be right. All of His words and actions are right. All of His plans are right. God has no sin and is positively perfect. God never lies. He is fair, just and faithful in all He does. We never need to wonder whether God is right, so we can trust God when we do not understand. We do not always see God's righteousness in the world today, but He has promised that His righteousness will prevail. Because God is righteous, He expects us to be righteous. Even the best person cannot be perfectly righteous. But God sees His children as clothed with Christ's righteousness!

Savior

God reaches down and rescues sinners from the penalty of death and hell that our sin deserves. We have no power to save ourselves from sin because we are dead in our sin. God has planned from eternity past to save His children fully from sin — from its penalty, power and presence. He sent His Son to live the perfect life we cannot live and die in our place for our sin. On the cross, Jesus satisfied God's full wrath against our sin. Therefore, Jesus saves completely from the penalty of sin. God has no punishment left for His children. Jesus saves His children from sin's power. He gives us new desires and a new ability to fight sin through the power of the Holy Spirit. One day, our Savior will free us from the presence of sin when we see Him face to face.

Sovereign

God controls all things. There is nothing that is outside of God's wise control, even the exact time and place for each person to live. No one tells God what to do. What God plans, happens. No event, no natural disaster, no person, not even Satan, can stop God's plans. When God permits evil, we can trust He has planned to use it for His people's good and His glory. God planned the time for His Son to come the first time and a time for His Son to return. God will accomplish His plan because He alone has power to do it.

Wise

God is not simply all knowing. He always uses His knowledge to do exactly what is right. God's Word is full of His wisdom. Both His plan of redemption and His creation are perfectly wise. Science is still discovering the riches of God's wisdom. The order of an atom displays God's wisdom. Mathematics and music are possible because they were first in God's mind. God is wise in how He put people in families and families in communities and communities in nations. God is wise in the plan He has for each of His children individually. All wisdom comes from God. To be wise we must seek Him.