

“THE NATURE AND ATTRIBUTES OF GOD” – PART II

Preface: This lesson deals with what are referred to as the attributes of God. To grow in faith is to grow in understanding and affirming what God has revealed about Himself in the Bible. Becoming comfortable discussing the attributes of God helps one articulate one's faith more clearly and provides a foundation from which to become discerning.

I. The Attributes of God

A. Match the attribute to the most appropriate definition from those provided.

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| _____ Justice | 1. God is all-powerful. |
| _____ Eternity | 2. God is compassionate and tender-hearted. |
| _____ Goodness | 3. holiness applied to relationships |
| _____ Holiness | 4. God's benevolence, mercy, and grace |
| _____ Righteousness | 5. God is unchanging. |
| _____ Mercy | 6. God exists above and apart from time. |
| _____ Omnipresence | 7. God reflects the perfect application of His law. |
| _____ Omniscience | 8. God is present everywhere. |
| _____ Omnipotence | 9. God is perfect & absolutely righteous; free from sin |
| _____ Immutability | 10. God knows all things past, present, and future. |

B. Read the following scriptures and identify the attribute addressed.

1. 1 Peter 1:16
2. Psalm 103:13
3. Psalm 145:9
4. Psalm 19:7-9
5. Matthew 19:26
6. Jeremiah 23:23-24
7. Psalm 90:2
8. Psalm 139:1-4
9. James 1:17
10. Acts 10:34-35

C. Consider the following:

1. Some suppose that Christ's sacrificial death was not truly necessary since God can simply choose to overlook man's sin. What attribute are they forgetting?
2. One particular approach to interpreting the Scriptures offers the notion that God has had a series of plans (dispensations) for mankind since Eden. Each time one has failed, He has simply initiated a new one. What attribute does this interpretive approach ignore?
3. This attribute is the basis for God's moral law. It reflects the essence of God's character as much or more than any other attribute. (hint: Isaiah 6)
4. If it were not for this attribute, fallen men would be doomed to eternal condemnation.
5. Some suggest that God is only in heaven — not in hell or on earth. What attribute corrects this misunderstanding?
6. We do not know what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future. What two *omnis* assure us of this?
7. Why do the questions *Who made God* or *When was God created* make no sense?
8. What attributes assure us that God will always do what is best for His children?

D. Discuss the following questions.

1. Why do Christians often ignore the study of God's nature and attributes, preferring studies on marriage, parenting, financial management, etc.?
2. When preachers say they are going to *call the Holy Spirit down* and insist that God must do their bidding, what aspect of God's nature are they ignoring?

3. What key question would you ask a Mormon to help them understand how they differ with genuine Christianity?

4. Do men have the liberty to choose Christ?

5. Why do you think believers in our day tend to diminish the importance of addressing or dealing with sin?

6. Our Lord said, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy." What do you think He meant by this?

7. Some of God's attributes are communicable (shared in some degree by man) and some are incommunicable (unique to God). List God's attributes that you believe are not shared by man (even before the Fall).