

## The Reality of God as Person

### Introduction

- A. Our goal is to distinguish between truth and error and deepen our understanding of each.
- B. The greatest possible reality is the person of God Himself. Of all reality He is the most real in that He is eternal, infinite, the source of all value and the creator of all that exists.
- C. Therefore the greatest truth one can know is to “know” God. And to grow in that understanding by living in harmony with Who He is. Such a person is called “Blessed.”

### I. A Brief Sketch of God’s Attributes

- A. The essential character of God is that He is a Person – a Spirit Person.

God has revealed Himself as Person in the following ways:

Giving Himself names – Exodus 3:13-15; Isaiah 42:8

He reveals Himself as self-conscious – Exodus 3:14; 1 Corinthians 2:11

He reveals Himself as self-determinative – Genesis 1:26; Ephesians 1:11

He seeks to establish personal relationships – Genesis 3:8-10; Matthew 11:28-30

God has revealed Himself as a Spirit person – invisible, and infinitely superior to all creation.  
Genesis 1:2; John 4:24

- B. God describes Himself as “living” – that is, as alive, life-giving, living and active in history and personal relationships. Jeremiah 10:20; 1 Thessalonians 1:9
- C. God describes Himself as “infinite” – that is, without limits of any kind, except that of His character and plan. 1 Kings 8:27; Psalm 145:3; Romans 11:33
- D. God describes Himself as “unchangeable” – that is, without change of character.  
Malachi 3:6; James 1:17
- E. God describes Himself as “eternal” – that is, having always existed. Psalm 90:2;  
1 Timothy 1:17
- F. God describes Himself as “omnipresent” – that is, being fully everywhere.  
Psalm 139:7; Acts 17:27,28
- G. God describes Himself as “omnipotent” – that is, as being all-powerful. Genesis 17:1;  
Hebrews 1:3

- H. God describes Himself as “omniscient” – that is, as possessing all knowledge at once.  
Psalm 147:4; Matthew 10:29
- I. God describes Himself as being “truth” – that is, as fully possessing the integrity of honesty and faithfulness. Psalm 31:5; John 14:6
- J. God describes Himself as being “love” – that is, as compassionate, caring, tender-hearted, giving, and seeking – sacrificially – personal, intimate, meaningful relationships.  
Jeremiah 31:3; 1 John 4:8
- K. God describes Himself as being “holy” – that is, the fullness of purity, fully transparent, and righteous in all His activities. Exodus 15:11; Revelation 4:8

## **II. A Few Suggestions for Discussion**

- A. When God says “He is able” in regard to some promise or exhortation – all the above attributes come into play – as He “backs up” His Word. Note: Daniel 3:17; Romans 11:23; Romans 14:4; 16:25; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Ephesians 3:20; Hebrews 7:25; Jude 24.
- B. It is interesting that He states He seeks to be “God” in our lives.  
Note: Genesis 17:8; Exodus 6:7; Jeremiah 7:23; 30:22; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Hebrews 8:10.
- C. God states He does not “change.” How are we to understand the relationship of His “anger” and His “joy”? Note His reference to His anger: Ps 95:10; Hebrews 3:10; And to joy: Isaiah 65:19; Jeremiah 32:41; Luke 10:21.
- D. Does God “suffer” in His relationship to us – to His creation?  
Note: Genesis 6:6; Judges 10:16; Isaiah 63:9; Matthew 26:38; Acts 9:4; Ephesians 4:30.
- E. Since God is characterized by “perfection” how are we to understand His suffering, anger, and joy? And, why did He create what would cause Him distress?  
Note: Psalm 2; Isaiah 45:18; Ezekiel 36:24-38; Colossians 1:16-18; Hebrews 1:2;
- F. God described Himself as a “person.” What are the implications in this revelation that we should keep in mind? What encouragement? What warning?
- G. God describes Himself as loving us and seeking us. How are we to understand what seems to be His absence, His reluctance to answer prayer, etc.?

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