

Bite Size Bible Study

God's Attributes #172 By Pastor Lee

God lives and exists outside of our limited 3 dimensional world. It is not possible for us to know Him completely. But He has not left us completely in the dark either. He has given us His instructions and teachings in the Bible and since Jesus' time He has given us the company of His Holy Spirit as our teacher, comforter and companion. These give us glimpses into things that we cannot experience or understand in the world we live in.

The Bible tells us that

1. **God is Holy:** That means He is deserving of respect and honor because He is creator of all things. He has self worth and lives within a high moral code that He created that is good for all of His creation. He is inherently holy, holy in essence, rather than having been assigned holiness from a higher being. *This is what the Lord says— your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.* Isaiah 48:17 NIV
2. **God is not limited by space and time.** He is eternal. There is no beginning or end to His existence. *The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.* Deut 33:27a
3. **God is Omnipresent:** This is a term that is difficult to grasp because it doesn't exist within our 3 (or 4 if we include time) dimensional world. By definition it means that He exists everywhere and at every time. He exists as much in the time of Moses as He does in today. There are no limits as to where or when He exists.

David, when he was praising God's greatness, asked, *"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there"* (Ps. 139:7-8). God's Spirit is the presence of God himself, and is everywhere.

4. **God is Omnipotent:** Meaning that He has the power and the ability to do whatever He desires to do. There is no one or nothing that will limit what He can do. The things that He does, such as creation are for us an example of that omnipotence *He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God."* Joshua 4:24 NIV
5. **God is Omniscient:** Means having infinite awareness, understanding, and insight and possession of universal or complete knowledge. He

has complete knowledge of everything that can be known. This shows that God cannot be limited in any way. *But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding.* Jer 10:12 NIV

Holiness, eternity, omnipresence, omnipotence and omniscience are some of the attributes of God's essence, that is characteristic of the nature of His divine existence. But even beyond these impressive attributes, He is consistently good, kind and loving to us (meaning everyone – not just Christians). *But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love forever and ever.* Psalm 52:8 NIV

Unlike most of His creation God has given human beings a free will. With this free will, unlike programmed instinct, we have the capability to do things our own way, without regards to anyone or anything else. This presents the possibility of doing things that are not in the best interests of others or ourselves and goes against God's plan for our lives.

To counter this proclivity we have of not doing things in the best way, God has provided a way, if we choose, to help us to overcome this. It is a direct relationship between our spirit and His Holy Spirit. For His part this relationship is always a standing invitation to anyone who freely chooses it. It doesn't matter how many mistakes we have made or how long it has taken us to open to that relationship – it is still there, with no strings attached.

When we open up to that relationship we begin to see that it has an effect on the way we think and act. We no longer consider just ourselves but see others as God sees them. Our relationship with others begins a new era. Our actions (works as some call them) now begin to resemble the actions God would take in whatever situation we are in.

Wrong actions (sins) have negative repercussions. Those repercussions need to be repaired, and that is what Jesus did in dying, and raising from the dead. In a way it represents our dying because of our sins and rising to a new and better way of living. By ourselves we cannot pay the price for our mistakes, but Jesus did pay for all of them for everyone. Why? Because of His unconditional love for every one.

So the things we do don't pay for our mistakes, Jesus paid that debt. He gives us that for free. Now it is our relationship with Him that causes our actions to change, not what we do to try to pay for our sins.

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