

Characteristics of God

Accessible: (of a person, typically one in a position of authority or importance) friendly and easy to talk to; approachable. (Oxford)

Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us. Ephesians 2:18 NLT

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: kre-a'-ter (ktistes), The distinctive characteristic of Deity, as the Creator, is that He is the Cause of the existent universe--Cause of its being, not merely of its evolution or present arrangements. (BibleStudyTools.com)

So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you. 1 Peter 4:19 NLT

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: lasting or existing forever; without end or beginning. (Oxford)

"The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. And he thrust out the enemy before you and said, 'Destroy.'" Deuteronomy 33:27 ESV

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: loyal, constant, and steadfast. (Oxford)

"Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations..." Deuteronomy 7:9 ESV

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: a male animal in relation to its offspring. a man who gives care and protection to someone or something.

"See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him." 1 John 3:1 NLT

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: kabowd (Hebrew) honor & abundance.

"There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory." Exodus 29:43 ESV

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: of a favorable character or tendency (Webster) towb (Hebrew) pleasant, excellent, agreeable, understanding, kind, right. kalos (Greek) beautiful, handsome, excellent, eminent, choice, surpassing, precious, useful, suitable, commendable, admirable

"O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help." Psalm 86:5 NLT

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: marked by kindness and courtesy (Webster)

"The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." Psalm 145:8 ESV

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: a person who advises or shows the way to others.

*"You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory." Psalm 73:24
ESV*

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: sacred; set apart.

"Give the following instructions to the entire community of Israel. You must be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy." Leviticus 19:2 NLT

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: unchangeable.

"In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." Hebrews 6:17-20 NASB

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.

Infinite: limitless or endless in space, extent, or size; impossible to measure or calculate.

"Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." Psalm 90:2 NIV

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.

Jealous: fiercely protective or vigilant of one's rights or possessions.

"You must worship no other gods, for the LORD, whose very name is Jealous, is a God who is jealous about his relationship with you." Exodus 34:14 NLT

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: based on or behaving according to what is morally right and fair.

"The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He." Deuteronomy 32:4 NASB

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: an intense feeling of deep affection.

"⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us." John 4:7-12 ESV

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: showing or exercising mercy.

"But the LORD was gracious and merciful to the people of Israel, and they were not totally destroyed. He pitied them because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And to this day he still has not completely destroyed them or banished them from his presence." 2 Kings 14:23 NLT

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: having unlimited power; able to do anything.

"For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God." Romans 1:20

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: present everywhere at the same time

Where can I go from Your Spirit?

Or where can I flee from Your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, You are there;

If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.

If I take the wings of the dawn,

If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,

Even there Your hand will lead me,

And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

Psalms 139:7

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: knowing everything.

"O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways" Psalm 139:1-3

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: able to accept or tolerate delays, problems, or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious.

"Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;'"
Exodus 34:6

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: free from any flaw or defect in condition or quality; faultless.

"The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether." Psalm 19:7-9

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.

Preserver: to keep safe from injury, harm, or destruction

"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6

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: one who provides.

"Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, 'In the mount of the LORD it will be provided.'" Genesis 22:13-14

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: acting in accord with divine or moral law : free from guilt or sin

"The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me, 'He who rules over men righteously, Who rules in the fear of God, Is as the light of the morning when the sun rises, A morning without clouds, When the tender grass springs out of the earth, Through sunshine after rain.' " 2 Samuel 23:3-4

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: one who brings salvation; deliverer.

*"Powerful kings and mighty nations
will satisfy your every need,
as though you were a child
nursing at the breast of a queen.
You will know at last that I, the LORD,
am your Savior and your Redeemer,
the Mighty One of Israel."* Isaiah 60:16

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: supreme ruler.

"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all." 1 Chronicles 29:11-12

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: ability to discern inner qualities and relationships

"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere." James 3:17

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.

****Words in medium bold font were taken from Bible Study Fellowship's handout over the attributes of God.**

Works Cited

Bible Study Fellowship. "Attributes of God." 2018. Class Handout.

