

Theology Proper

The Attributes of God's Greatness (part 1) – Lesson 6

- What is God like? What are the characteristics that define “God”?
- We are going to look at the divine attributes of God, they are those qualities or characteristics inherent to God, they are what make up God’s essence and being.
- **Note:** These attributes are those qualities possessed only by God. If God were to at any time cease to possess these attributes, He would cease to be _____.
- **Lesson overview: Attributes of God's Greatness** – Omniscience, Omnipotence, Omnipresence, Omnisapience

I. Omniscience– God is “All _____”

A. Meaning:

1. The prefix “omni” means ____, and “science” means _____. Omniscience then speaks of God has have all- knowledge. God knows all things, actual and possible, past, present, and future, effortlessly, and equally well.
2. God’s knowledge is *a priori*, meaning it does not proceed from observation or experience, Gods knowledge precedes all things that will be.
3. God’s knowledge is complete, He is not lacking to know anything, and therefore God can never learn anything knew that He did not already know.
4. *“God’s knowledge is from Himself, independent of any outside source, and so prior to all things outside Himself.”* (Biblical Doctrines, pg.176)
5. **A.W. Tozer** - *“God knows all things perfectly; He knows no thing better than any other thing, but all things equally well. He never discovers anything, He is never surprised, never amazed. He never wonders about anything nor does He seek information or ask questions (except when drawing men out for their own good).”*¹

B. Are there bounds to God’s knowledge?

1. God’s understanding has no bounds.

- _____ - *Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is _____.*
- 2. God’s understanding is not bound in the dimension of _____, there is no past, present, future with God. Everything is one great living present.
 - a. Illustration of a parade in relation to time.
 - b. **Isaiah 55:8-9** - *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

C. Scriptural support for God’s omniscience

1. God knows _____ things.

- **1 John 3:20** – *For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.*

¹ A.W. Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy (New York: HarperCollins, 1961/1978), 56-57.

2. **God knows all His _____.**
 - **Acts 15:18** - *Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.*
3. **God knows all things _____ they happen.**
 - a. **Isaiah 46:9–10** — *Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, **10**; Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:*
 - b. **Jeremiah 1:5** — *Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*
4. **God knows all things that will happen in the _____.**
 - a. **Isaiah 46:9–11** — *Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, **10**; Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: **11**; Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.*
 - **Note:** God declares His omniscience separates Him from all the pagan deities Isaiah 41:22–26; 42:8–9; 43:9–12; 44:6–8
 - b. **Matthew 16:21** — *From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.*
 - c. **Revelation 1:18–19** — *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. **19**; Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;*
5. **God has a perfect knowledge of all that is in nature:**
 - a. **God knows how many _____ are in the heaven (Psalm 147:4)**
 - **Psalm 147:4** - *"He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names."*
 - b. **God knows how many _____ are on our head (Luke 12:6-7)**
 - **Luke 12:6-7** - *"Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows."*

D. Practical implications of God's Omniscience:

1. **There can _____ be a moment of your existence when you are not personally immediately upon God's mind.**
 - _____ – *"How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee. (Psalm 40:5)*
2. **God can never "_____ " anything new about us that would surprise Him and cause Him to cast us out.**
 - **A.W. Tozer** – *"How unutterably sweet is the knowledge that our heavenly Father knows us completely. No talebearer can inform on us, no enemy can make an accusation stick; no forgotten skeleton can come tumbling out of*

some hidden closet to ambush us and expose our hidden past; no unsuspected weak²ness in our characters can come to light to turn God away from us...whatever may befall us, God knows and cares as no one else can."

- 3. Every warning God gives us in His word comes from an omniscient God who truly "_____ " what is best.** He does not warn us based on "guessing" what "might" happen, He knows what will happen for certain.

E. How should we respond to God's omniscience?

- 1. God's omniscience should encourage Christians to live _____ lives.**

a. God knows all that we _____

1) Matthew 12:36 – *"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."*

2) Psalm 139:2-3 - *"Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether."*

b. God knows all that we _____.

- **Proverbs 5:21** - *"For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings."* (Heb. 4:13)

c. God knows the _____ of our lives.

- **Romans 2:16** - *"In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel."* (Eccl. 12:14)

d. God knows all our _____

- **Matthew 9:2-4; Luke 11:14-17**

- 2. God's omniscience should make us feel _____**

a. There is never a moment in time you are not actively on the mind of God (Psalm 139:17-18)

b. How does it make you feel that God knows all about us and still says He loves us (Romans 5:8)?

- 3. God's omniscience should cause us to _____ God**

- **Proverbs 3:5-6** - *"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."*

- 4. God's omniscience should cause us to _____ Him**

- **Romans 11:33-36** — **33**; *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!* **34**; *For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?* **35**; *Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?* **36**; *For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

II. Omnipotence – All – _____

A. Meaning:

- 1.** God is able to do anything that is consistent with His own nature.

² Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy, pg.57

2. God commands all the power in the universe, He can do anything as easily as anything else. All that He does is without effort. He does not expend His energy so that it needs to be replenished (He does not grow tired).
3. He is self-sufficient, so He does not need anything outside _____ to renew strength. He alone is always and at all times all powerful.
4. Question: What about the seventh day of creation, it says "God rested."

• _____

B. Scripture:

1. **Jeremiah 32:27** — *Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?*
2. **Genesis 18:14a** — *"Is any thing too hard for the LORD?"*
3. **Luke 1:37** — *"For with God nothing shall be impossible."*
4. **Matthew 19:26** — *But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. (3:9, 26:53)*
5. **Luke 18:27** — *And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.*
6. **Ephesians 3:20** — *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*
7. **Revelation 19:6** — *"And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."*
8. The word "Almighty" occurs _____ times in reference to God in the Bible.

C. Examples of God's Power in Creation

1. **Example of the power in _____** -
 - a. **Psalms 97:4** - *"His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled."*
 - b. An average thunderstorm dispenses about 10million Kilowatt-hours of energy, equivalent to a 20-kiloton nuclear warhead and large storms can be 10-100 times more energetic!
 - c. The University of Alberta Canada once showed that in that temperate climate there is an average of 1800 storms in operation at any time. These 1800 storms expend an almost inconceivable amount of energy. They use 1,300,000,000 horsepower. Where does all that energy come from?
2. **The energy in the Sun and _____**.
 - a. **Isaiah 40:26** - *"Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth."*
 - b. **The Sun**
 - 1) The core of the sun is 27 _____ degrees Fahrenheit.
 - 2) Though our sun is 93 million miles from earth, sunlight is our main source of energy.
 - 3) "The Sun heats the earth and it drives all the weather systems on the earth, tornadoes, hurricanes, thunderstorms, just plain rainclouds, winds, etc., all of that is driven by the energy that is coming from the sun; and the energy that we have on earth is only

one _____ of the amount of energy that is coming from the sun!" ³

4) The Sun burns up 8-10 million pounds of matter every second, day and night! The sun releases more energy in one second than a billion major cities on the earth (if there were a billion) would produce in a year, and that is just in one second! ⁴

5) Consider that in our own milky way galaxy there is estimated to be a hundred _____ stars. Then consider that there are a hundred billion more galaxies in space with hundreds of billions of stars in each of those galaxies with each star burning up millions of pounds of matter each second! Where did all that energy and power come from?

3. If God can produce all this, what is He like?

- **Psalm 33:6-9** – *“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.”*

4. Are there any limits to God’s power?

- Any limits to God’s power are self-limitations that He places upon Himself, for example:
 - a. God cannot lie (Titus 1:2).
 - b. He cannot be tempted (James 1:13).
 - c. He cannot deny Himself (2 Timothy 2:13).
 - d. He cannot change in His essence, purpose, or promises (James 1:17, Mal.3:6).

D. Implications from God’s Omnipotence

1. God can do all that He wishes and desires (creating all things, sustaining all things, overcoming evil, defeating Satan).
2. God has the power to _____ us (Romans 1:16)
 - **Romans 1:16** - *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*
3. **God has the power to _____ us saved (I Peter 1:5)**
 - a. **1 Peter 1:5** - *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*
 - b. **Jude 24 — 24**; *Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,*
4. **God has the power to _____ us from the dead.**
 - a. **John 10:18** – *No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*

³ Larry Vardiman, Ph.D., Atmospheric Scientist, and director of Research at ICR

⁴ Jason Lisle, Ph.D., Astrophysicist, Planetarium director, Creation Museum.

b. I Corinthians 6:14 – *And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.*

5. God has power to bind _____.

- **Revelation 20:2** - "And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,"

6. God has the power to build His _____ (Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 16:18)

- **Matthew 16:18** - *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.* (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).

E. Implications of God's omnipotence to the believer?

1. We have power to _____ – Romans 1:16

- **Acts 1:8** – *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.* (1 Thess. 1:5)

2. We have power to _____ and endure affliction.

- **2 Corinthians 4:7-9** - *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;*

3. We have power to do God's will.

- **Philippians 2:13** – *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

4. We have power to _____

- **Colossians 1:29** - *Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.*

5. We have power to _____ evil

- a. **Ephesians 6:10** - *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*

III. Omnipresence – God is _____ present with His whole being at all times.

A. Meaning

1. *Omnipresence means that God is everywhere present with His whole being at all times.*⁵
2. His center is everywhere; His circumference nowhere. But this presence is a spiritual and not a material presence; yet it is a real presence.
 - a. This does not mean that God is everywhere present in a bodily sense, nor even in the same sense; for there is a sense in which He may be in heaven, His dwelling place, in which He cannot be said to be elsewhere.
 - b. Omnipresence **does not** mean God is the creation (Panthemism); God is everywhere present throughout creation (and beyond) but is distinct from the creation. Because God is everywhere does not mean God is everything.

⁵ Charles Ryrie, Basic Theology, pg.46

B. Scripture:

1. **Psalm 139:7-10** — *7; Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8; If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9; If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.*
 - God's omnipresence is not limited by space (v.8), speed (v.9), or darkness (v.10-11).
2. **1 Kings 8:27** - *But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?*

C. Implications from God's Omnipresence:

1. **No person can _____ the presence of God.**
 - **Jeremiah 23:23-24** — *23; Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? 24; Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.*
2. **God's continual presence brings _____.**
 - The omniscience of God tells us there can never be a moment of your existence when you are not personally immediately upon God's mind; the omnipresence of God tells us there can never be a moment that you are not personally and immediately in the _____ of Almighty God.
 - a. **Jonah 2:2** — *And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.*
 - b. **Psalm 139:9-10, 28:20, 1 Cor. 6:19-20**
3. **God's continual presence brings _____.**
 - "I am with you always" not only brings comfort but accountability; how so?
 - a. **Psalm 139:1-4** — *O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. 2; Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. 3; Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. 4; For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.*
 - b. The same Jonah that cried to God in the belly of the whale and was heard by God because of His ever abiding presence, also could not run away from God!
4. **God's presence brings _____ to the lost person!**
 - **Acts 17:27** — *That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: (Acts 17:24-28)*

IV. Omnisapience – God is all _____**A. Meaning:**

- Wisdom sees the end from the beginning in perfect focus then takes that perfect knowledge and applies a perfect means to accomplish a perfect ending.

B. Scripture:

1. **Romans 11:33** — *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!*
2. **Romans 16:27** – *To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.*

3. God's wisdom in _____

- **Psalm 104:24** – *“O LORD, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.”*

4. God's wisdom is _____

- **I Corinthians 1:24** – *“But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.”*

5. Gods' wisdom in the _____

- **Ephesians 3:10** – *“To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,”*

C. Implications of God's Wisdom

1. God is the One we go to for Wisdom.

- a. **Proverbs 2:6** – *For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*
- b. **James 1:5** – *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of _____, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

2. The absence of God is the presence of foolishness.

- a. _____ - *“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.” (Psalm 53:1)*
- b. **Jeremiah 4:22** - *“For my people is foolish, they have not _____ me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.”*

3. God gives wisdom, and apart from the giver, you cannot have the gift.

- a. **Proverbs 12:15** – *“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.”*
- b. **Proverbs 28:26** – *“He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.”*

4. Because God is All Wise, He can be trusted to work things out even when we do not understand!

- a. **Example of _____ - Matthew 16:21-23**
- b. **Example of _____ - John 11**
- c. Always remember; even when you do not understand, God can be trusted. God's omniscience means He always knows what is best, His Omnipotence gives Him the power to bring it to pass; and His wisdom knows how to apply His knowledge and power to accomplish the best possible outcome. His love also reassures us He will work all things together for our good and His glory (Romans 5:8, 8:28, 32).

• **Weekly Assignments**

- Study for test over lesson 6
- Read: “Biblical Doctrine” (MacArthur/Mayhue) pages 179-188