

# LESSON ESSENTIALS

## OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

### LESSON 4: UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Even though we are like dust in comparison to our mighty God, He still wants to have a relationship with us. Unlike in other religions where God is unfathomable and adherents are taught that God is unknowable by mere mortals, our God takes pride in revealing Himself to us. Since God knows our thoughts and can see us even in our secret places, we ought to live our lives in a way that is pleasing to God and to serve Him with all our hearts. Read on to know more.

The Bible reveals that God is omnipresent (present everywhere), omnipotent (all powerful), and omniscient (all knowing), yet He love us unconditionally and cares for us passionately. This lesson will go a step further in acquainting you with God.

For many of us, these attributes of God seem more threatening than awe-inspiring. We often forget that this great God also calls us His friends and longs to have a personal relationship with us.

You can't run away from God. Having said that, God isn't watching and waiting for you to fail Him and to flee from His presence. He's so concerned about you that He would not let you disappear from His sight, and He pursues your heart even as you fail.

How would you describe God to someone who didn't know what He was like? Most of us Christians have grown up learning that God is omnipresent (present everywhere), omnipotent (all powerful), and omniscient (all knowing). In fact, for many of us, these attributes of God seem more threatening than awe-inspiring. We often forget that this great God also calls us His friends and longs to have a personal relationship with us. Unlike other religions, where gods are thought to be beyond man's comprehension and so powerful that he cannot get to know them, the God of the Bible has clearly revealed Himself to us. He refers to Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – your God and my God.

Our God is a Person. He can think rationally and feel great emotion. He knows us inside and out: after all, He created us! He is not just a God who is an all-powerful force to be manipulated, but a personal God who loves and cares for us unconditionally, irrespective of where we might be. That's because He is present everywhere. In Psalm 139:7-10 (ESV), David praises God saying, 'Where shall I go from Your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, You are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.'

Simply put, you can't run away from God. Having said that, God isn't watching and waiting for you to fail Him and to flee from His presence. He's so concerned about you that He would not let you disappear from His sight, and He pursues your heart even as you fail. It should be comforting but also a serious thought that God knows the deepest secrets of our heart and knows our sin.

God is also omnipotent, which means that He is so mighty that He can do anything. By the mere words of His mouth, our whole universe came into existence. Genesis tells us that God created the universe in six days! And to think that this same God cares so much for us mere mortals who are like specks of dust in comparison to Him! We're here today, gone tomorrow, but God is infinite. He is the beginning and the end. He existed before the world began and even the grave could not contain Him. That is how amazing our God is!

He even knows everything. Since God is omniscient, there is nothing about us that He doesn't know, not even those secret thoughts that only you're aware of. We would do well to follow the advice that King David gave his son Solomon before his death. 1Chr 28:9 (ESV) says, 'And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve Him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought.' David wanted his son to have a relationship with God and to serve Him with all his heart, because God knows exactly what's in our hearts.

How can I serve God with all my heart, you might ask? It starts with making sure every area of your life is pleasing to God. You need to be careful with your thoughts, and stop any thoughts that don't honour God. You can praise God in your heart all day. Sometimes, we pretend to do something good just to get people's approval, and not to glorify God. But God knows our intentions, and thoughts, and whether we are truly serving Him or only pretending to do so! God hates pretence and deceit, which is why Jesus never had a kind word to say to the Pharisees of His time. He called them white-washed tombs that looked good from the outside, but were filthy on the inside.

As followers of Christ, and servants of the Almighty God, we must be honest in our ways and serve God with all that is within us. That's the least we can do for a God who loves us in spite of our failings, who sent His Son to die for our sins, and who promises to give us an everlasting life and much more.

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## IN REVIEW

- Our God is a personal God, who relates to us. He is not just an unknown force, but a God who wants to communicate with us and have a relationship with us.
- Our God is Omnipresent, which means that He is present everywhere and is not confined to any place.
- Our God is Omnipotent, that is, He is mighty and there is nothing that He can't do. He is infinity Himself! What an honour that this all-powerful God welcomes us, His creation, into relationship with Him!
- Our God is Omniscient. He knows all. He knows the deepest, darkest thoughts within us, and observes our motives, more than our actions. So, when we serve Him, we should serve Him with our whole heart.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

- Given that you know that God is omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient, how can you change your life to make it more pleasing to Him?
- How can you practically serve God with your whole heart, like David advised his son to do?
- How can you share the above attributes of God with a friend from another faith, while assuring them that God loves us and longs to have a relationship with us?

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