

# HERITAGE BASICS: Lesson 3

## GOD: Character and Attributes

### Memory Verse- 1 Chronicles 29:11

*Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all.*

**READ:** *“Plunge yourself in the godhead’s deepest sea; be lost in His immensity; and you shall come forth as from a couch of rest refreshed and invigorated. I know nothing which can so comfort the soul, so calm the swelling billows of sorrow and grief; so speak peace to the winds of trial, as devout musing upon the subject of the Godhead.”*

*--C .H. Spurgeon on January 7, 1855*

I. **INTRO-** Today, there are so many different “gods” and opinions about what God (or god) is like. The Bible, on the other hand, claims to be the revelation of the one true God. What we see in the Bible is that it never tries to prove God exists; it simply states, *“In the beginning GOD...”* (Genesis 1:1).

A. How does Psalm 89:7-8, describe God?

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B. What statement is made to point to the fact that there is only one God (Isaiah 43:10)?

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C. What is it that God will not give to another (Isaiah 42:8)?

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### II. THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD

A. Jesus equated knowing God with what (John 17:3)? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Rather than boasting in wisdom, might, or riches, what one things does God say a man should boast about (Jeremiah 9:24)? \_\_\_\_\_

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**QUOTE:** *A right conception of god is basic not only to systematic theology but to practical Christian living as well... I believe there is scarcely an error in doctrine or a failure in applying Christian ethics that cannot be traced finally to imperfect and ignoble thoughts about God. – A. W. Tozer*

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### III. HOW CAN ONE KNOW GOD?

A. What does Jesus say about the means for knowing God (John 14:9-10)?

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B. What does Paul say about Christ in Colossians 2:9?

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C. The writer of Hebrews says that God has spoken to us in His Son. How is Christ described (Hebrews 1:3)?

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**IV. GOD'S ATTRIBUTES**

**A. What are attributes?**- A quality or characteristic that is true about someone.

- i. Studying God's attributes allows us to have a limited understanding of His Person
- ii. Even though some concepts exceed the limits of our comprehension, our ideas concerning God need to be as true as possible... even if we can't fully understand them.
- iii. A Few of God's Attributes (All attributes are possessed equally by all members of the Godhead; God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)
  - 1. Holiness
  - 2. Righteousness and Justice
  - 3. Sovereignty
  - 4. Immutability
  - 5. Omniscience
  - 6. Omnipresence
  - 7. Omnipotence
  - 8. Love
  - 9. Truth
  - 10. Mercy

**B. Defining God's Attributes**

(DIRECTIONS: Look up the following Scripture verses, then write down the part of the verse that best describes the given attribute. Second, write out how that attribute personally applies to you based on your understanding of the attribute.)

- i. **Holiness**- This means that HE is untouched and unstained by the evil in the world. He is absolutely pure and perfect.

1. Exodus 15:11 \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Psalm 99:9 \_\_\_\_\_

Because God is holy, we are exhorted to be holy (1 Peter 1:16). We are to be set apart from sin unto God. Our lives are to shine as a reflection of God in an unrighteous world.

Personal Application: \_\_\_\_\_

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- ii. **Righteousness and Justice**- are derived from the same root word in the original language of the New Testament. The meaning is being right and/or just

Righteousness is the perfect agreement between God's nature and His acts. Justice is the way God legislates His righteousness. there is no action that God takes in relation to man that violates any code of morality or justice.

1. According to Psalm 119:137, God's righteousness is displayed in His \_\_\_\_\_

2. In Psalm 89:14, righteousness and justice are referred to as \_\_\_\_\_

How does your standard of what is right and just compare with God's standard?

Personal Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- iii. **Sovereignty**- this means chief or highest, supreme in power, or superior in position to all others. He is in control of all!

1. Isaiah 46:9-10 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Isaiah 45:23 \_\_\_\_\_

The Idea of sovereignty is encouraging, because it assures us that nothing is out of God's control and that His plans cannot be thwarted (Romans 8:28).

Personal Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- iv. **Eternality**- God is eternal and there has never been a time when He did not exist. He has no beginning and no end.

1. Isaiah 44:6 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Isaiah 43:13 \_\_\_\_\_

God is not bound by time. He sees the past and the future as clearly as He sees the present. With that perspective, He has a perfect understanding of what is best for our lives. Therefore, we should trust Him with all areas of our lives.

Personal Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
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v. **Immutability**- God never changes in His nature or purpose.

1. Malachi 3:6 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Hebrews 6:17-18 \_\_\_\_\_

We can trust God to keep His Word!

Personal Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
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vi. **Omniscience**- God knows all things present and future. Nothing takes Him by surprise.

1. Job 34:21 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Psalm 139:1-6 \_\_\_\_\_

God knew all our sins (past, present, and future) at the time of our salvation. Yet He still forgave us and received us into His family forever. What does that say about the security of our salvation?

Personal Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
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vii. **Omnipresence**- God is present everywhere in the universe.

1. Proverbs 15:3 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Psalm 139:7-12 \_\_\_\_\_

Since God is everywhere, it is foolish to think we can hide from Him. This means that a believer may experience the presence of God at all times and know the blessings of walking with Him.

Personal Application: \_\_\_\_\_

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viii. **Omnipotence**- God is all-powerful, having more than enough strength to do anything.

1. Jeremiah 32:17 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Revelation 19:6 \_\_\_\_\_

God's Omnipotence is seen in:

- His power to create (Genesis 1:1)
- His preservation of all things (Hebrews 1:3)
- His providential care for us (Psalm 37:23-24)

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10). What can we learn from this passage about God's omnipotence?

Personal Application: \_\_\_\_\_

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ix. **Love**- God is love. His love is unconditional; it is not based on the loveliness or merit of the object.

1. John 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Romans 5:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Love expresses itself in action. God is our example. He demonstrated His love for us in sending Jesus to die in our place (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Personal Application: \_\_\_\_\_

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x. **Truth**- God is the only true God.

1. Psalm 31:5 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Psalm 117:2 \_\_\_\_\_

God's truth is above all. He is truthful even if all men are found to be liars. Therefore, His words and His judgments always prevail (Romans 3:4). In light of this, how should you view God's Word and the truth it contains?

Personal Application: \_\_\_\_\_

xi. **Mercy**- God's great mercy is the practical expression of His compassion to those who have opposed His will.

1. Psalm 145:8-9 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Psalm 103:3-4 \_\_\_\_\_

God's great mercy is contrasted with man's sin. His mercy is displayed in our salvation (Ephesians 2:4-5).

Personal Application: \_\_\_\_\_

**V. APPLICATION-** taking into account the attributes of God discussed in this lesson, answer the following.

a. **How will your prayers be affected?** \_\_\_\_\_

b. **How would you respond to a major trial in your life, such as:**

i. The death of a close relative (spouse, child)?

ii. An accident that leaves you physically disabled?