

Di223 We Believe

Lesson Di223-4 God Reveals Himself

What is God like? Have you ever heard someone say, “That earthquake was an act of God?” We know accidents happen that are beyond the control of any human being. Some people are quick to blame God for such tragedies. But what a wrong view of God! Sin is in the world, because God allowed his created beings to choose between right and wrong. A loving God may allow tragedy in order to accomplish higher purposes, but he does not cause tragedy and suffering.

People in today’s world often pray to gods of wood and stone, or to trees and rivers. They need to hear about the living God who hears and answers prayer—the God who is real and powerful!

Can you imagine what it must have been like for Moses to meet with God Almighty on Mount Sinai? Moses said to God, “Show me your glory.”

Yahweh, the God of Israel told him, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, Yahweh, in your presence. But, you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live. There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen” (Ex 33:18-23).

So Moses did as God said and went up to Mount Sinai early in the morning and stood on a certain rock. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and proclaimed his name, Yahweh. The scripture says that he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.” Immediately Moses bowed to the ground and worshiped God (Ex 34:4-8). What an experience that must have been in God’s presence!

So, what is God like? God was not created and is not limited in any way. He always has been and always will be. We use eight words to describe God.

1. God is **limitless**. David says in Psalm 147:5: “Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.” God is not limited by any of the things that limit mankind.
2. God is **all-knowing**, which means having all knowledge. If we could put all of mankind’s learning into one person, he would be the smartest human being alive. Yet, the greatest and wisest human is still limited. God is all-knowing. His knowledge is without limits. God knows everything because he designed and created everything that exists. He knows everything about us too.
3. God is **everywhere-present**. He is present everywhere at the same time. No place in the universe is hidden from God’s presence. He is everywhere. The Psalmist writes, “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...if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me” (Ps 139:7-10). You are not alone; God is always there.

4. God is **all-powerful**, which means there is nothing God cannot do. He is almighty. The most powerful thing we can imagine may be a rocket. But God is a source of power in the universe that is greater than we could ever understand. God uses his power according to his purposes and divine wisdom. His power is motivated by a heart of love. We can trust God to use his unlimited power according to his love and purposes for our lives.

5. God is **eternal**, which means he will never die. God has always been and he always will be. There has never been a time when God did not exist. Psalm 90:2 expresses God’s eternal existence this way: “Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”

6. God is **holy**. God cannot sin; he cannot lie. God is pure. God’s holiness means he is also just and fair. Because we have sinned, only the sacrifice of the Son of God could satisfy God’s holiness.

7. God is **love**. “God so loved the world that he gave his Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). The apostle Paul says that God loved us while we were still sinners.

8. Our last word is **unchanging**. God will always be faithful, merciful and full of love toward us. People change their minds all the time, but God never changes. He provides salvation for anyone who is willing to accept it. We can always depend on him.

So the second *Statement of Faith* is: “We believe the one true God has revealed himself as the eternal Creator of heaven and earth and the Savior of mankind. He has further revealed himself as one being in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

The second memory verse is Paul’s blessing for the Corinthian church. It includes the three persons of the Godhead: “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2Cor 13:14).

This lesson is **important** because it explains the character of God in easy-to-understand words. These words, based on the Scriptures, show us what God is like.

The **main truth** of this lesson is the character and attributes of God. He is limitless, all-knowing, everywhere-present, all-powerful, eternal, holy, loving, and unchanging. This one God exists in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Let’s **review** this lesson—

1. Name four of the attributes of God. [Pause.]
 - A. If you answered four of the following eight attributes: “limitless, all-knowing, everywhere-present, all-powerful, eternal, holy, loving or unchanging,” you are correct.
2. What does the word “eternal” mean? [Pause.]
 - A. If you answered, “Eternal means God has always been and he always will be; he will never die,” you answered correctly.

3. How did Moses see God's glory? [Pause.]

A. If you answered, "God passed in front of Moses so that Moses only saw his back," you are right.

Your **assignment** is to memorize our second *Statement of Faith*, which is, "We believe the one true God has revealed himself as the eternal Creator of heaven and earth and the Savior of mankind. He has further revealed himself as one being in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." And, memorize this lesson's verse from the Bible, which is, "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (Second Corinthians 13:14). Share with two other persons some of the attributes of God.