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Who is God?

Author: Kurian Abraham

INTRODUCTION: No man has ever seen God in His spiritual being or essence (John1:18) God is invisible and no one can see the eternal God who dwells in glory. The Bible does not try to prove the existence of God but assumes the existence of a personal God. The questions about the existence of God come from our sinful pride and rebellion. The Bible says that the creation of this universe is the expression of God's power (Psalms 19:1). And all good and perfect gifts come from God (James 1:17). Man always wanted to know God and in search of Him. But it is impossible for us to know God with his own ability and can never comprehend Him fully. Our knowledge of God in this life can only be imperfect and partial (1Cor 13:12)

The Existence of God: The Bible is the only book that reveals the one and only true God. The Bible explains the nature and attributes of God. The Bible begins with acknowledging the existence of God, "In the beginning God created" (Gen 1:1"). One should accept this truth by faith. in order to know God .The heavens declare the glory of God(Psalms 8:1). In creation we can see God's planning, power and providence . He is the first cause behind all creation. Thus God has disclosed his everlasting power and divine nature in His creation. God is not an abstract principle but a real person. The testimony of nature alone is sufficient to lead man to an understanding of God and he is without excuse not to believe in Him (Rom 1:18,-20).

1. **Religions:** The existence of various religions shows that man is always in search of God. They are an evidence of the fact that men believe in the existence of God. But man's search for God is like a mouse searching for the cat and unless God reveals Himself we will never know Him.
2. **The Universe:** One of the basic principles of science is that for every effect there is a cause. Without a cause nothing comes into existence. God is that cause and the cosmic glue that hold the universe together (Hebrews1:3). A person who closely watches the origin, order and unbelievable manner in which the whole universe exists, cannot but believe that there is a wise creator behind it. God is the person who controls this universe in such an extraordinary way.
3. **The morality of man:** Man is not just a body; he is a being that consists of a body, soul and spirit. We are fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God (Psalm 139:14). We possess a natural desire to know God. Our consciences witness to a law within us by nature. This shows that where there is a law there must be a lawgiver (Rom 2:14,15). If man is created with a personality it points out to a creator who has a personality(Genesis 1:26,27).
4. **The witness of Jesus Christ::** Christ is the visible image of the invisible God (Col 1:15-17). He is the Word that was made flesh (John 1;14).Those who have seen Jesus have seen the Father and His miracle bore witness of His deity and convinced of the existence of God (John 14:9; 20:30,31).
5. **The witness of the Bible:** The Bible is the revelation from the invisible God (2Tim 3:16). The Bible records the amazing growth of the early church and its preservation. This gives evidence of power God and His faithfulness. Another proof of the existence of God is the testimony of transformed life of sinner(Acts 4:20). Their testimonies are undeniable (Acts 9).

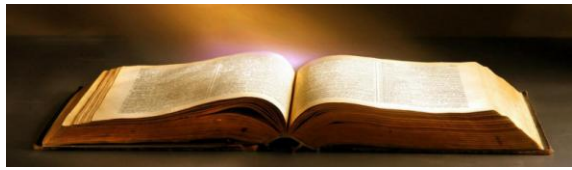
The Character of God:

God is a Person: For some God is a principle and an impersonal force. God is a person (Exodus 33:11)

God is a Spirit: He is invisible. Jesus Christ is the visible form of the invisible God.(John 1:14-18)

God is One: Bible clearly teaches that there is only one God (I Timothy 2:5).

God is Triune: Bible clearly teaches that God is one in essence but there are three distinct personalities in one God. These three persons are equal in power and in their divine qualities. This is a mystery and beyond human understanding. The Bible clearly shows the triune character of God in Christ's baptism (Matthew 3:16, 17); in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19); and in the benediction passage (II Corinthians 13:14). We find these three persons of Godhead, in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Father is God (1Cor 8:6) Jesus Christ is God (Hebrews 1:8; John 1:14). The Holy Spirit is God(Acts 5:3, 4).



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The Attributes of God: What is God like?

The attributes of God are the certain characteristics God has chosen to reveal Himself to us. The natural attributes of God are the characteristics only God possess. They are incommunicable attributes.

Incommunicable Attributes:

God is Self Existent: He has life in Himself and existed in the beginning (John 5:26)

God is Infinite: God is with out bounds or limits (1King 8:27)

God is Self-sufficient: God needs nothing from any source (Acts 17:24,25)

God is Sovereign: God does all things after His council and has control over all things(Rom 9:15)

God is Immutable: God never changes in His eternal character and purpose (James 1:17)

God is omnipotent: God is all powerful and nothing is impossible for Him (Matthew 19:26),

God is omnipresent: God is not limited as to space and time. He is everywhere (Acts 17:28).

God is omniscient: God has unlimited knowledge and nothing is hidden from Him (Heb 4:13),

God is eternal: God has no beginning or end. He is the ever living God (Exodus 3:14; Rev 7:2).

The Communicable Attributes of God: These are God's moral attributes which are shared with believers.

God is Holy: God has no blemish in Him. He cannot overlook sin. He punishes sin but loves sinners. God wants the believers to share in His holiness (Heb 12:10; 1Pet 1:15,16)

God is Love: This is the sacrificial and self-giving love that seeks the highest good for others. The extent of God's love we see in the death of His Son on the cross. (John 3:16; Rom 8:32).

God is Righteous – All that God does is right and just. His justice demands penalty for sin and His love provides the payment. Thus He becomes the just and the justifier of him who believes in Christ. He is not unjust to overlook the work and love shown in His name (Rom 3:26; Heb 6:10).

God is Good: He is in every way perfect and full of benevolence. His goodness should lead men to repentance. There is no limit to the blessing He gives His children (Rom 2:4; Eph 1:3).

God is Merciful: This is God's active pity towards the offenders or needy. God is rich in His mercy. The sacrificial death of Christ is the evidence of God's great love and His mercy(Eph2:4), .

1. **God is Faithful** – God is faithful in His own promises. What He has said will be fulfilled. God is totally faithful in all things and there is no falsehood in Him (2Tim 2:13; Hebrews10:23).