

Index :

Introduction

1. Creator / Sustainer
2. Father / Son
3. Names of God
4. Titles of God
5. Descriptions of God
6. Character of God
7. Passion of God
8. Questioning God
9. Playing God
10. Reflections

What is an attribute?

The word **attribute** can be used as an adjective or a verb. In other words we can attribute something to God, or give a tribute such as an honor or ascribe to Him a title. That is something that **we do** in relation to our understanding of Him. (*This makes it a verb.*) On the other hand, if everyone already believes these descriptions, then we did not give them to Him. They become adjectives. They are understood to be His qualities and His character. We merely describe what already exists.

So what's the big deal? God is who He says He is and will never change. There is no benefit to Him whether we acknowledge His qualities or not. The "big deal" is with us. We change and grow in understanding of our relationship to Him. We get the benefits of knowing Him for who He is! We can attribute things that become Gods attributes!

CREATOR

In the beginning, God created...(Gen. 1:1) Man has the ability to create art, music, machinery, friendships, and more, but there is a limited scope of his creation. We are born and then we die. Certain times of our life are more creative than others, and then we can create no more. God is infinite in His creation. We still have not yet discovered everything about what He has created including stars, galaxies, the complex human body or even certain types of sea creatures. How could we then conclude that we know everything about who He is? Our thousands of years of existence have not completely discovered the end of His 6 days of physical creation. That is awesome and mind blowing.

However, He's not through! The Bible says that He creates in us a new heart. That is His masterpiece. He has created an invisible kingdom far greater than any man made government. It has endured beyond walls and property lines, beyond wars and persecution, even beyond religious confusion and distortion. He is now creating a place for us in heaven and will one day create a new heaven and a new earth. All things will be made new.

When we learn about what He has done, it gives us a glimpse of who He is. He has given us the ability to be creative and what we choose to create with our life is a gift to others and to Him. He is the ultimate resource of creative ability. When we run out of ideas, He renews our mind, He brings things to our remembrance, and when we physically give out, He renews our strength. He is the creative genius behind Plato, Socrates, Rembrandt, Beethoven, Einstein and the smartest kid on your block. He is awesome, He is infinitely creative.

FATHER

Jesus said when you pray, begin with "Our Father". This means different things to different people. To get a better understanding of this attribute, let's look at some defining uses of this term.

- A man who begets or raises or nurtures a child.
- A male ancestor.
- A man who procreates, or originates, something.
- Used as a title of respect.
- A member of the senate in ancient Rome, or a founding "father" of our country.
- One of the leading men, as of a city.
- To acknowledge responsibility for.
- To attribute the paternity, creation, or origin of.
- A Leader, Provider and Protector

These are all endearing qualities of the ideal Father. They are not however, describing most fathers of the average American family. Many see their father as a tyrant, an absent or reluctant participant in the family, or even an abusive, addictive, and dysfunctional role model of what not to be. Most of us in some way compare our heavenly father to our earthly one and are left despondent. It's hard to see God as He is when we didn't experience the role model of a godly father growing up.

God, however, is all of the best qualities and more. He loves, protects, provides, raises, nurtures, respects, and leads His children. When we know Him we experience safety, security, peace, justice, mercy, forgiveness, and more. So who wouldn't want to know Him? Only those who think this is a fairy tale. Those who can not trust their own family members, and those who look to a religious system. Men will always disappoint us because they can not possess any of God's qualities apart from knowing Him.

Each and every person must desire to know Him personally. Beyond rituals and church attendance we will experience the benefits of His qualities and attributes as our Heavenly Father.

The Old Testament is primarily history and law, which explains the limited use of the term "Father" used for God (15 times). Jesus used the term 165 times in the gospels while giving us a window to see a more intimate relationship with God as Father. He also says that He longs to gather His children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wing.

The Names of God

A name is a descriptive word or words by which one is designated and distinguished from others.

Several names of God and their meaning:

YAWEH—	“I AM”
JEHOVAH TSIDKENU—	My sanctifier
JEHOVAH SHALOM—	my peace
JEHOVAH SHAMMAH—	His presence
JEHOVAH RAPHE—	my healer
JEHOVAH JIREH—	my provider
JEHOVEH NISSI—	my banner
JEHOVAH ROHI—	my shepherd

ELOHIM—Ultimate, Supreme one

IMANUEL— God with us

ADONI—Lord, Master

“the name that is above every other”

“at His name every knee shall bow”

“by no other name can you be saved”

“Thou shalt not take His Name in vain”

Most of us know Him by the name — Jesus!

Many Jews believed that God's name was so sacred that they would not speak it or even write it. Many times, even today, you can see it written as G_d. Most of us are much too casual about His name. We hold nothing with honor and esteem, nothing as holy and reverent. When we call on that name, there is power. Power to save, to heal, to deliver, to set free.

Psalm 9:10 (NASB) ***“those who know your name will put their***

trust in you”.

It is imperative to know Him by His name. His name describes who He is, when you know who He is, you will trust Him. When you know Him as sanctifier, you will let Him cleanse you of guilt and shame, As peace, you will let Him give you rest, and so on.

Many people try to remanufacture an image of God based on worldly ideas which leave Him powerless. He is all that He says He is.

His name is a strong tower and the righteous run to it and are safe

(Prov. 18:10)

Titles of God

A title is evidence that provides a basis for or justifies a claim. (A deed)

A legitimate right.

A formal office, rank, hereditary privilege, or noble birth, a mark of respect.

A championship.

Revelation 19:16 NIV

On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

Isaiah 9:6 NIV

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

John 8:24 NIV

I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be,

Descriptions of God

A pictorial representation.
A kind or sort.
To convey an idea or impression of;
To characterize.
To represent pictorially; to depict.

How do you describe a color to a blind person or a taste, smell, or sound to someone who can't experience that sensation? I can describe God from the Bible, or from my own experience. I can have a good doctrinal argument or an individual personal testimony, but the beauty of Christianity is that it is intended to be accepted and applied by everyone. Wherever your at in life, God will reveal Himself to you. The Bible describes God in both concrete and abstract ways. He is called both a Shepherd and a rock.

He is often described with these 3 terms:

OMNISCIENT— all knowing

OMNIPRESENT— present everywhere,
all the time

OMNIPOTENT— all powerful

There is no attribute more comforting to His children than that of God's sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe trials, they believe that sovereignty has ordained their afflictions, that sovereignty overrules them, and that sovereignty will sanctify them all. There is nothing for which the children ought to more earnestly contend to than the doctrine of their Master over all creation--the Kingship of God over all the works of His own hands--the Throne of God and His right to sit upon that throne...for it is God upon the Throne whom we trust.

C.H. Spurgeon.

Character of God

Character is defined as moral or ethical strength. It is a statement as to competency and dependability. The following characteristics are certainly not a complete list, but these are most notable. A simple word search can find many scriptures in the Bible for each one (*to many to list here*). Define these in your own words:

Love—

Mercy—

Patience—

Holiness—

Sovereignty—

Justice—

Wrath—

I think it's interesting to learn the full scope of Gods character. Many people choose only His love and ignore His Justice. Some see His mercy and disregard His Holiness. One thing He is for sure, He is complete. The whole universe hinges on His ability to fulfill His character.

Passion of God

Does God have a personality, a temperament, or does He show emotion? There were times when Jesus was angry with the moneychangers. He was lonely and withdrew to a solitary place. He wept with Martha and Mary. He rejoiced, He fished, got hungry and sleepy. He even got frustrated with the disciples and repeated things when they didn't understand. He debated with the Pharisees and pled for them to listen.

In the Old Testament, He caused the earth to quake, consumed with fire, and then spoke with a whisper. God can surely be dramatic, emotional, and passionate. I do not believe He has a type A or type B

personality, a specific temperament, or emotional instability, but He is truly passionate about His relationship with us. I used to see God as some sort of spiritual robot and think that all emotions were of the flesh, but I now understand that He created us, (our entire being) in His image.

Sustainer

The world maintains perfect timing and balance every day, every season, and every year, not because of random chance, but because God knows the inner workings of the universe. He provides all that is needed for the cycle of life. He sets the world in motion and He knows our every need.

Many of us question God when trouble comes, or our patience wears thin with inconvenient circumstances. We get narrow minded and forget who really understands the “big picture”. He sees the beginning from the end, He knows every step in between, and He shows us light at the end of the tunnel. He makes a way where there is no way, He opens doors that are shut, and makes something out of nothing. He has the supernatural ability to sustain, and maintain every aspect of life. **He is able to complete that which He started** (Phil. 1:6).

Son

As a son, Jesus is the model of obedience and submission, two non-negotiable qualities of a good son. The son acted only as the father directed, only when, and only where, never as a rogue, a loose cannon, or an island to Himself. He was accountable and was under authority even as He was given all authority. He had the right to parade Himself as

King, and a ruler, but He was a willing sacrifice, putting others needs ahead of His own. He humbled Himself in the form of a man and became a little lower than the angels. Lower than His own creation.

His humility allowed for his birthplace in a manger and His death to include torture from ungodly men. He gave up everything that was rightfully His. He was the perfect son, the perfect example, and the perfect sacrifice.

Playing God

We know many people try it, but none of *us* will admit to doing it! We usually don't know when were guilty of it. Have you ever taken matters into your own hands? Just to sing..."He's got the whole world in **His** hands"

Almost every sermon I've ever heard has been about our duty to God and how we should live as Christians. What we should and shouldn't do. It really is based on our work, not Gods. My purpose for this book is to remind myself and anyone who will read it, that all faith is based on God. **Who** He is, **What** He does, **Where** He wants to be, and **Why** He chooses a relationship with us. **When** will we realize, it's all about Him?

Let Him be God, He's much better at it than we are!

Alpha & Omega.....Rev. 22:13
AUTHOR OF LIFE..... ..Acts 3:15
Author of our FAITH..... ..Hebrews 12:2
BREAD OF LIFE..... ..John 6:35
BRIDEGROOM..... ..Isaiah 62:56
BRIGHT MORNING STAR.....Rev. 22:16
CHRIST, SON OF LIVING GOD...Matt. 16:16

COMFORTER.....	.John 14:26(kjv)
COUNSELOR.....	.John 14:26
CREATOR.....	1 Peter 4:19
DELIVERER.....	.Romans 11:26
ETERNAL GOD.....	Deut. 33:27
EVERLASTING FATHER.....	Isaiah 9:6
Friend of sinners	Matthew 11:19
GOOD SHEPHERD.....	John 10:11
GREAT HIGH PRIEST.....	Hebrews 4:14
JUDGE.....	Isaiah 33:22, Acts 10:42
LAMB OF GOD.....	John 1:29
MAN OF SORROWS.....	Isaiah 53:3
MASTER.....	.Luke 5:5
MEDIATOR.....	1 Timothy 2:5
MESSIAH.....	John 4:25
POTTER.....	Isaiah 64:8
REDEEMER.....	Job 19:25
SAVIOR.....	Luke 2:11
TRUTH.....	John 14:6
VINE.....	John 15:5
WAY.....	John 14:6
WORD.....	John 1:1

Introduction

Who is God? How does He reveal Himself? How do we search Him out? Why should we? If He is real, how does He affect our daily lives? These are big questions and the answers will alter your eternal destiny. In this brief booklet, we will look at some viewpoints designed to increase your faith. This can be used as a study guide for small groups or just for your own personal reflection.

When Moses heard God speak from a burning bush, he asked, “who are you?”. When Saul fell to the ground on the road to Damascus, he asked, “who are you?” When we are in pursuit of God we will ask the same thing. As we know Him at a deeper level, we learn how much there is still to discover. He is eternal and infinite, yet personal and intimately familiar with us. He is everything you will ever need to meet any need you will ever have.

REFLECTION

1. Describe God in you own words.
2. Describe God from His word.
3. What are some misconceptions people have about Him?
4. How have you personally experienced a relationship with Him?
5. How is it possible to come to wrong conclusions about His character?
6. How is our attributes different than His?

7. How is our attributes similar to His?
8. How can we learn or discover more about Him?
9. How can we become more like Him?
10. What keeps us from becoming more like Him?

Lyrics from the song titled
“I want to know you more”

By Steve Fry

Questioning God

It seems as though we will never understand every choice God makes about the pivotal events in our life. After we've planned, prayed, and perspired over decisions; when we can do no more, we have to leave things up to Him. Then something goes wrong. Something out of our control. Critical timing of certain circumstances, suggest that someone beyond our understanding and abilities had a hand in how things turned out. When we've been responsible or trustworthy but still suffered negative consequences, we are programmed to point our finger and blame God.

After all, we trusted Him, and came away hurt and confused. This is always the most crucial time for faith. We can run to Him or run from Him. Job learned this lesson when he lost everything. Martha and Mary experienced this when their brother Lazarus died. God is not absent or passive, He is always at work to bring about something good. Something that we could not possibly see at the moment. The hardest lesson in life brings about the greatest reward. **Trusting in His sovereignty.**