



*Crossway Chapel, Fox Valley*

# **GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS**

*Lesson 2: The God of the Word*





# OUR SOVEREIGN CREATOR: KNOWING THE GOD OF THE WORD

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## Who is God?

Throughout history, there has never really been a “common” understanding of who God is. While most people believe in a powerful and somewhat personal god who is out there somewhere, confusion reigns when it comes to understanding WHO God is. Each individual is left to his or her own answer to this question and is expected to welcome all the answers as possible truth.

However the Bible makes it clear that there is only one true God. He is the God who created all things. The Bible never attempts to prove God, it simply states His real presence and ultimate power by saying, *“In the beginning God...”* There are many philosophical and intellectual arguments for the existence, the character, and the works of God and almost as many that deny Him. However, when all is said and done, people can and will only worship this God through the FAITH that He alone can give. Ask for that FAITH right now! Ask for an increasingly HIGH view of your Creator.

## The Purpose of Lesson 2 is:

To introduce you to the one and only true God of the Bible and help you deepen an understanding of Him so that you can enter into a PERSONAL relationship with Him and grow to love Him more. By the end of this lesson you should understand that He is the only sovereign and loving Creator who desires for people everywhere to be in a loving relationship with Him and submit to His loving and gracious rule in their lives.

*As you read about the one true God of the Bible, continue to ask Him what these truths mean for your life and your relationship with Him. Whether this is brand new for you or review of the Bible’s foundational truths, this question is vital for the heart that truly desires to love and worship the one true God!*



## Psalm 148:1-14

1. In this chapter we find many participants in God's creation involved in one thing. What is it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What does this tell us about WHY God created?

See Colossians 1:16 and Revelation 4:11 also. Notice that the universe began **God-centered**, it is supposed to function **God-centered**, and in the end, all will be **God-centered**.

## Psalm 33:1-22

1. According to this chapter, how should God's creation (men and women) view Him? Focus on verses 6-9 especially.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Look at verses 18-22 closely. Where do those who "fear God" end up finding their only hope in life?

Notice that words and phrases like "hope, waiting for the Lord, hearts rejoicing, and trust," among other things all indicate that God is pleased with creatures who **DEPEND** on Him.

# **GOD IS TRINITY — ONE IN ESSENCE EXISTING IN THREE PERSONS**

A high view of God as Creator is vital to understanding who He is and who we are in relation to Him. There are many things about Him that are extremely difficult for us to understand or believe because of our limited ability to comprehend. For example, we'll see in the following pages that the Bible teaches the following three things:

~ There is only ONE GOD ~  
~ The ONE GOD is THREE PERSONS ~  
~ Each of the THREE PERSONS are FULLY GOD ~

All three facts are true according to the Bible and yet they may appear to contradict each other from a human perspective. There are two possible responses a challenge like this.

1. A wrong or low view of God will say, "These three things can not ALL be true at the same time as far as I can comprehend. Therefore one, several, or all of them must be false." This demonstrates a heart that needs to dig further or that does not truly believe that God is who He says He is.
2. A right or high view of God will say, "Because the Bible, the Creator's written word, teaches these things, then I believe them to be true. I will humbly defer to God's perspective and let mine be conformed to HIS. This demonstrates the heart of faith that God alone can give.

It is with this heart of faith that we must pursue understanding Him further according to His word, the Bible. As you will see, it is vital to God's entire plan for His creation that He exists in ALL THREE Persons while He remains ONE.

In the very first chapter of the Bible, the one true God lets us know something very important about Himself. In Genesis 1:26, God said, "Let us make man in our image." From the simple pronouns, we can immediately conclude that there is more than one personality in what the Bible refers to as the "Divine Nature" or "Godhead." See Acts 17:29 and Romans 1:20 also.

As we have already stated, the Bible teaches that the Godhead is “made up of” of three distinct Persons, and yet these three are one in essence. There is both a Biblical *plurality* and a Biblical *unity* in the Godhead. This is known as the “Trinity.” See *John 1:18, John 4:23-24, John 15:26, and 1 Corinthians 8:6* also.

Note that this does not mean that there are three Gods, but one God in essence manifested in three persons. The diagram below identifies the these three persons of the Godhead...*THE TRINITY*.



Read through the following 2 pages about “The Trinity” and look up some of the key verses in order to understand this miraculous truth about God all the more.

## **GOD THE FATHER**

***Psalm 103:19, 145:8-9, 1 Corinthians 8:6*** - God the Father, the first person of the Trinity, orders and rules all things according to His own purpose and grace. He is the only absolute ruler in the universe and is sovereign in all that takes place.

***Romans 8:14, 2 Corinthians 6:18***- As Creator, God is Father to all mankind (Ephesians 4:6), but He is spiritual Father only to believers.

## **GOD THE SON**

***John 10:30, John 14:9*** - Jesus Christ, God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. possesses all of the divine qualities of God the Father coequally and coeternally with Him.

***John 5:23, 14:9-10, Philippians 2:5-8, Colossians 2:9*** - In the “incarnation (God becoming man)” Jesus surrendered only the privilege of deity but nothing of divine nature. He accepted all of the essential characteristics of humanity for the purposes of redeeming sinners. He is humanity and deity in perfect indivisible oneness.

***Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23-25, Luke 1:26-35, John 1:29, Hebrews 7:25-26, 1 Peter 1:18-19*** - Our Lord Jesus Christ was born of a virgin for the purposes of revealing God to man, redeeming man, and ruling over God’s kingdom.

# THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST...

Means that He is 100 % GOD and 100 % MAN at the same time. He is the "GOD-MAN." Read John 1:1-3. These verses teach that...

**The Word is God. The Word has eternally existed. And, the Word is the Creator of all things.**

Read John 1:14. The Word was made flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. Since Jesus Christ is "The Word" , we can understand that...

**Jesus Christ is God. Jesus Christ existed eternally before He was born a man. And Jesus Christ is Creator of all things.**

Read John 10:22-33. These verses show us that...

**Jesus made His identity as God, and His equality with the Father abundantly clear.** The Jews of Jesus' day understood in no uncertain terms that Jesus claimed to be God in a human body. Ultimately, this was the "blasphemy" for which He was crucified (in addition to His claim to being the King of the Jews).

*Please Note: The purpose and work of Jesus Christ are covered in greater detail in our Gospel Foundations lesson on Salvation.*

## GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

Just as the Father is God, and Jesus Christ, His Son, is God, the Holy Spirit is equally God, the 3rd person of the Trinity. For example, note that lying to the Holy Spirit is equal to lying to God. See Acts 5:3, 4

The Holy Spirit is not simply a power or a force, but a distinct person. Jesus Christ referred to the Holy Spirit as a person. See John 14:14-17 (Notice the use of "He" and "Him").

# **GOD IS ALL IN ALL — HOW DOES THE BIBLE DESCRIBE GOD?**

We believe that the God of the Bible is the one true God because of the incredible attributes He possesses. A complete understanding of His attributes is impossible because they exceed the limits of our comprehension. Our minds are finite, and the God of the Bible is infinite. However, God has chosen to show Himself to us through His Word so that we can understand as much about Him as He desires.

***“What comes to our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” ~ A.W. Tozer***

In reality our knowledge of God and a relationship with Him stands as *the reason for our existence*. In this relationship we find true joy and are able to live for God’s glory which is the reason for which we were created. As a result, this life is a joyful daily pursuit of the knowledge of God by which we learn to trust Him, confess to Him, make humble requests of Him, and devote ourselves to His will and His plan for life.

We can begin this pursuit by considering just a few of God’s extraordinary qualities in the Bible. Use the next several pages as a guide to help you meditate on the wonders of God and His character.

Try not to get overwhelmed by the many thoughts and passages ahead. They are all here for you longer term learning about God too! Perhaps it would be good to take a few attributes or character qualities of God each day, read some of the key passages, and fill in any notes that would be helpful in understanding and worshipping Him all the more in your life.

As you consider these various character traits of God, ask yourself how knowing this specific truth changes your view of Him and your view of life itself. Also, consider how your discoveries from God’s word impact your thinking about your relationship with Him? Take some time to pray and reflect on these truths and write down some of your thoughts and personal reflection. Then, take the time to pray through and meditate on these truths through the day as well.

Most of all, as you read, pray, and dig in to the Bible, recognize that the God you are learning about is your only source of supreme and unending joy (See Psalm 16:11).

# GOD IS SOVEREIGN

*Job chapters 8-41, Daniel 4:34, 35, Acts 2:22-24 (our greatest example), Romans 9:13-24 and 11:33-36* - The fact that God is *sovereign* means that He rules over and governs all that is. He accomplishes His will through the wills of His creatures. Impersonal forces such as fate, fortune, and chance do not exist.

**God is AUTONOMOUS:** There is nothing that He depends upon.  
**God is AUTHORITATIVE:** There is no power He does not control.  
**God is ABLE:** There is nothing God can not do.

What stands out in God's character as you read through some of the Bible passages above?

What are your thoughts on how the truth that God is sovereign impacts all of life?

*Note: The overall attribute of God's sovereignty is displayed in many of the attributes spoken of in the following pages. In addition, God's sovereignty makes it so that He alone is the One who brings sinners to Himself and saves them from their rebellion against Him. His sovereign choosing of men and women in salvation will be taught in our Gospel Foundations lesson on Salvation.*

## **GOD IS ALL POWERFUL (HE IS "OMNIPOTENT")**

*Psalm 42:2, Psalm 62:11, Isaiah 26:4, Matthew 28:18, Revelation 19:6* - Omnipotent means "all-powerful" or "unlimited power". God possesses infinite power. He has more than enough strength to do the sum total of all things. Nothing is too hard for God and He can do whatever He chooses.

## **GOD IS EVERYWHERE (HE IS "OMNIPRESENT")**

*Psalm 139:7-12; Jeremiah 23:23-24* - Omnipresent means "all-present" or "unlimited presence." God is infinitely and everywhere personally present through all time and space. There is nowhere we can go and not be in the presence of God.

***"God is not like a substance spread out in a thin layer all over the earth. All of Him is in Chicago, in Calcutta, in Cairo, and in Caracas, at one and the same time." ~Paul Little***

Omnipresence states that God is everywhere. Pantheism (many new age religions) states that everything is God, or a part of God. For example, if you are sitting in a tree, omnipresence says that God is present with you. Pantheism says that the tree is God.

# **GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING (HE IS "OMNISCIENT")**

Omniscient means "all-knowing" or "unlimited knowledge". God possesses all the knowledge that can be known. He knows everything about everything. Nothing has ever or will ever escape His knowledge, or take Him by surprise. See Psalm 139:1-6

Read the Bible passages below and fill in the truths about God that you find in the verses.

## **I John 3:20**

God knows \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Job 37:16**

God's knowledge is \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Psalm 147:4**

God knows the names of the \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Psalm 147:5**

God's understanding is \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Proverbs 15:3**

God knows the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ in every place.

## **Matthew 10:29**

God knows the number of \_\_\_\_\_ that fly through the air.

## **Proverbs 5:21**

He knows all things about every \_\_\_\_\_ on the earth.

☐ *For prayer and personal reflection...*

What is something specific you know you need to trust this all powerful, everywhere present, all knowing God for in your life?

What are your thoughts about how these truths about His character impact all of life?

How do they impact your own heart and love for Him?

## **GOD IS** ETERNAL AND SELF-EXISTENT

*Psalm 90:1-2, Psalm 93:2, Habakuk 1:12a* - There has never been a time when God did not exist.

*Isaiah 43:10, 44:6, 1 Timothy 1:17* - God has no beginning, and He has no end.

*Exodus 3:14, 6:3, John 5:26* - One of the names by which God refers to Himself is “Jehovah,” or “Yahweh” which comes from the Hebrew verb “to be.” God Himself explains the concept of His eternal and self-existent Name to Moses when He says, “I AM who I AM; Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you’” in Exodus 3:14. *God IS the very essence of being or existence.*

*Revelation 1:8* - Because God is *eternal*, He sees the past and the future as clearly as He sees the present.

## **GOD NEVER** CHANGES [HE IS “IMMUTABLE”]

*Numbers 23:19, Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 6:17, 13:8, James 1:17* - The fact that God is *immutable* means that He never changes. God’s nature, God’s attributes, and God’s counsel have always been the same, and will always be the same.

☐ *For prayer and personal reflection...*

What are your thoughts about how these unchanging truths about His character impact all of life?

How do they impact your own heart and love for Him?

## **GOD IS HOLY**

*1 Samuel 2:2, Exodus 15:11, and Isaiah 40:12-26 and 46:5-11.*  
The essential nature of God is **holiness**. This means that He is “set apart” from all that He has created. He is ONE who is different and unique in every way.

***Leviticus 11:44, Deuteronomy 32:4, Isaiah 6:1-6, 57:15, Psalm 99:5-9, 145:17, Hebrews 7:27*** - God's holiness is best seen by sinners in that He is free from any and all defilement, evil, or sin. He is absolutely and totally pure, and righteous. Note: Because man chose to be sinful, God's holiness had to be satisfied through the perfect sacrifice of Christ on the cross if anyone would be saved.

***James 1:13*** - God cannot be tempted with evil. It is impossible for Him to sin, or to do or to cause anything that is wrong or evil according to HIS standards or HIS character.

***Psalm 5:4, Psalm 34:15-16, Proverbs 15:9, 26, Habakuk 1:13*** - God is *holy*, He cannot and will not tolerate sin. He is neither author or approver of sin.

## **GOD IS JUST**

***Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 89:14a; Revelation 15:3***The fact that God is *just* means that it is impossible for Him to do anything that is unfair, either to Himself or to man according to HIS standards or HIS character.

***Psalm 96:11-13, Galatians 6:7, 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8*** - Every person will receive *justice* at the hand of God. All will be dealt with *justly* and righteously. Please understand that this truth is both a comfort and a warning. It is a comfort for those who know God and have been saved by Him through the gospel. It is a terrible warning of God's wrath for those who deny the gospel and continue to live for themselves.

***Romans 1:18, Ephesians 5:6, John 3:36*** - God's *justice* is very closely related to His holiness. God's perfect holiness demands that all ungodliness and unrighteousness be recompensed (paid for). If God did not require justice for sin, He would cease to be holy. If He ceases to be holy, He ceases to be God! God's justice is satisfied for believers through His application of the work of Christ on the cross to them.

☐ *For prayer and personal reflection...*

What are your thoughts about how God's holiness and justice impact life?

How do these truths about God grow your view of Him?

## **GOD IS GOOD**

*Psalm 145:8-9, 25:7, 31:19, 107:8, Romans 2:4* - God's *goodness* is His character which prompts Him to deal bountifully and kindly with His creation. He is the final standard of *good* and all that God is and does is worthy of approval.

## **GOD IS LOVING**

*John 3:16, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 1 John 4:9* - God Himself is the definition of *love*. I John 4:8 and 16 say that "God is love!" God is perfect, infinite *love*. His character and actions are the starting point and standard for what true love is.

Love is a sincere delight in the welfare, happiness, security, and well-being of the one loved. Biblically, love always expresses itself in action.

## **GOD IS PATIENT**

*1 Timothy 1:14-16, 2 Peter 3:9* - Patience is the quality of God's goodness which causes Him to withhold His immediate punishment for sinners in spite of their long and continued defiance and disobedience.

## **GOD IS MERCIFUL**

*Exodus 34:6, Psalm 86:5, 103:11-17, 59:16-17, Ephesians 2:4* - Mercy is God's goodness to those who are in misery or distress, regardless of what they actually deserve. God's mercy is displayed in incomprehensible abundance through His application of the work of Christ on the cross to sinners.

# **GOD IS GRACIOUS**

*Exodus 34:6, Ephesians 1:6-7, 2:7-9, Titus 2:11-13* - Grace is God's unmerited (UNEARNED) goodness to those who are by nature under a sentence of condemnation. God's grace is displayed in incomprehensible abundance through His application of the work of Christ on the cross to sinners.

□ *For prayer and personal reflection...*

Goodness, love, patience, mercy, and grace – attributes that only God holds perfectly. How have you personally seen evidence of God treating you in these ways in your life?

How does the loving character of God increase your heart of gratitude and love for Him?

# **GOD HAS ENEMIES: THE WORLD AND SATAN OPPOSE GOD**

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## **THE WORLD**

***Ephesians 2:2, Titus 2:12, James 1:27, James 4:4, 2 Peter 1:4, 1 John 2:15-17*** - God's creation which has been corrupted by sin is called "the world" in a negative sense because of the many things present in it that are opposed to Him. In this sense, believers are to remain separate from the world

Friendship with the world is \_\_\_\_\_ toward God.

## **SATAN AND HIS DEMONS**

The greatest and most powerful enemy of God and His people is Satan and his demons.

***Job 1:6-12, Matthew 4:1-11*** - Satan is real. Satan's name mean's "adversary." He is also known as "the Devil" which means "slanderer."

***Matthew 12:24, Ephesians 6:10-12, Revelation 16:13-14*** - Satan has "Legions." He rules over demons who seek to advance his purposes.

***Ephesians 2:2, 1 Peter 5:8-11*** - Satan is powerful. He should not be viewed through the trivial caricature our culture gives him (originally, the medieval church created the inaccurate picture in order to ridicule him). He is a powerful, deceptive, and subtle "angel of light" whose aim is to separate us from God.

***Genesis 3:15, 2 Thessalonians 2:5-10, Hebrews 2:14, 1 John 3:8, Revelation 20:7-10*** - Satan will ultimately be defeated! He is a finite creature without divine attributes or powers. He has already lost his battle by the "bruising of his head" at the cross of Jesus Christ. In the end, He will be destroyed.

# IMPACTING LIFE WHY IS GOD'S CHARACTER SO SIGNIFICANT?

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*If God is not **SOVEREIGN**, then there could be certain things that would be out of His control and we would have NO ONE to call upon with any confidence. Perhaps God would choose NONE instead of SOME and all would perish because of His lack of control over sin.*

*If God is not **ALL POWERFUL**, then it would be possible for Him to desire something and be unable to accomplish it. He could desire to save sinners but be unable to call them to Himself.*

*If God is not **EVERYWHERE PRESENT**, then we could find ourselves in a painful or dangerous situation, and not be able to rest in the reality that God was there to accomplish His purposes through it.*

*If God is not **ALL KNOWING**, then there would be things that He would not be aware of. He would be unable to orchestrate a plan that would work out for the good of those who love Him and ultimately His own glorification.*

*If God is not **UNCHANGABLE**, we could never be certain of anything. Even if He loved us today, there would be no guarantee He would love us tomorrow. God could change and become evil. We could end up in eternity with an omnipotent evil god.*

*If God is not **ETERNAL AND SELF EXISTENT**, it means He is not the final answer for the existence of the universe. There is something greater than God and the foundation of all that we believe in would be painfully unstable.*

*If God is not completely **HOLY**, then He could choose to do evil and sin would not be of great concern to Him. We would have no need for Jesus Christ and we could choose to continue disobeying God if we so desired.*

*If God is not **JUST**, His love for mankind could never be comprehended and would never be appreciated. God's love for sinners is utterly amazing only because of His consuming hatred for sin and the wrath that would come if He did NOT love.*

*If God is not **GOOD** and **LOVING**, every sinner would suffer condemnation by God and He would save none. His goodness and love are those attributes which cause Him to glorify Himself by redeeming sinners to Himself.*

*If God is not **MERCIFUL, GRACIOUS, and PATIENT**, He would punish all of mankind, and He would do it NOW.*



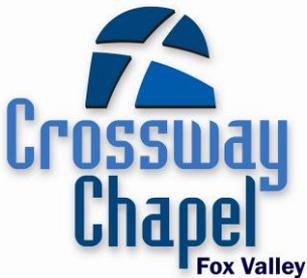
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## KEY VERSES FOR MEMORY AND MEDITATION:

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. <sup>12</sup> Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. <sup>13</sup> And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

**1 Chronicles 29:11-13**

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*Gospel Foundations, Lesson 2*

**THE GOD  
OF THE WORD**  
**KNOWING THE GOD OF THE BIBLE**

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*Serving, loving, and leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.*

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