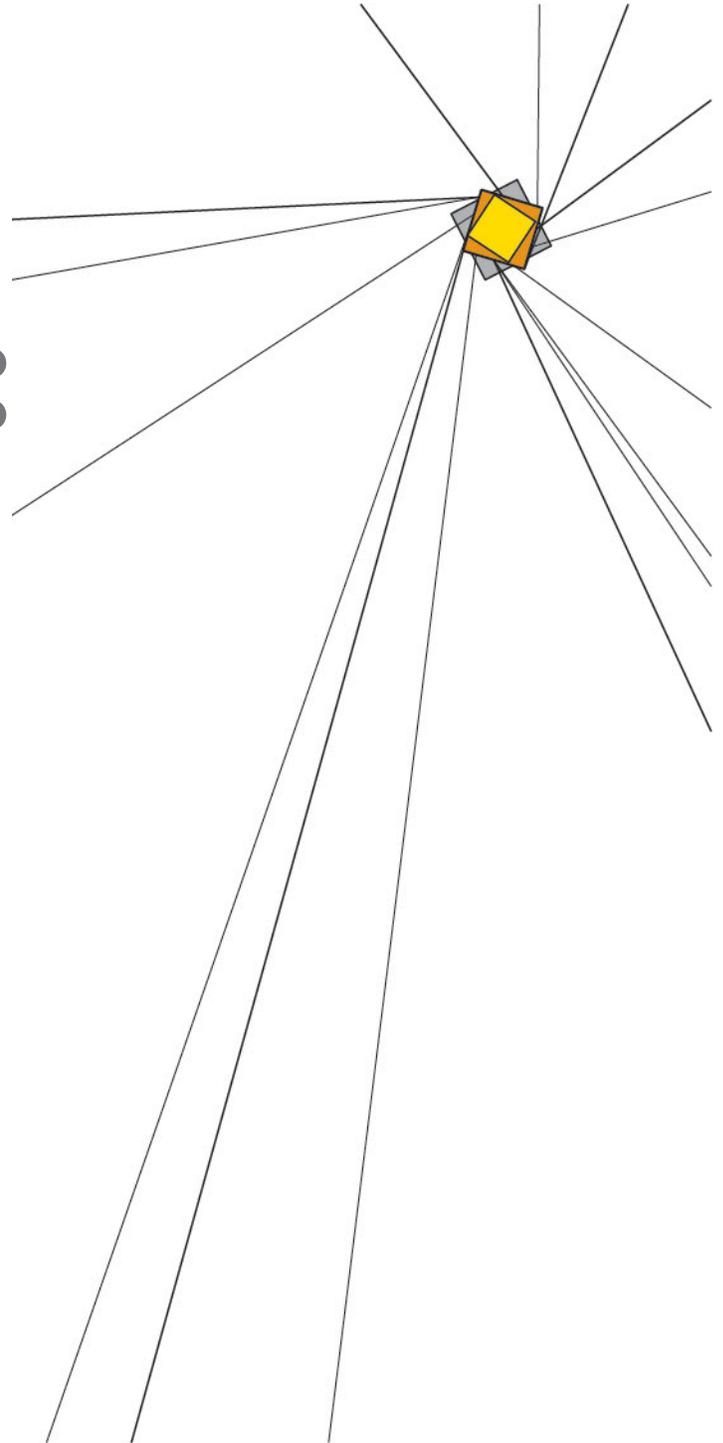


Discover God's Character:

13 KEY ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

1. God Is a Personal Spirit
2. God Is All-Powerful
3. God Is Present Everywhere
4. God Knows Everything
5. God Is Sovereign
6. God Is Holy
7. God Is Absolute Truth
8. God Is Righteous
9. God Is Just
10. God Is Love
11. God Is Merciful
12. God Is Faithful
13. God Never Changes



INTRODUCTION

Do you find yourself doubting God when you are faced with a difficult situation? Are you often frustrated by negative circumstances? Is it hard for you to trust God with the challenges of life?

People have many different perceptions of what God is like. Some see Him as an indulgent grandfather or a divine Santa Claus. Others see Him as a vengeful dictator. Many people fear God because they have a distorted understanding of His character. God not only wants you to view Him correctly, He wants you to know Him intimately.

How you view God and His involvement in your life touches every facet of who you are. Everything about your life — your desires, motives, attitudes, words and actions — is influenced by your perception of who God is.

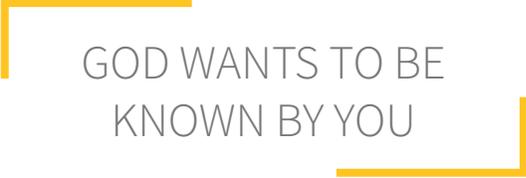
Your self-image will improve once you realize the awesome greatness of God and the value He places on you. The more accurate your understanding of who God really is and how He is involved in your life, the more highly motivated you will become to excel in the use of your time, talents and abilities.

God's character is of the highest integrity. He is morally perfect in every way, so He will always do the right thing. He is holy, absolutely truthful, righteous and just. He will never betray your confidence.

And God is totally committed to His relationship with you, so you can experience the many blessings of His gracious goodness. He is loving, merciful and faithful, and He never changes. He will always do what is best for you.

Are you in the midst of difficult circumstances? Are you facing challenges that seem beyond your ability to cope? Do not despair, because God is with you, and He wants to help you.

Allow the truth about Him and His marvelous character to transform you. Only then will you experience God's best and become all He wants you to be.



GOD WANTS TO BE
KNOWN BY YOU

God is completely trustworthy. God has unlimited abilities, so He can do anything. He is all-powerful, ever-present, all-knowing and sovereign. Nothing is too difficult for Him. However, despite all this, you can trust Him only to the degree that you know Him.

1 God is a personal Spirit...

I will seek intimate fellowship with Him.

Our awesome God is gloriously incomprehensible. The following are four of the many ways He is beyond our understanding.

God is infinite.

Unlike us, God has no limits or boundaries. He is not confined to the dimension of space. His love, holiness, mercy and all His other qualities are unlimited in their scope and expression.

God is self-existent.

Unlike everything else in the entire universe, He had no beginning. Because He is the Creator, He is the only One who exists outside of the created order.

God is eternal.

He is not bound by the dimension of time. He created time as a temporary context for His creation. With God, everything that has ever happened or will ever happen has already occurred within His awareness. God encompasses all of eternity!

God is self-sufficient.

All creation relies on God for existence, but He has no need for anything. He does not need our help. He only offers us the privilege of being involved with Him in the fulfillment of His purposes.

God is gloriously incomprehensible, but He is also a personal Spirit. Through His infinite love and goodness, He has provided a way for us to have an authentic, personal relationship with Him.

First, God revealed Himself to us in His Word, the Bible. The Scriptures provide us with a clear description of what God is like and what is important to Him.

Second, God came down from heaven to live on earth. For 33 years, human beings could observe the incarnate God through their senses as they walked and talked with His Son, Jesus.

Third, God destroyed the barrier of sin and self-centeredness that separated us from our holy God. His perfect Son, Jesus, died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

Fourth, God sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in Christians with His presence. Our Creator God did all this so we could go beyond just knowing about Him. We can actually enter into a warm friendship and intimate family relationship with Him. What a gracious offer and an awesome privilege!

*"I reach for You. I reach for
You as parched land
thirsts for rain."*

(Psalm 143:6, ESV)

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13, NIV)

2 God is all-powerful...

He can help me with anything.

God merely spoke the universe into being — a universe that astronomers estimate contains more than 100 billion galaxies. But all the power contained in this entire universe is but a small representation of the unlimited power of God. The combined energy of all earth's storms, winds, ocean waves and other forces of nature do not equal even a fraction of God's almighty power.

God's power is inherent in His nature. All power has always been His and will continue to be His for all eternity. Any power that we have is given to us by God.

Because God is all-powerful, He has the ability and strength to do whatever He pleases. His power is not restrained or inhibited by any of His created beings. People and nations are powerless when confronted by His might.

Our amazing God is capable of doing anything — as long as it does not violate any of His other attributes. No task is too big for Him. He never fails. And He is never tired, frustrated or discouraged.

Yet our all-powerful Creator cares for us, and He longs to exhibit His power in our lives.

David writes, *"When I look at the night sky and see the work of Your fingers — the moon and the stars You have set in place — what are mere mortals that You should think about them, human beings that You should care for them?"* (Psalm 8:3-4, NLT). No matter what you might be facing, God can

help you. Nothing is too hard for Him. No need is too great for Him to meet. No problem is too complicated for Him to solve. No foe is too strong for Him to conquer. No prayer is too difficult for Him to answer.

The Bible promises, *"By His mighty power at work within us [He] is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream"* (Ephesians 3:20, TLB).

"All the people of the earth are nothing compared to Him. He has the power to do as He pleases among the angels of heaven and with those who live on earth. No one can stop Him or challenge Him, saying, 'What do You mean by doing these things?'"
(Daniel 4:35, NLT)

If our hearts and motives are pure and we truly seek to do God's will, then there is nothing too difficult for us as we depend on His strength.

"I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13, NLT)

- God has the power to create anything from nothing (Psalm 33:6-9)
- God has power to deliver (Exodus 13:3)
- God's creative power is beyond our comprehension (Job 38:1-11)
- God speaks and things happen (Psalm 29:3-9)
- His resurrection power is immeasurably great (Ephesians 1:19-20)
- His creation reflects His power (Psalm 19:1-4)
- His powerful word sustains everything (Hebrews 1:3)
- He has power over death (Revelation 1:18)
- No one can challenge what God does (Daniel 4:35)
- Reveals Himself as the almighty God (Genesis 17:1)

3 God is present everywhere...

He is always with me.

God is always with us. Because He is an infinite Spirit, He is not restricted to being in one location at a time. He fills every inch of space throughout the universe with all His wonderful personal attributes. Although God is distinct from His creation, all His creation exists within Him. In Acts 17:28 we are told, *"In Him we live and move and exist"* (NLT).

We live in His glorious presence every moment of every day. When we are alone, God watches what we do. When we do something good that nobody else knows about, God sees it and will reward us accordingly.

He also sees the bad things we do in secret. Hebrews 4:13 states, *"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before His eyes, and He is the one to whom we are accountable"* (NLT).

We actually have the presence of Almighty God living inside us. The apostle Paul wrote, *"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"* (1 Corinthians 3:16, NLT).

God wants us to "consciously" live in His presence each day. His ever-presence makes it possible for us to be in constant communication with Him and to depend on Him in every situation. But often we ignore His presence because we are so preoccupied with our lives. Sometimes we even forget He is with us while we are busy serving Him.

Yet God's magnificent presence is all we need for any challenge that may come our way. No person or circumstance can ever remove us from the presence of our loving God. He is always with us, hearing our cries for help.

He is always with us, protecting us from danger. He is always with us, watching what we do. He is our ever-present God, Savior, Lord and Master — our dearest friend.

[Jesus said,] *"I am with you always."* (Matthew 28:20, NIV)

"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 rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,' even the darkness will not be dark to You; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to You."

(Psalm 139:7-12, NIV)

- All creation is dependent upon His presence (Colossians 1:17)
- God's continual presence brings contentment (Hebrews 13:5)
- God is everywhere and no one can escape Him (Psalm 139:7-12)
- No task is too large or too difficult for Him (Jeremiah 32:17, 27)
- One cannot hide from God (Jeremiah 23:23-24)

4 God knows everything...

I will go to Him with all my questions
and concerns.

Our magnificent Creator God knows everything and is the source of all true knowledge, understanding and wisdom. His knowledge is undefiled by any distortions or wrong perspectives. It is totally true and accurate.

God knows the answers to all of life's questions. Unlike us, God is never surprised or bewildered, because He is always completely aware of all events past, present and future.

He also knows everything about you — your desires, motives and thoughts. God knows more about you than you will ever know about yourself.

“He determines the course of world events; He removes kings and sets others on the throne. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars.”

(Daniel 2:21, NLT)

King David writes, *“O Lord, You have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. You go before me and follow me. You place Your hand of blessing on my head. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!”* (Psalm 139:1-6, NLT).

When you face challenges or difficulties, you can be encouraged that God understands what you are going through. He knows about your pressures and problems, and He also knows the purpose for your trials. God promises, *“I know the plans I have for you... They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope”* (Jeremiah 29:11, NLT).

Whatever your circumstances, whatever your need, God has the answer. He knows everything about your situation and wants to help you.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.” (James 1:5-7, NIV)

5 God is sovereign...

I will joyfully submit to His will.

God is the sovereign ruler of the universe. There is no higher authority. Our great God possesses every ability He needs to be in absolute control of everything. He is all-powerful, so no one can force Him to do anything against His will. He is present everywhere, so no one can hide from Him or escape His scrutiny. He is all-knowing, so there is nothing about which He is unaware.

Nothing occurs without His divine permission. God commands the forces of nature and uses them to achieve His divine purposes. He established the scientific laws that regulate the universe, and only He can overrule their effect. Even Satan and his legions of evil spirits can operate only within limits prescribed by God.

God also sovereignly directs people, circumstances and events. Daniel explains, “[God] determines the course of world events; He removes kings and sets up other kings.” (Daniel 2:21, NLT). Without God’s sustaining providence, none of us could live another day. “The life of every living thing is in His hand, and the breath of every human being.” (Job 12:10, NLT).

Do you feel overwhelmed by circumstances? Be encouraged: Your loving God is still in control, and He is sovereignly directing your life. Proverbs 19:21 states, “You can make many plans, but the LORD’s purpose will prevail.” (NLT).

*“O Sovereign LORD! You have made the heavens and earth by Your great power.
Nothing is too hard for You!”*

(Jeremiah 32:17, NLT)

In fact, difficulties and suffering are tools in God’s sovereign hands with which He shapes you into the image of Jesus Christ. The Bible promises, “God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.” (Romans 8:28, NLT).

Our sovereign God is actively directing His creation on a course that has been charted before the beginning of time. But within the context of His master plan, He gives all of us the freedom to choose how we will participate. Will you choose to cooperate with Him?

“Lord, I know that people’s lives are not their own; it is not for them to direct their steps.” (Jeremiah 10:23, NIV)

- God controls time and seasons (Daniel 2:21)
- God powerfully delivered His people from Egypt (Exodus 12:29-32; 13:13-31)
- God has dominion over the affairs of people (Job 12:13-25)
- God controls nature for His purposes (Job 37:2-13)
- God chose His people to become like Christ (Romans 8:28-30)
- God chose His people before He made the world (Eph. 1:4)
- God’s eternal purpose is to make His wisdom known (Eph. 3:10-11)
- He raises and removes rulers (Daniel 2:21)
- He has a plan for His people and will carry it out (Eph. 1:5, 11)
- He chose His people to save and purify them (2 Thess. 2:13)
- He is the only Sovereign (1 Timothy 1:17; 6:15)
- The Creator looks after His creation (Psalm 104:3-32)
- The powerful Creator reduces human rulers to nothing (Isaiah 40:21-26)
- Relationship with God requires worship (John 4:24)

6 God is holy...

I will devote myself to Him in purity, worship, and service.

Our God is holy. His character is perfect in every way. His moral excellence is the absolute standard of integrity and ethical purity. God's supreme holiness infinitely sets Him apart from His creation.

As we meditate on God's supreme holiness, we cannot help being overcome with a sense of awe. The psalmist tells us, "Worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth" (Psalm 96:9, NIV).

Solomon writes, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10, NIV). To fear God does not mean to be afraid of Him but to have a reverential respect for His magnificent greatness and unlimited authority. The Bible instructs us, "Serve the LORD with fear, and celebrate His rule with trembling" (Psalm 2:11, NIV).

You have been set apart by God to be holy. Rather than reflecting the opinions and attitudes of this sinful world, you are to reflect the beauty of His holiness. But you can be holy only by placing your faith in Jesus Christ. As the holiness of God works into the fabric of your being, you will become sensitive to sin and learn to abhor it as God does.

God's holiness demands your devotion. The apostle John strongly warns, "Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts" (1 John 5:21, NLT).

Where is your heart? Are you remaining pure and faithful to your holy God? Holy living involves a daily decision to surrender to the lordship of Christ.

"So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. For the Scriptures say, 'You must be holy because I am holy.'"

(1 Peter 1:14-16, NLT)

Sin brings death and destruction, while holiness brings health and well-being. God wants your mind and heart to be filled with His holy qualities. As your life is transformed, you will project the light of His holiness into the darkness of this evil world. Then you shall be holy as He is holy.

"But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy." (1 Peter 1:15, NLT)

- God guards His holy reputation (Ezekiel 36:21-23)
- God's holiness demands exclusive worship (Josh. 24:19)
- He disciplines believers to impart His holiness to them (Hebrews 12:10)
- His holiness is unique (Exodus 15:11)
- His holiness is the standard for believers' behavior (Leviticus 19:2; 1 Pet. 1:15-16)
- His holy presence rejects impurity (Isaiah 6:3-5)
- No one else is holy like He is (1 Samuel 2:2)
- The most holy One deserves constant honor (Revelation 4:8)

7 God is absolute truth...

I will believe what He says and live accordingly.

Our God is absolute truth. It is impossible for Him to be otherwise. In fact, God is the source of all truth. Our God, who is present everywhere and knows all things, has total understanding of what is real, what is right and what is true. Whatever He says is completely accurate.

When God gave the prophet Balaam a message to deliver to the king of Moab, Balaam said, *“God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not a human, so he does not change his mind. Has He ever spoken and failed to act? Has He ever promised and not carried it through?”* (Numbers 23:19, NLT).

Whatever God says is absolutely right. Whatever He promises will always be fulfilled.

God wants us to know the truth. Jesus prayed for His disciples, asking God to *“sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth”* (John 17:17, NIV). The Bible helps us know and understand the truth about Him, about ourselves and about life.

God also manifested truth to us in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, *“I am the way and the truth and the life”* (John 14:6, NIV). While many people claim to know the truth, only Jesus could honestly claim to be the truth. God also guides us into truth through the working of His Holy Spirit. Jesus told His disciples, *“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever — the Spirit of truth”* (John 14:16-17, NIV).

Jesus promises, *“You are truly My disciples if you remain faithful to My teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”* (John 8:31-32, NLT). God's truth frees us to live as He intended.

God is our anchor of truth in a society of relativism and falsehood. Do your decisions and lifestyle demonstrate that you are listening to Jesus? Or have you bought into the lies of popular culture? Are you consistently spending time discovering truth in God's Word?

“Jesus said to the people who believed in him, ‘You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’”

(John 8:31,32, NLT)

Truth will be found only by those who diligently seek it in the right places. Commit yourself daily to walk in the light of God's truth.

“Teach me your ways, O LORD, that I may live according to Your truth!” (Psalm 86:11, NLT)

- Believers know that God is true (John 3:33)
- Eternal life is knowing the only true God (John 17:3)
- Even if all humanity lies, God remains true (Romans 3:4)
- God is the Truth (John 14:6)
- God follows through on His promises (Numbers 11:22-23; 31-34)
- God's words are true and completely righteous (Psalm 19:9)
- God's truth is everlasting (Psalm 117:2)
- God's word is truth (John 17:17)
- God's words are faithful and true (Revelation 21:5; 22:6)
- God's truth can be suppressed to our peril (Romans 1:18)
- He is “the God of truth” (Psalm 31:5; Isaiah 65:16)
- God doesn't lie but keeps His word (Numbers 23:19)
- He is full of grace and truth (John 1:14)
- His Spirit guides believers into all truth (John 16:13)
- The Holy Spirit is characterized by truth in every way (John 14:17; 15:26; 1 John 5:6)
- True freedom comes from abiding in God's truth (John 8:31-32)

8 God is righteous...

I will live by His standards.

God is righteous, and all the righteousness in the entire universe has its origin in Him. The psalmist exclaims, *"Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the highest heavens. ... Who can compare with You, O God?"* (Psalm 71:19, NLT).

on your new nature, created to be like God — truly righteous and holy" (Ephesians 4:22–24, NLT). This is possible only as you consistently submit your will to the Holy Spirit and depend on Him to empower you.

We live in an age when the distinction between right and wrong is becoming increasingly blurred. Our culture has adopted the principle of situational ethics, which proposes that what is morally right varies from person to person and situation to situation. Yet God's standards do not change; they are timeless.

"Throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception. Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes. You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness— righteous, holy, and true."

God's laws are a reflection of His own righteous nature. If we break God's laws, we will pay the consequences. But we cannot keep God's perfect standard on our own. Only by receiving Jesus as our Savior and Lord are we made righteous.

The apostle Paul explains, *"We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are"* (Romans 3:22, NLT). When we place our trust in Jesus, God no longer sees our sinfulness but only the perfect righteousness of Christ that now clothes us.

God wants you to display His righteousness in your new life. You can do this through faith as you daily *"throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life. ... Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put*

As Christians, we must hold fast to the righteous standards set forth by the sovereign Ruler of the universe. Regardless of the beliefs and behavior of society, God will hold every person accountable according to His biblical decrees. Whose standards of right are you following?

"Surely, LORD, You bless the righteous; You surround them with Your favor as with a shield." (Psalm 5:12, NIV)

- *His righteousness is absolute (Psalm 71:19)*
- *He rules out of righteousness (Psalm 97:2)*
- *He is righteous in everything He does (Psalm 145:17)*
- *He delights in demonstrating righteousness (Jeremiah 9:24)*
- *In the end, the righteous Judge will judge righteously (2 Timothy 4:8)*
- *People must declare humbly that God alone is righteous (Exodus 9:27; 2 Chronicles 12:6)*

9 God is just...

He will always treat me fairly.

God is absolutely just in all His judgments. Because of His holy righteousness, He cannot be bribed or corrupted in any way. God cannot be fooled. Because He is all-knowing and ever-present, He has all the facts at His disposal. He knows the circumstances and motives, so His decisions are always based on absolute truth. God is also a perfect judge, because when He pronounces judgment, He has the power and sovereignty to carry out the punishment.

“Everything He does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright He is!” (Deuteronomy 32:4, NLT).

Justice is a pillar of society, ensuring that the innocent are vindicated and the guilty are punished. But all too often, this standard for justice is compromised for personal gain by corrupt judges and unscrupulous lawyers. Consequently, many people mistakenly believe they can manipulate God's system of justice. They think that God is fooled by their excuses and alibis.

But because He is a just God, His verdict will always be right. King David said, *“The Lord is righteous, He loves justice”* (Psalm 11:7, NIV).

Because God is just, He will always treat you fairly. However, as the holy and righteous sovereign of the universe, God cannot ignore any act of sin. God hates sin with a holy passion. The psalmist writes, *“You spread out our sins before You — our secret sins — and You see them all. ... Who can comprehend the power of Your anger? Your wrath is as awesome as the fear You deserve”* (Psalm 90:8,11, NLT).

God's anger over sin should never be underestimated. You need to have a healthy fear of God to help you avoid anything that would violate your relationship with Him.

God also rewards right behavior. Although your salvation is secured by faith in Jesus Christ, your good works confirm that you are a child of God and determine the rewards you will receive from Him. We serve a just God, so what you do in this life will matter for eternity.

“God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.” (Ecclesiastes 12:14, NLT)

“For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.”

(2 Corinthians 5:10, NLT)

- *A day is fixed for His righteous judgment of the world* (Acts 17:31)
- *All sin is ultimately against a righteous God* (Psalm 51:4)
- *All God's ways are righteous and deserve praise* (Revelation 15:3)
- *God alone is the judge* (James 4:12)
- *God judges all people with justice* (Psalm 9:7-8)
- *God's law and judgments are completely righteous* (Psalm 19:7-9)
- *He exercises justice toward all humanity* (Genesis 18:25)
- *He is just in all His ways* (Deuteronomy 32:4)
- *God rightly judges heart, mind and deeds* (Jeremiah 17:10)
- *Jesus pleads our case* (1 John 2:1)
- *The Messiah will judge all with complete justice* (Isaiah 11:4-5)
- *The righteous Messiah will establish a righteous people* (Jeremiah 33:16)
- *The righteous God justifies those who believe in Jesus* (Romans 3:25-26)

10 God is love...

He is unconditionally committed to my well being.

God is the source of all love. It flows out of the great reservoir of His goodness. Love permeates all of His attributes. While people sometimes violate standards of honesty, righteousness, and morality to please others, God never compromises His integrity. His love does not suppress or negate any of His other attributes.

“No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from His love, Death can't, and life can't. The angels can't, and the demons can't. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can not keep God's love away. Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 8:38-39, NLT)

God's love is unconditional. It is not based on how good you are or what you do to please Him. He loves you because He is God and you are His creation. God's love never fails. The psalmist proclaims, *“The LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever”* (Psalm 100:5, NLT). God's love will not be terminated because of disappointment or a change of heart. He defines love, He generates love, and He demonstrates what true love looks like.

John explains, *“This is real love — not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take*

away our sins” (1 John 4:10, NLT). Jesus gave His life on your behalf. He could not have sacrificed any more. God's love for you is supreme.

We, in turn, are to love God wholeheartedly. Jesus declared: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment”* (Matthew 22:37-38, NLT). God, in His sovereignty, has created us to find our greatest joy and fulfillment in loving Him.

God also enables us to be channels of His supernatural love. On our own, we are incapable of loving as we should, but God has for us an unending supply of His divine love. It is for us to claim, to enjoy and to share with others. When believers begin to love God, love their neighbors as themselves and love their enemies, society will change for the better. Then the world today, as in the first century, will marvel when they see and experience the transforming power of God's love.

“Teach me your ways, O LORD, that I may live according to Your truth!” (Psalm 86:11, NLT)

- *As a father, God corrects His beloved children (Prov. 3:12)*
- *Believers should imitate God's universal love (Matt. 5:44-45)*
- *Eternal plans are motivated by His love (Eph. 1:4-5)*
- *God loves and preserves His godly people (Ps. 37:28)*
- *God loves His people, even when they are faithless (Hos. 3:1)*
- *God deserves thanks because of His perpetual love (Ps. 100:5)*
- *God loved the world enough to send His Son to die (John 3:16)*
- *God loves those who love His Son (and obey Him) (John 14:21)*
- *His love is poured into believers' hearts (Rom. 5:5)*
- *God is love, and those who know God love others (1 John 4:7-8, 20-21)*

11 God is merciful...

He forgives me of my sins when I sincerely confess them.

God is the master of mercy. His very nature desires to relieve you of the self-imposed misery and distress you experience because of your sin.

All humanity benefits from God's mercy to some degree. Jesus stated, *"He gives His sunlight to both the evil and the good, and He sends rain on the just and on the unjust"* (Matthew 5:45, NLT). But God also has a sovereign mercy He shows to those who are His. In gratitude, this is the mercy you are to share with others.

God shows you mercy because He compassionately cares about you. The prophet Isaiah states, *"The LORD comforts His people and will have compassion on His afflicted ones"* (Isaiah 49:13, NIV). Your loving Father cares about what you are going through. The gospels are filled with examples of how Jesus was moved with compassion and acted to help those who were sick, suffering and in need. Consider the blind man, Bartimaeus, or the ten lepers. Jesus reached out His hands and healed them. Or the woman caught in adultery: He spoke compassionately to her and forgave her.

To experience God's mercy, you must repent of your sin and accept God's forgiveness. The Bible promises, *"The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against Him"* (Daniel 9:9, NIV).

God wants you, in turn, to be merciful to others. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declared, *"God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy"* (Matthew 5:7, NLT). In fact, Jesus said, *"If you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins"* (Matthew 6:15, NLT). God's mercy flows to those who show mercy to others. Your loving heavenly Father is committed to your well-

being. Out of His great compassion, He generously bestows on you His grace and mercy. God demonstrates His grace by showering you with blessings you do not deserve. He displays His great mercy by withholding the punishment you so rightfully deserve.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

(1 John 1:9, NIV)

"Let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."
(Hebrews 4:16, NLT)

- God will never relent from showing mercy to His children (Psalm 23:6)
- God will listen to our pleas for mercy (Psalm 30:8)
- Because of mercy, God washes away our transgressions (Psalm 51:1)
- Because God is merciful, He has not hidden Himself from us (Psalm 69:16)
- Mercy comes to those who confess their sins (Proverbs 28:13)
- Mercy is given to those who are themselves merciful (Matthew 5:7)
- God desires to show mercy to His people instead of having His people trying to obtain their own righteousness (Matthew 9:13)
- God shows mercy to those who fear His name (Luke 1:50)
- Our mercy of others should be an imitation of God's mercy to us (Luke 6:36)
- Knowing God's mercy encourages us to follow Him (Romans. 12:1)

12 God is faithful...

I will trust Him to always keep His promises.

Faithfulness is at the heart of all that God is and does. His truthfulness, holiness, love, righteousness and other attributes ensure His faithfulness. He is incapable of being otherwise.

God is faithful to protect you from temptation and the evil one. Paul wrote, *"God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure"* (1 Corinthians 10:13, NLT). When you are tempted to sin, do not focus on the attractiveness of the temptation but on God's faithfulness to deliver you from that situation.

God is faithful to forgive you even when you are unfaithful. Because you are still in a body of flesh, you have a tendency to sin and, ultimately, to be unfaithful. How encouraging it is to remember God's promise, *"If we are unfaithful, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny who He is"* (2 Timothy 2:13, NLT). But you must be sincere in your repentance and not abuse God's grace. The Bible states, *"If we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all wickedness"* (1 John 1:9, NLT).

God is faithful to purify you from unrighteousness. It is God's plan for you to become holy and advance His kingdom. And He is faithful to bring this to pass. Paul declared, *"I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus returns"* (Philippians 1:6, NLT). God is faithful to fulfill His promises. Hebrews 10:23 states,

"Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise" (NLT). God is ready and able to deliver all He has promised.

"Remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it. "

(1 Corinthians 10:13, NLT)

God is faithful to help you in your need. He will never fail you! He is reliable. He is trustworthy. He cannot be otherwise. Your holy and loving God is faithful!

"If you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for He will never fail you."
(1 Peter 4:19, NLT)

- *God forgives the repentant (1 John 1:9)*
- *God is faithful to the faithful (Deuteronomy 7:7-11)*
- *God deserves thanks for His constant faithfulness (Psalm 100:5)*
- *God is faithful through calamity (Lamentations 3:22-23)*
- *God faithfully matures believers (1 Thessalonians 5:24)*
- *God is faithful to fulfill His promises (Hebrews 10:23)*
- *His faithfulness endures (Psalm 119:90)*
- *His faithfulness is immeasurable (Psalm 36:5)*

13 God never changes...

My future is secure and eternal.

God never changes. In fact, it is impossible for God to change. The influences that cause change in your life have no effect on God. He will never be stronger or weaker. His knowledge and wisdom will not increase or diminish. God does not compromise or change His values. And God does not have mood swings. Life and its uncertainties may shake you, but God — the Rock of Ages — does not move. If you cling to Him, His strength will sustain you.

God's unchanging purpose gives you eternal significance. Psalm 33:11 states, *"The LORD's plans stand firm forever; His intentions can never be shaken"* (NLT). God's plan is unchangeable. It existed at the beginning of creation and remains the same today. And you are part of His plan! Paul explains, *"We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago"* (Ephesians 2:10, NLT).

God's unchangeable ways assure you of unwavering guidance. Psalm 18:30 states, *"God's way is perfect. All the LORD's promises prove true"* (NLT). God's principles for life never change. His guidelines, given in Scripture, produce fruitful lives when we follow them.

God's unchanging Word equips you with timeless truth. Isaiah declared, *"The grass withers, and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever"* (Isaiah 40:8, NLT). God's words and commands are timeless.

God's unchanging commitment guarantees everlasting security. If you have trusted in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you can be assured of eternal life. God is eternally committed to your redemption, your spiritual

growth, and your eternal destiny. God's commitment to you is as strong as He is eternally constant. The storms of life are continually changing, but God remains the same. He is consistent and reliable. He is your anchor. You can count on God because He never changes.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."
(Hebrews 13:8, NLT).

"Who has done such mighty deeds, directing the affairs of the human race as each new generation marches by? It is I, the LORD, the First and the Last. "

(Isaiah 41:4, NLT)

- *God never changes (Malachi 3:6)*
- *God is consistent throughout all time (Hebrews 13:8)*
- *God is good—all the time (James 1:17)*
- *He doesn't lie and is true to His word (Numbers 23:19)*
- *His love is never-ending (Lamentations 3:22-23)*
- *Though the universe will change, God never will (Psalm 102:25-27; Hebrews 1:10-12)*