

# THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

## A GUIDE FOR PRAYER

*"I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me" (Isaiah 46:9)*

### Incommunicable (Unshared) Attributes of God

ATTRIBUTE	APPLICATION
<b>Triune.</b> God eternally exists as one being in three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit (John 3:13-17).	The tri-unity of God is an essential attribute for understanding the gospel and how God loves eternally. Though a mysterious reality, we are encouraged that God's triune existence is the basis for our relationship to God (John 17) and that all three Persons work for our salvation (Eph 1:3-14).
<b>Aseity.</b> God is eternally self-existent and self-sufficient, having no need of anyone or anything (Acts 17:25).	Because God is self-existent, we never have to worry that he will be so affected by what we do that he will be incapable of helping us. God never grows tired or feels unfulfilled. Even when we are in desperate need, we can always rely on God, the great I AM (Ps 23:1-6).
<b>Omnipresent.</b> God exists and is present everywhere at all times (Ps 139:7-12)	Since God is present everywhere at all times, it is foolish to think we can avoid Him or hide our sins from Him (Job 34:21-22). Also, it is comforting to know that He is there in times of trouble (2 Kings 6:14-17).
<b>Omniscient.</b> God is all-knowing, having complete and perfect knowledge of all things past, present, and future (Ps 147:5).	It should comfort us to know that God knows all about us, yet still loves and forgives us. Since God knows everything, nothing can separate us from him or nothing can surprise him. Moreover, God always knows our all our needs and circumstances (Matt 6:5-13).
<b>Omnipotent.</b> God is all-powerful and able to do all that He wills (Job 42:2).	We can trust God to work in seemingly impossible situations. No being, visible or invisible, can add to or detract from God's power. Nor can God be aided or thwarted from accomplishing his purposes (Ps 115:1-18). It is God's power which guarantees us assurance of our salvation (Eph 1:15-23).
<b>Immutable.</b> God does not change in his promise or purpose from eternity past (Mal 3:6).	God has decreed the right order of events in the universe which he will not later change. He has made promises, which he is sure to fulfill, including the salvation of his people through Christ. It should encourage us to know that God remains the same even when we change. Also, it is reassuring to know that we can trust what God has said because His Word never changes (Ps 119:89).
<b>Eternal.</b> God has always existed without beginning or end. Though conscious of it, he is not bound by time and works within it (Ps 90:2).	God endows you with eternal life made possible because God Himself possesses it unequivocally. It is, therefore, comforting to know that God sees things from an eternal perspective. Despite what might happen to you in this life He has secured for you an eternity with Him (Rom 8:31-39).
<b>Sovereign</b> God is supreme in rule and authority over all things (Ps 103:19).	We may have confident trust in God through terrible trials because of his freedom to rule without opposition. No attribute can supply the security and comfort like God's sovereignty, because within our trials is the reminder that God is working out all things for our eventual good (Rom 8:28; Gen 50:20).

## Communicable (Shared) Attributes of God

ATTRIBUTE	APPLICATION
<b>Holy.</b> God is absolutely unique in his greatness and being. He is completely separate from everything in his creation, especially sin (Isa 6:3).	The holiness of God is both fearful and awe-inspiring. Only God's own work of salvation can overcome our sin and bring us into relationship with him—the Holy One. More than that, once saved, God works to make us holy by the sanctifying work of his Spirit and Word in our lives (Tit 2:11-14).
<b>Loving.</b> God is eternally loving with the Godhead and toward his creation (1 John 4:8-16).	God is an example in his eternal love among the Father, Son, and Spirit. Now, all that we do in life should be motivated by love for God and our neighbor, remembering God's love us (Matt 22:37–40).
<b>Truthful.</b> God is the source and embodiment of all truth (John 17:17).	It brings great confidence and comfort to know that we can completely trust God and his Word (Num 23:19; Ps 19:7-14).
<b>Wise.</b> God is infinitely wise is and the source of all wisdom (Rom 11:33-36).	The total wisdom of God should encourage us because we know that God will always act wisely in what he says and does towards us. More than that, he gracious gives wisdom to all who humbly ask for it (Jas 1:5-6).
<b>Righteous.</b> God is not bound to a standard of right and wrong; right and wrong flow from him (Ex 34:7).	It is comforting to know that God deals fairly with all people, not allowing the guilty to go unpunished, but providing love and mercy to those who turn from sin and to Him for forgiveness (Gen 18:25).
<b>Merciful.</b> God does not give humanity what it deserves (Tit 3:5).	Because of our sin, we deserve God's wrath. In mercy, God withholds this, offering the chance for sinners to repent, trusting Christ for forgiveness. Due to his mercy, we should be eagerly merciful to others (Luke 6:36).
<b>Gracious.</b> God gives all humanity that which they do not deserve (John 1:16).	From the life and breath we receive each day to the saving of his people, God generously gives us what we do not deserve. This brings an extra measure to our assurance of our salvation; God has given it, we did not earn it (Eph 2:8-9).
<b>Glorious.</b> God exists in infinite beauty through the display of his perfections (Exod 24:17; Ezek 1:4-28).	The revealing of God's glory is the motivation for all that God does and should be our motivation as well, knowing that this leads to the worship God deserves (1 Cor 10:31). Moreover, we should seek an ever-deepening knowledge of God's glory in Christ, knowing it will change us into his likeness (2 Cor 3:7-18).

## How Should I Pray in Light of God's Attributes?

<b>Praise God</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Praise God for the attributes of his character and being.</li> <li>• Praise God for how he has revealed himself through his Word and works.</li> </ul>
<b>Confess to God</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confess your sin against, and rejection of, this glorious God.</li> <li>• Confess your failing to live in light of who he is and what he done.</li> </ul>
<b>Thank God</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank God for the many ways he has cared for us and blessed us.</li> <li>• Thank God for always acting consistently with his character and being.</li> </ul>
<b>Ask God</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask God to continue to make himself known in the world.</li> <li>• Ask God to be at work for us and others, meeting spiritual and physical needs.</li> <li>• Ask God to act because of his commitment to his Word and the glory of his name.</li> </ul>