



# One True God

*Adapted from FireBible Article: The Attributes of God by Danny Duvall*

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of Heaven and Earth and the Redeemer of Mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.<sup>1</sup>

*The Attributes of God* article found in the *ESV FireBible* gives a deeper understanding of this truth:

**Psalm 139:7–8 (ESV)** <sup>7</sup> Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? <sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

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<sup>1</sup> "The One True God," The Assemblies of God, <https://ag.org/Beliefs/Statement-of-Fundamental-Truths#2> (Accessed August 4, 2017). Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. May not copy or download more than 500 consecutive verses of the ESV Bible or more than one half of any book of the ESV Bible.

The Bible doesn't try to prove that God **exists**. Rather it assumes his existence and describes numerous attributes He possesses. Some of these attributes are unique to Him as God; others we see in human beings as a result of their being created in God's **image**.

## **The Unique Attributes of God**

1. **God is omnipresent: He is everywhere at the same time.**

**Acts 17:27–28 (ESV)** <sup>27</sup> that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup> for “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.”

That means God can see everything we do.

2. **God is omniscient: He knows everything.**

**Psalms 147:5 (ESV)** <sup>5</sup> Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

**1 Samuel 16:7 (ESV)** <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

God remains free to make decisions and **alter** his purposes in time and history, according to his own will and wisdom. In other words, God is not a **prisoner** of his own foreknowledge.

**Numbers 14:17–19 (ESV)** <sup>17</sup> And now, please let the power of the Lord be great as you have promised, saying, <sup>18</sup> ‘The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.’ <sup>19</sup> Please pardon the iniquity of this people, according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have forgiven this people, from Egypt until now.”

3. God is omnipotent: He is **all-powerful** and has ultimate authority over all things and all creatures.

**Matthew 19:26 (ESV)** <sup>26</sup> But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

This doesn't mean, however, that God uses all his power and authority at all **times**: for example, God has the power to destroy all sin, but he has chosen not to do so until the end of history. In many cases, God limits his power, channeling it through his **people**. In these cases, his power is dependent on our degree of availability and submission to him.

4. God is Transcendent: He is different and **independent** from his creation.

**Isaiah 55:8 (ESV)** For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

He dwells in perfect and pure existence, far above what has been made: he himself is uncreated and exists apart from creation. In other words, our universe is governed by the laws of time, space and matter. But since God created and set those three powerful realities in order, he surely exists outside of them and is not limited by them (as we and all creation are). *Transcendence* does not entail, however, that God is incapable of living among his **people** as their God.

5. God is eternal: He is from **everlasting** to **everlasting**.

**Psalm 90:1–2 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup> Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. <sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

There has never, nor will there ever be, a time when God did not or will not exist: He is not bound by human time and is, therefore best described as “I AM.”

**2 Peter 3:8 (ESV)** <sup>8</sup> But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

6. **God is unchangeable: There is no change in God's attributes, in his perfections or in his purpose for humankind.**

**Numbers 23:19 (ESV)** <sup>19</sup> God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

This doesn't mean, however, that God never alters his temporary purposes in response to the actions of humans. He may alter his intentions of judgment because of the sincere repentance of sinners. The Bible often speaks of God changing his mind as a result of the diligent prayers of the righteous.

7. **God is perfect and Holy: He is completely without sin and absolutely righteous.**

**Leviticus 11:44 (ESV)** For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground.

Adam and Eve were created without sin, but with the capability of sinning. God on the other hand, cannot sin.

**2 Timothy 2:12–13 (ESV)** <sup>12</sup> if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; <sup>13</sup> if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

8. **God is triune: He is God. Who manifests himself in three divine persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Deuteronomy 6:4 (ESV)** “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

**Matthew 28:19 (ESV)** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Each person is fully divine, equal with the other two: yet they are not three Gods, but one.

**Matthew 3:17 (ESV)** and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

## **GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS:**

Read **Psalm 139:1-12 (ESV)**

1. How well does God know you?
2. How should God’s knowledge of us guide and encourage us?
3. Look at the *FireBible* study notes on verses 1-12. What are your thoughts in regard to these study notes?

Read the *FireBible* article: *The Attributes of God*. Answer the following:<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Quentin McGhee, *Unlocking the Treasures of Your Fire Bible: Resources for Spiritual Understanding*, Springfield, MO, Life Publishers and Faith & Action Series, 2012, Page 119.

## EXERCISE 1: Unique Attributes of God

Write down or speak out loud a statement explaining each unique attribute of God (1-8). Re-read at least one scripture verse on each attribute. If you're studying in a group, tell everyone which one catches your attention the most.

Omnipresent

Omniscient

Omnipotent

Transcendent

Eternal

Unchangeable

Perfect/Holy

Triune

## EXERCISE 2: Moral Attributes of God

Note that God wants us to strive to be like Him in these eight ways listed below, and in the areas of His holiness above. Write down or speak out loud a statement explaining each unique attribute of God (1-8). Re-read at least one scripture verse on each attribute. If you're studying in a group, tell everyone which one catches your attention the most.

Good

Love

Merciful

Compassionate

Patient

Truth

Faithful

Just