

WHAT GOD IS LIKE.

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IT IS LIFE ETERNAL TO KNOW THE TRUE GOD AND JESUS CHRIST: -

- **John 17:3: -** “And this is life eternal, that they might **know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**”

Jesus himself proclaims the unity that exists between his Father and himself.

John 10:30: - “**I and [my] Father are one.**”

John 17:22: - “And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, **even as we are one.**”

If we see Christ and his character clearly, we are seeing an exact reflection of the Father’s character.

John 14:8 & 9: - “Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? **he that hath seen me hath seen the Father;** and how sayest thou [then], Show us the Father?”

☞ To know the true God and Jesus Christ unto salvation entails us having a correct understanding of their characters and what they are really like, as far as the Scriptures have revealed them to us. As long as we stay within the constraints of Scripture, we can avoid speculation and conjecture, and we should be able to approach this subject with reverence and awe.

GOD THE DIVINE PERSON: -

- Jesus has taught us that God is Spirit – a Spiritual Being.
John 4:24: - “**God [is] a Spirit:** and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth.”

Although God is Spirit, we need to understand that he is an actual Divine Person, having a bodily form. The Bible writers have recorded for us the fact that God has feet, a finger, a hand, back parts, a face, head and hair.

Exodus 24:9-11: - “Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: **And they saw the God of Israel:** and [there was] under **his feet** as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in [his] clearness. And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not **his hand:** also they saw God, and did eat and drink.”

Exodus 31:18: - “And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, **written with the finger of God.**”

Exodus 33:20-23: - “And he said, Thou canst not see **my face:** for there shall no man see me, and live. And the LORD said, Behold, [there is] a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee **with my hand** while I pass by: And I will take away **mine hand,** and thou shalt see **my back parts:** but **my face** shall not be seen.”

Daniel 7:9: - “I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and **the Ancient of days** did sit, whose garment [was] white as snow, and **the hair of his head like the pure wool:** his throne [was like] the fiery flame, [and] his wheels [as] burning fire.”

God is a Divine Being who has a personal form such as we have. This is not surprising, as mankind at creation was created in the image and likeness of God.

Genesis 1:26 & 27: - "And God said, **Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:** and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. **So God created man in his [own] image, in the image of God created he him;** male and female created he them."

Before Christ was made flesh, he existed in the form of God. He was in the image, the express image of his Father's Divine Person.

Philippians 2:5 & 6: - "Let this mind be in you, which was also in **Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form* of God,** thought it not robbery to be equal with God."

NB: - * The Greek word that is translated as "form" in the KJV is the word "morphe" – Strong's Concordance; Greek, No. 3444. It is defined as "form, outward appearance, shape generally of bodily form."¹

2 Corinthians 4:4: - "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of **Christ, who is the image of God,** should shine unto them."

Hebrews 1:1-3: - "**God,** who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by **[his] Son,** whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of [his] glory, **and the express image of his person,** and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."

CHRIST REFLECTS THE FATHER'S CHARACTER PERFECTLY: -

☞ We shall now see that the characteristics that the Bible writers have portrayed God as possessing, the same characteristics are also applied to Jesus Christ. So when we do indeed study the life and teachings of Christ with true spiritual eyesight, we are also studying what the Father is really like in character.

<u>CHARACTERISTIC</u>	<u>GOD</u>	<u>JESUS CHRIST</u>
GOD IS ETERNAL AND IMMORTAL.	<p><u>Deuteronomy 33:27:</u> - "The eternal God [is thy] refuge, and underneath [are] the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy [them]."</p> <p><u>1 Timothy 1:17:</u> - "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, [be] honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen."</p>	<p><u>1 Timothy 6:14-16:</u> - "That thou keep [this] commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall show, [who is] the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom [be] honour and power everlasting. Amen."</p> <p><u>1 John 1:2:</u> - "(For the life was manifested, and we have seen [it], and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with</p>

¹ A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, by W. Bauer, Translated and revised by W. F. Arndt, F. W. Gingrich, and F. W. Danker; page 528.

		the Father, and was manifested unto us;)"
A GOD OF TRUTH WHO CANNOT LIE.	<p><u>Deuteronomy 32:4:</u> - "[He is] the Rock, his work [is] perfect: for all his ways [are] judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right [is] he."</p> <p><u>Titus 1:2:</u> - "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began."</p>	<p><u>John 8:40:</u> - "But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham."</p> <p><u>John 14:6:</u> - "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."</p>
GOD IS HOLY.	<u>Leviticus 11: 44 & 45:</u> - " For I [am] the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I [am] holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. For I [am] the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I [am] holy. "	<u>Acts 3:13 & 14:</u> - "The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let [him] go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you."
GOD IS RIGHTEOUS.	<u>Psalms 7:9:</u> - "Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins."	<u>1 John 2:1:</u> - "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. "
GOD IS LOVE.	<p><u>John 3:16:</u> - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."</p> <p><u>1 John 4:8:</u> - "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."</p>	<p><u>Galatians 2:20:</u> - "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."</p> <p><u>Ephesians 5:25:</u> - "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."</p>
GOD IS MERCIFUL AND FORGIVING.	<u>Numbers 14:18:</u> - " The LORD [is] longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing [the guilty], visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [generation]."	<u>Matthew 9:2-7:</u> - "And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This [man] blasphemeth. And Jesus knowing

	<p><u>Psalms 103:2, 3 & 8:</u> - “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; ...The LORD [is] merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.”</p>	<p>their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, [Thy] sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. And he arose, and departed to his house.”</p> <p><u>Hebrews 2:17:</u> - “Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto [his] brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things [pertaining] to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.”</p>
GOD IS COMPASSIONATE.	<p><u>Psalms 86:15:</u> - “But thou, O Lord, [art] a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.”</p>	<p><u>Matthew 9:36:</u> - “But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.”</p>
GOD IS UNCHANGING.	<p><u>Malachi 3:6:</u> - “For I [am] the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.”</p>	<p><u>Hebrews 13:8:</u> - “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”</p>
GOD IS FAITHFUL.	<p><u>Deuteronomy 7:9:</u> - “Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he [is] God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations.”</p> <p><u>1 Corinthians 1:9:</u> - “God [is] faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”</p>	<p><u>Hebrews 2:17:</u> - “Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto [his] brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things [pertaining] to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.”</p> <p><u>Revelation 19:11:</u> - “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him [was] called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.”</p>
A GOD OF JUSTICE AND JUDGMENT.	<p><u>Genesis 18:25:</u> - “That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”</p>	<p><u>John 5:26 & 27:</u> - “For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.”</p> <p><u>2 Timothy 4:1:</u> - “I charge [thee]</p>

	<p><u>Exodus 34:6 & 7:</u> - “And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear [the guilty]; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth [generation].”</p>	<p>therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom.”</p> <p><u>Revelation 19:11-13:</u> - “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him [was] called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes [were] as a flame of fire, and on his head [were] many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he [was] clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.”</p>
A GOD OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE.	<p><u>Isaiah 40:28:</u> - “Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, [that] the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? [there is] no searching of his understanding.”</p> <p><u>Romans 11:33:</u> - “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable [are] his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”</p>	<p><u>Colossians 2:2 & 3:</u> - “That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”</p> <p><u>Jude 25:</u> - “To the only wise God our Saviour, [be] glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen.”</p>
GOD IS ALL POWERFUL.	<p><u>Genesis 17:1:</u> - “And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I [am] the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.”</p>	<p><u>Matthew 28:18:</u> - “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”</p>
GOD KNOWS THE HEARTS OF ALL.	<p><u>1 King 8:39:</u> - “Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, [even] thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)”</p>	<p><u>John 2:24 & 25:</u> - “But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all [men], and needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.”</p>
GOD HAS FOREKNOWLEDGE OF FUTURE EVENTS.	<p><u>Isaiah 46:9 & 10:</u> - “Remember the former things of old: for I [am] God, and [there is] none else; [I am] God, and [there is] none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times</p>	<p><u>John 14:29:</u> - “And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.”</p>

	[the things] that are not [yet] done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.”	
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☞ Truly, when we study the Scriptures carefully, they reveal the truth that all the qualities and characteristics that the Bible writers apply to God, are all found in Jesus Christ. Truly the words of Jesus himself apply here, and teach us that Jesus IS GOD!

JOHN 14:9: - “HE THAT HATH SEEN ME HATH SEEN THE FATHER.”

GOD’S LAW IS A REFLECTION OF HIS CHARACTER: -

<u>CHARACTERISTIC: -</u>	<u>GOD IS: -</u>	<u>GOD’S LAW IS: -</u>
RIGHTEOUS.	<u>Ezra 9:15</u> : - “ O LORD God of Israel, thou [art] righteous : for we remain yet escaped, as [it is] this day: behold, we [are] before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee because of this.”	<u>Psalms 119:172</u> : - “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments [are] righteousness. ”
PERFECT.	<u>Matthew 5:48</u> : - “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. ”	<u>Psalms 19:7</u> : - “ The law of the LORD [is] perfect , converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD [is] sure, making wise the simple.”
HOLY.	<u>Leviticus 19:2</u> : - “Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God [am] holy. ”	<u>Romans 7:12</u> : - “ Wherefore the law [is] holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. ”
GOOD.	<u>Psalms 34:8</u> : - “O taste and see that the LORD [is] good : blessed [is] the man [that] trusteth in him.”	<u>Romans 7:12</u> : - “Wherefore the law [is] holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. ”
TRUTH.	<u>Deuteronomy 32:4</u> : - “[He is] the Rock, his work [is] perfect: for all his ways [are] judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right [is] he.”	<u>Psalms 119:142</u> : - “Thy righteousness [is] an everlasting righteousness, and thy law [is] the truth. ”
LOVE.	<u>1 John 4:8</u> : - “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. ”	<u>Romans 13:9 & 10</u> : - “For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if [there be] any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love [is] the fulfilling of the law. ”
UNCHANGEABLE.	<u>Malachi 3:6</u> : - “ For I [am] the LORD,	<u>Matthew 5:18</u> : - “For verily I say unto

	I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."	you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."
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