

# EL SHADDAI

## *The Lord Almighty*

Isaiah 40:28-

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom."

**God is Self-Existent**- The Lord is the creator of all things. More than that, it is he who defines the meaning, purpose and value of all things. He is the very source of life and everything in the entire creation is dependent on him. He has no beginning or end, rather ***He is*** the beginning and the end. He is literally the source of all things, he is dependent on nothing, and his power and authority is the highest of all. If He is the creator of all things, then He is the rightful owner, proprietor, and possessor of all beings, power and dominion. (Gen 1:1, Psalm 24:1, 89:11, Ex 4:11, 9:29, Na 1:5)

Acts 17:24-25 - 24 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 neither is He served by human hands, as **though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things**; NAS  
Col 1:16 - 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. NAS

He is not dependent upon His creatures for happiness or any other thing. If God is the source of life, He therefore transcends it, and the dimension in which it exists. God is eternally ***self-dependent***. The creation of angels and men added nothing to God, for He existed billions and trillions of years (eternally) prior to their creation. He was perfectly blessed in Himself before the first creature was ever called in to being.

Job 38:4-7 - "**Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation?** Tell me, if you understand. 5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? 6 On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone- 7 while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? NIV

You see friends it is God who gives life and breathe and everything else for all to richly enjoy. The entire creation is absolutely dependent on God for its existence. ***Both calamity and well-being come from the Lord.*** It is God who ultimately determines the events of the day. Nothing happens unless He allows it. The Lord even feeds and clothes His enemies, giving them day by day the opportunity to turn away from their sins in repentance. No one lives unless God permits, and no one dies unless God permits.

Ex 4:11 - 11 The LORD said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? **Is it not I, the LORD?**" NIV

Deut 32:39 - 39 See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me; **It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded, and it is I who heal**; And there is no one who can deliver from My hand. NAS

Isa 45:6-7 - That there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, 7 The One forming light and creating darkness, **Causing well-being and creating calamity**; I am the LORD who does all these. NAS

1 Sam 2:6-8 - 6 "The **LORD kills and makes alive**; He brings down to Sheol and raises up. 7 "The LORD makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts. 8 "He raises the poor from the

dust, He lifts the needy from the ash heap To make them sit with nobles, And inherit a seat of honor; For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, And He set the world on them. NAS  
All of the beings in creation are therefore dependent upon God. He is the provider and sustainer of life. **God literally sustains everything in heaven and earth.** He determines the weather and the seasons, the rising and falling of nations and kings, indeed the entire creation is under the rule of His sovereign hand.

**Job 34:14-15** - 14 If it were his intention and he withdrew his spirit and breath, 15 all mankind would perish together and **man would return to the dust.** NIV

**Job 37:5-12** - 5 God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding. 6 He says to the **snow**, 'Fall on the earth,' and to the **rain shower**, 'Be a mighty downpour.' 7 So that all men he has made may know his work, he stops every man from his labor. 8 The animals take cover; they remain in their dens. 9 The **tempest** comes out from its chamber, the **cold from the driving winds.** 10 The breath of God produces **ice**, and the broad waters become frozen. 11 He loads the **clouds with moisture**; he scatters his **lightning** through them. 12 **At his direction** they swirl around over the face of the whole earth to do **whatever he commands** them.

Friends, we must understand that what is happening in the world is happening at the express purpose and will of God, who rules the world and all who are in it. **He is "the Lord of Heaven and Earth"** and whatsoever happens in the world, happens because God has permitted it to happen. Although there is much evil in the world, which God hates, He is allowing these things to achieve His eternal purposes which will, without a doubt, come to pass. God not only permits the events of human history, but has ordained them from eternity past, and is furthermore actively involved in seeing that they all come to pass, fulfilling all of His plans and purposes.

**Prov 16:4** - The **LORD works out everything for his own ends**--even the wicked for a day of disaster. NIV

**Isa 40:21-23** - 21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22 It is He who sits above the vault of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who **stretches out the heavens** like a curtain And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. 23 He it is who **reduces rulers to nothing**, Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless. NAS

**Eph 1:11** - 11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who **works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will**, NIV

Soon and very soon God's plan will come to fulfillment. There will be nothing to hinder His eternal purposes from coming to a speedy completion. But for now He waits, giving all the gracious opportunity to repent and believe upon His Son, Jesus Christ, whom He sent to the earth as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Friend, knowing these things about God, you understand then the *urgency* of making your relationship right with Him today!

For the one who knows God personally, these truths are security and bring comfort. For the one who does not know God, they are fearful and dreaded terror!

Friend, won't you recognize your total and complete dependence upon Him today! Won't you thank Him for His abundant goodness to you!

## Awesome God

Rev 15:3-4

**"Great and marvelous are Thy works, O Lord God, the Almighty;**

**Righteous and true are Thy ways, Thou King of the nations.**

**"Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Thy name?**

**For Thou alone art holy; For all the nations will come and worship before Thee,  
For Thy righteous acts have been revealed."** NAS

**God is Awesome** — God is the highest most supremely valuable being of all. This is because nothing has its existence except at the will of God. Nothing has *its being*, except by His design and continued Providence. Indeed, His is the Divine Providence of all things, so it is said, “And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, 'What hast Thou done?’”(Dan 4:35) *He is the Mastermind and great Designer of Creation. Think with what Wisdom has God made such a complex and beautiful Earth. The lilies of the field, the great deep of the ocean, with its delicate ecosystems, the huge mountains, the lovely sunsets. Or how about the human psyche, its emotional fountain or mental capacities, the nervous system or even the ever complex human eye. All these things have their existence in the eternally happy plan of the Divine and Benevolent Father, El Shaddai, God Almighty!*

Acts 17:28 - 28 **for in Him we live and move and exist**, NAS

Rev 4:11 - 11 "Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for **Thou didst create all things**, and because of **Thy will they existed, and were created.**" NAS

How could we ever place value upon some created thing, above the One who created it? Oh how we sell ourselves short! To think that we would bow down to a block of wood, or a hunk of steel, or even a relationship or another person and say, “Thou art my God in whom I trust.” When all the while the Infinitely Holy and Merciful King, who made it all, looks down upon us with longsuffering, “not wanting any to perish but all to come to a knowledge of the Truth.” *How much more greater than all things is the One who Created them?* Indeed, He is far beyond our ability to comprehend! How much more loving is the God who “is Love,” than mere men who only have what they receive from Him. Or what about joy, how much happier could we be if we would only turn to the Eternally Happy and Sovereign Spring of Joy from whom flows all blessing and every good and perfect thing!

Ps 36:7-9 - 7 **How precious is Thy lovingkindness**, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Thy wings. 8 They drink their fill of the abundance of Thy house; And Thou dost **give them to drink of the river of Thy delights**. 9 For with Thee is the fountain of life; In Thy light we see light. NAS

Ps 16:11 - 11 Thou wilt make known to me the path of life; **In Thy presence is fulness of joy**; In Thy right hand **there are pleasures forever**. NAS

**God is Wonderful** - God is so far beyond our ability to comprehend, we must see Him as the Transcendent and Marvelous being that He is! But is God some impersonal force, out in the expanse of heaven? May it never be! Friend, do you desire happiness and love, comfort and peace? Be it known that God is the source of these rich desires that we have! *Indeed there is not one as Happy as the Eternal God!* And may I add that He is eternally happy in Himself, for He is the fulfillment of all that happiness is or can be! Friends, we would not even know these wonderful feelings and satisfactions lest they had been foreordained in the wonderful plan of the Wonderful God! And Oh how He wants to share with us His manifold perfections! That we would even “partake in the divine nature”, and be “conformed to the image of His Son.” Yes and Amen, what a promise that we will even take on

**the character and virtues of the thrice Holy God! Wonderful, Marvelous, Stupendous!!**

Judg 13:18 - 18 But the angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask **my name**, seeing it **is wonderful?**" NAS

Isa 55:9 - "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are **My ways higher than your ways**, And **My thoughts than your thoughts**." NAS

Rom 11:33-36 - 33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How **unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!** 34 For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? 35 Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? 36 **For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.** To Him be the glory forever. Amen. NAS

**God is to be Worshipped –** "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? Can we stand in the presence of this God we have come to know, and not be changed? Will we disregard the commands of God our Father, as if we have no one to give account to but ourselves? Oh dear reader! Take off thy shoes, for the ground on which you stand is Holy! Bow your heart in adoration, and revere the Lord your God! Give Him praise who made the heavens and the Earth! Who gives to you every good thing, and satisfies your soul with lovingkindness and truth! Draw near to God and He will draw near to you! Acknowledge Him in all of your ways, and He will make your path straight! And say with doubting Thomas, "My Lord and My God!" We are commanded to praise the Lord throughout the Scripture. Indeed it is the greatest of all commandments that *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."* 38 *"This is the great and foremost commandment. (Matt 22:37-39)* We are commanded to love Him because He knows that this is where we will find our utmost happiness and fulfillment, in loving Him! Indeed it is the purpose for which we were made! And in loving God we will find an awesome, and wonderful supernatural life, that will flow from our inmost being, forever and ever!

John 7:37-38 - Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, **From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.** NAS

Deut 6:13 - 13 shall **fear only the LORD your God**; and **you shall worship Him**, and swear by His name. NAS

Rev 14:7 - 7 and he said with a loud voice, "**Fear God, and give Him glory**, because the hour of His judgment has come; and **worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters.**" NAS

Deut 5:29 - 29 "Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me, and **keep all My commandments always**, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever! NAS

Deut 10:12-14 - 12 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, **but to fear the LORD your God**, to **walk in all His ways and love Him**, and to serve the LORD your God with **all your heart and with all your soul**, 13 and to keep the Lord's commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today **for your good?** 14 "Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it. NAS

**What are you living your life for Christian?**

**Where are your affections and passions?**

**What is the purpose of your life?**

# El Shaddai

## *The Lord Almighty*

Isaiah 40:28

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom."

**God is Immutable** - The Lord is absolute, He does not change. God is absolutely dependable, he is unchanging in nature and essence, He is immutable in all of his ways and purposes. This sets Him apart from all of His creatures.

**Numbers 23:19-20** - "God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should **change his mind**. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? I have received a command to bless; he has blessed, and I cannot change it."

**Mal 3:6 - 6** "For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed."

This is the very nature of God. He is perfect. He therefore has no need of change. If God commits an act and it is perfect, will He therefore change something concerning it? Will there be need for change? Because God does not change, He is likened unto a Rock!

**Deut 32:3-4** - Ascribe greatness to our God! 4 "**The Rock! His work is perfect**. For all His ways are just; A **God of faithfulness and without injustice**, Righteous and upright is He. NAS  
Because God is Eternal and therefore Omniscient, He already knows the outcome of history before it even happens. Why then would God change anything He has done, knowing all His works from eternity?(Acts 15:18) Although God has given man free choice, God has interacted with man from eternity. Therefore He acts knowing the outcome of such interaction before it takes place, He therefore acts with the perfect response to man each and every time.

**1 Sam 15:29 - 29** And also the **Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind**; for He is not a man that He should change His mind." NAS

Since the Almighty is Eternally Perfect, He has never evolved or grown or improved in any way. Indeed such a thought is unthinkable. He is God, the everlasting Rock of the Ages. All that God is today, He always has been and always will be! Shall we improve on Perfection? He is eternally Powerful and Glorious, unaffected by anything outside of Himself, He neither improves or deteriorates, but is perpetually the same forever and therefore testifies concerning Himself, "I am that I am!" (Ex 3:14)

**Heb 13:8 - 8** **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever**. NAS

**James 1:17-18 - 17** Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the **Father of lights, with whom there is no variation**, or shifting shadow. NAS

God's purposes never change. From the creation of the world, God has an intended purpose in all He has made. Indeed this purpose is His reason for creation. He therefore brings about through the creation His eternal purpose, which was in His mind before He said, "Let there be Light!" (Gen 1:3)

**Heb 6:17-18 - 17** In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the **unchangeableness of His purpose**, interposed with an oath, 18 in order that by two *unchangeable* things, **in which it is impossible for God to lie**, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us. NAS

God's testimony never changes. Because He is Omniscient and knows all things, He therefore makes an informed and educated judgment concerning all things. Having no beginning or end, He speaks from

eternity. The testimony of the Lord is therefore “sure and altogether righteous!” (Psalm 19:9) His Word is “trustworthy” and “Faithful” always being perfectly fulfilled by the will of Him who spoke it.

**Ps 119:89-91** - 9 Forever, O LORD, Thy word is settled in heaven. 90 **Thy faithfulness continues throughout all generations**; Thou didst establish the earth, and it stands. 91 They stand this day according to Thine ordinances, For all things are Thy servants. NAS

**Matt 24:35** - 35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but **My words shall not pass away**. NAS  
On man we cannot rely. But if we trust in and rely upon the Rock Eternal, we shall never be disappointed! He will never fail us! There is “no shadow of turning” in Him, but He is faithful and reliable, immovable and unchanging. Here is *comfort*, here is *peace*! Why so downcast Oh my Soul, put your hope in God!

I dare not trust the sweetest friend,  
but only lean on Jesus Name,  
on Christ the solid Rock I stand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.

Friend, you can rest in Him today! You can find comfort and peace in Him today!

### **Ps 90:2**

2 Before the mountains were born,  
Or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world,  
Even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.

### **Ps 103:19**

19 The LORD has established His throne in the heavens;  
And His sovereignty rules over all.

### **Isaiah 46:3-5**

3 "Listen to me, you whom I have upheld since you were conceived,  
and have carried since your birth. 4 Even to your old age and gray hairs

**I am he, I am he who will sustain you.**

**I have made you and I will carry you;**

**I will sustain you and I will rescue you.**

5 "To whom will you compare me or count me equal? To whom will you liken me that we may be compared?

My sincere acknowledgement and gratitude to the my beloved brothers AW Pink and John MacArthur who have been a resource for my study and encouragement for my faith in this study and many others. To God be the Glory for the service of these dear saints!



# El Shaddai

## *The Lord Almighty*

**1 Chron 29:11-13**

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power  
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,  
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things.

In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

**God is Omnipotent**—God possesses all power. Any power that is in the creation is granted by God. God had the creative power to make the universe from nothing, and He sustains the same universe by His power. He has power over life and death and every other thing. He made all things with a very purposeful will, and He possesses the power to execute His divine will and bring His intentions to an expected end. His creation is just a *small example* of his mighty power. Not only did He create the universe, but He is even now sustaining all things by his powerful word.

**John 1:1-3** - :1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 **All things came into being by Him**, and **apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being** NAS

**Col 1:16-17** - 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- **all things have been created by Him and for Him**. 17 And He is before all things, and **in Him all things hold together**. NAS

**Heb 1:3** - 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, **sustaining all things by his powerful word**. NIV

**Rev 4:11** - 11 "Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for **Thou didst create all things**, and **because of Thy will they existed, and were created**." NAS

Since God therefore created all things, He also transcends them, and *His power and dominion are infinitely greater than everything He created*. Since God is actively sustaining everything in creation, He exercises His power in every moment of time, being sure to bring to pass "all His good pleasure." He began alone, and created all things out of nothing, and by this great truth is known as "The Almighty." He possesses all the might. He therefore establishes rulers and nations, according to the working of His purposes, grants authority to men and angels as He sees fit. There is no authority except that which God has established.

**Rom 13:1-2** - 1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and **the authorities that exist are appointed by God**. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

**John 19:11** - 11 Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, **unless it had been given you from above**; for this reason he who delivered Me up to you has the greater sin."

**Dan 4:35** - 35 All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. **He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth**. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?" NIV

**Job 12:14-23** - 14 "Behold, He tears down, and it cannot be rebuilt; He imprisons a man, and there can be no release. 15 "Behold, He restrains the waters, and they dry up; And He sends them out, and they inundate the earth. 16 "With Him are strength and sound wisdom, The misled and the misleader belong to Him. 23 "**He makes the nations great**, then destroys them; He enlarges the nations, then leads them away. NAS

God, being *the author of life, also has power over death*. Indeed there will come a day when all who are in the graves shall be resurrected from the dead to face God. He will, also by His power, “render to each man according to his works.” The almighty God expects human beings to obey Him, and He holds them responsible for their thoughts and actions. This power over death was demonstrated by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, an event of which there were more than 500 eyewitnesses (1Cor 15). Jesus clearly and powerfully called Lazarus forth from the dead, as well as many others.

**John 5:28-29** - 28 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which **all who are in the tombs** shall hear His voice, 29 and shall come forth; those who did the **good deeds to a resurrection of life**, those who **committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment**.

**Job 12:9** - That the hand of the LORD has done this, 10 In **whose hand is the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind?**

Finally, is it not evident therefore, that God is greater than any problem! Friend, there is no problem or heartache or trial in life that God cannot resolve, repair or recreate. He can heal what is unhealable, He can make clean whatever is defiled. He can restore the most failed and broken marriage, He can restore shattered dreams and destroyed lives. I know, He has done it for me! God is greater than your life's problems! In fact, *He has allowed your problems to drive you to Him!* When will we finally say “uncle”? Or will we go to the grave with a stubborn and rebellious heart?

**Matthew 19:26**- "Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, **but with God all things are possible.**"

**Jer 29:11-14** - 11 For I know *the plans I have for you*," declares the LORD, **"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.** 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will **seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you," declares the LORD,** " NIV

God reveals in the Bible that He is all-powerful and in the final sense is the ruler of nature and history. He is furthermore revealed as *the gracious and loving God, a God of protection and comfort, rest and peace* to all who will repent of their sins and turn to Him to be saved from death!

## **John 11:25-26**

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"



# El Shaddai

## *The Lord Almighty*

**Isaiah 40:22-28**

It is He who sits above the vault of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. "To whom then will you liken Me That I should be his equal?" says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power Not one of them is missing. Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth NAS

**God is Omnipresent**- God is not bound by the limits of space. He is in all places at all times. He is where we are at all times. Can the creator of the universe be confined to a single place? Can the One who stretches out the heavens like a tent be confined on the earth? Indeed He cannot, not even the highest heavens can contain Him for He transcends the limits of space. **God is limitless, He is infinitely huge, and the span of His hand is larger than the vast expanse of the universes!** He is in the highest heaven and in the great deep, He is in every place of the world, yet He is not limited by it! He literally fills the heavens and the earth!

**Psalms 139:7-8**- "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.**"

**1 Kings 8:27- 27** "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and **the highest heaven cannot contain Thee**, how much less this house which I have built! NAS

**Jer 23:23-24 - 23** "Am I a God who is near," declares the LORD, "And not a God far off? **24** "Can a man hide himself in hiding places, So I do not see him?" declares the LORD. **"Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the LORD.** NAS

Although He is everywhere present with all things, He **is not** all things. God is **distinct** from all things. Even though He is the sustainer of all things, He does this from without. **Everything has its being in God**, for He transcends them, sustaining and upholding them, indeed they exist by His pleasure and will.

**Acts 17:27-28 - 27** that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though **He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and exist**, NAS

**Ps 33:13-15 - 3** The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men; **14 From His dwelling place He looks out On all the inhabitants of the earth**, **15** He who fashions the hearts of them all, He who understands all their works. NAS

**Rom 11:36 - 36** For **from Him** and **through Him** and **to Him are all things**. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. NAS

Not only do we have our being in God, but He even knows our inmost being. He knows our innermost thoughts the moment we think them! He is aware of everything we do all the time, **He knows the most intimate details of our thoughts and intentions**. There is no place where man can hide from God, indeed the molecules of our bodies are held together by His sustaining power. He exists even in the recesses of our hearts and minds.

**Ps 139:1-4 - O LORD**, Thou hast searched me and known me. **2** Thou dost know when I sit down and when I rise up; **Thou dost understand my thought from afar**. **3** Thou dost scrutinize my path and my lying down, And art intimately acquainted with all my ways. **4** Even **before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, Thou dost know it all.**

Knowing therefore that everything owes its very existence to God, we know that God is right here with us in the midst of our life. He is here to share the "rainy days" as well as the sunny days. Indeed we have His promise, to those of us who trust Christ as Savior and Lord, the "He shall never leave us or forsake us." As Jesus said in Matt 28:20, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You see friend, **God is a very present help** in time of trouble. **He is a refuge for us**, a shelter from the torrents and tempests of life.

Always present with us, He *knows* our heartache and our loneliness, and is therefore able to comfort us like no one else can. Indeed He is the God of all comfort.

**Ps 46:1** - God is our refuge and strength, A **very present help** in trouble. NAS

**Ps 23:4** - 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil;  
**for Thou art with me**; Thy rod and Thy staff, **they comfort me**. NAS

**2 Cor 1:3-5** - 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort**, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

**Heb 4:14-15** - 14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, **but One who has been tempted in all things as we are**, yet without sin NAS

Friend, won't you turn to Him in your time of need! He is eager to restore you to joy and fulfill your heart and life. He is a Father of compassion, always present with us in the midst of all we face. He will comfort us and care for us and give us all that we need, if we will turn to Him. Won't you draw near to Him today? He is present with you now and just a prayer away!

Isaiah 28:23

"Listen and hear my voice; pay attention and hear what I say."

**Is not he who formed the ear  
Worth the time it takes to hear?  
Should he who formed our lips for speaking  
Be not heeded when he speaks?  
Will you not listen?  
Why won't you listen?  
God has spoken love to us  
Why will you not listen?  
He spoke a word of flesh and blood  
Flesh and blood that bled and died  
Bled and died just to be heard  
How could you not hear this word?  
Why will you not hear this word?**

Mark 9:7

"This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

# El Shaddai

## *The Lord Almighty*

**Isaiah 44:7-8**

Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come-- yes, let him foretell what will come. 8 Do not tremble, do not be afraid.

Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one."

**God is Omniscient**- He knows all things. Because God is the source of all things, making everything from nothing, He is therefore the source of all knowledge and wisdom. *He knew in eternity past the entire record of history for all eternity*. Predictive prophecy proves this again and again. There is nothing that escapes His notice, and nothing can be hidden from Him. He is aware of the events of the past, present, and future as if they were all laid out before Him. As His being is perfect, so is His knowledge. Being perfect in knowledge, He is therefore all-knowing and never confused, misled or surprised.

**Hebrews 4:13**- "**Nothing in all creation is hidden** from God's sight **Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him** to whom we must give account."

**1 John 3:20** - 20 whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and **he knows everything**. NIV

The beloved AW Tozer puts it this way: "God knows all that can be known. And this He knows instantly and with a fullness of perfection that includes every possible item of knowledge concerning everything that exists or could have existed anywhere in the universe at any time in the past or that may exist in the centuries or ages yet unborn." *God knows all of the data of every possible cause and effect, feeling and desire, creature, event, and every other thing that can be named*. His knowledge is complete and eternal.

**Acts 15:18** - 18 "**Known to God from eternity are all His works**. NKJV

**Isa 46:9-10** - 9 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 **Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done**. Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; NAS

Nothing escapes the attention of God. He sees all things even the inner thoughts of man. Jesus said that "all of the hairs of our head were numbered," (Luke 12:7) and that not a sparrow falls to the ground apart from His attention (Matt 10:29). Our very thoughts and intentions of our hearts are "open and laid bare before the Lord." He knows our thought before we even express them. Indeed there is no place where we can hide from God, He sees every hidden things in full view, and even understands the intentions of our hearts better than we do. He is God.

**1 Kings 8:39**- then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Forgive and act; deal with each man according to all he does, since you know his heart (**for you alone know the hearts of all men**), **1 Chron 28:9-10** - 9 "And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, **for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts**. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever. NIV

**Prov 5:21** - For a man's ways are in **full view of the LORD**, and he examines all his paths. NIV  
**Ps 139:2-4** - You know when I sit and when I rise; **you perceive my thoughts from afar**. 3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. 4 **before a word is on my tongue you know it completely**. O LORD. NIV

Pink writes of God's knowledge of our sins; "Neither the darkness of night, the closest curtains, nor the deepest dungeon can hide any sinner from the eyes of Omniscience. The trees of the garden were not able to conceal our first parents. *No human eye beheld Cain murder his brother, but his maker witnessed his crime*. Sarah might laugh derisively in the seclusion of her tent, yet was it heard by Jehovah. Achan stole a wedge of gold and carefully hid it in the earth, but God brought it to light. David was at much pains to

cover up his wickedness, but ere long the all-seeing God sent one of His servants to say to him, "You are the man!" And to writer and reader is also said, "Be sure your sin will find you out." (Numbers 32:23)

**Prov 15:3** - 3 The **eyes of the LORD are in every place**, Watching the evil and the good. NAS

**Job 34:21-22** - 1 "His eyes are on the ways of men; he sees their every step. 22 There is no dark place, **no deep shadow, where evildoers can hide**. NIV

**Psa 90:8** - 8 You have set our iniquities before you, **our secret sins in the light of your presence**.

Oh! How the wicked hate this truth. But for the righteous, it is one of great comfort. That God knows our way, our thoughts. Even when we have failed ourselves, God is not amazed or surprised. Indeed He remembers that "we are dust." His "eye is upon the sparrow, how much more the sons of men!" Will the all-seeing God of mercy deny a refuge for those who have turned to Him for it? No, indeed He will be our strong tower! He will be careful to "make our path straight." Friends, God knew all our days before one ever came to be, yet decided to set His love upon us in spite of our sin and rebellion. What a gracious and loving God He is! While we were yet sinners Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8) He will not forget us in our time of need, but knowing our needs before we even ask, He is ready and prepared to meet them. **He has seen the difficult situations of our lives before they even happen**, yet has said, "No weapon formed against you will prosper, all who will rise up against you shall fall."

**Matt 10:29-31** - 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground **apart from the will of your Father**. 30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 So don't be afraid; **you are worth more than many sparrows**. NIV

**Matt 6:8** - 8 "Therefore do not be like them; for **your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him**. NAS

**Isa 65:24** - 24 "It will also come to pass that **before they call, I will answer**; and while they are still speaking, I will hear. NAS

Knowing therefore that God is omniscient, what does this imply about future events?

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"Whether God has decreed all things that ever come to pass or not, all that own the being of a God, own that He knows all things beforehand. Now, it is self-evident that if He knows all things beforehand, He doth approve of them or doth not approve of them; that is, He is either willing they should be, or He is not willing they should be. But to will that they *should be* is to decree them." (Jonathon Edwards)

#### GOD, ATTRIBUTES OF

History is the product of God's eternally wise planning, creative purpose, providential preservation, and common grace. God fills space and time with his presence, sustains it, and gives it purpose and value. The omnipresent and ubiquitous One is Lord of time and history, not vice versa. God does not negate time but fulfills it. In it his purposes are accomplished.

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#### GOD, ATTRIBUTES OF

for Peter says, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you" (John 21:17). God knows all inward thoughts and outward acts of humanity (Ps 139). Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the one to whom we must give account (Heb 4:13).

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**If God is omniscient, he must have decree and sovereignty.**

# The Holy Trinity

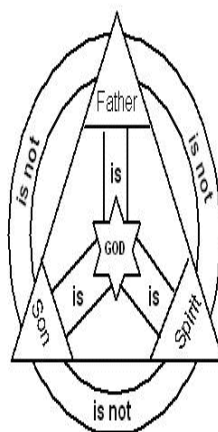
## The mystery of God's Nature

### Gen 1:26-27

Then God said, "**Let Us** make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness; ...  
" And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him;  
male and female He created them. NAS

**God is Triune** - There are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are **One God**. In the unity of the Godhead there are three, equal in divine perfection, equal in divine power, executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

**Matt 28:19** - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the **Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit**,



The word "Trinity" is never actually used in the bible. However, we understand God to be One in essence yet existing in three persons. ***The bible states again and again that there is "One God," yet He is revealed again and again in three different personalities.*** This is seen in many places in the bible and we consider it an important essential and fundamental of the historic Christian faith. We must never compromise the nature of God as clearly defined in the scriptures, for the moment we do, we are now worshipping a different God than the one revealed in scripture. That is why we consider this an essential issue. We would divide with anyone who does not accept the biblical concept of the Trinity. When this truth is compromised, Jesus Christ ceases to be, "God VERY God."

Each person of the Triune Godhead possess all of the attributes of God and are equally divine. All of the capacities of God reside in each one of them.

	Father	Son	Holy Spirit
Eternal-	Ps 90:2	John 1:2, Rev 1:8	Hebrews 9:14
Omnipotent-	Daniel 4:35	Hebrews 1:3	Rom 15:19
Omniscient-	Jer 17:10	Rev 2:23	1 Cor 2:11
Omnipresent-	Jer 23:24	Matt 18:20	Ps 139:7
Holy-	Rev 15:4	Acts 3:14	Acts 1:8
True-	John 7:28	Rev 3:7	1 John 5:6

### God says he is One and there is no other.

Throughout the bible, God explicitly states that He is the only ONE, true and living God. He is distinct from all other beings, whether natural or supernatural, all other beings were created by the ONE God and for His purposes. He alone is God, the Almighty, Eternal and Transcendent Creator of all things.

(Duet 6:4, Isaiah 44:6, Jeremiah 10:10, 1 Cor 8:4, 1 Tim 2:5)

**Isa 45:5** - "I am the LORD, and there is no other; **Besides Me there is no God.** NAS

**Isaiah 44:8** - "Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. **Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock;** I know not one."

**1 Timothy 1:17** - "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, **the only God,** be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

### God says he exists in three persons.

Throughout the bible, God is explicitly revealed in three distinct persons. Yet each person, as we have shown, possesses all of the attributes of the ONE God. This is indeed a profound mystery. Nevertheless, it is indeed the true nature of God. Those of us who do know God personally, do experience the unique relation to God wherein we discern these distinct persons, do we not? He is indeed a TRIUNE being. He is a God of wonder and awe!

**2 Corinthians 13:14** - "May the grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ,** and the love of **God,** and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit** be with you all."

**Matt 3:16-17** - 16 And after being baptized, **Jesus** went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the **Spirit of God** descending as a dove, and coming upon Him, 17 and behold, a **voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son,** in whom I am well-pleased." NAS

### The Son, Jesus Christ is called God.

**Isaiah 9:6** - "For to us a **child is born, to us a son is given,** and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God, Everlasting Father,** Prince of Peace."

**Col 2:9-10** - 9 For in **Him(Jesus Christ) all the fullness of Deity dwells** in bodily form, NAS

**Heb 1:2-3** - 2 in these last days has spoken to us in **His Son,** whom He appointed heir of all things, **through whom also He made the world.** 3 And **He** is the radiance of His glory and the **exact representation of His nature,** and **upholds all things by the word of His power.** NAS

### The Holy Spirit is called God.

There is only ONE who is "holy." Therefore if the Spirit is Holy, He must be God.

**Ex 31:3-4** - 3 And I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, NAS

**Gen 1:2** - 2 And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. NAS

**Eph 4:30** - 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. NAS



Let us embrace the fact that the bible certainly portrays God in three persons without compromising the fact the he is One. The three persons of the Godhead most definitely are distinct and enjoy interpersonal relationships between each other, yet they are all referred to as God. Understand that each one is God or Deity, but the Father is not the Son, and the Son is not the Spirit, and the Spirit is not the Father. Another thing we might notice is the beautiful attributes of the relationships between the Godhead, their authority and submission, self-sacrificing love, and the harmony of their purposes in the ever unfolding plan of God. Thus we see the Trinity. This concept can never really be fully understood this side of heaven, but we trust the scripture by faith.

Dear friends, our God is truly an awesome God. Let us worship him honestly from our heart with reverence and fear, let us offer our lives to him in willing sacrifice of all things. He truly is the immortal King of Eternity who has by his power stretched out the heavens like a tent. Truly the earth is the Lord's and all the fullness thereof, how can we not fear his holy name, how can we not bow our hearts before him in adoration of his love and power, not to mention his compassion and grace toward a world full of rebellious sinners. What perfect love the Father has lavished on us, even the death of his only Son, to reconcile us to himself and bring us into perfect freedom.

# *The Goodness of God*

**Ex 34:6-7**

6 Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; 7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations. "

NAS

**God is Good** – Here is a virtue of God beaming as the sun, "For the LORD is good, His lovingkindness is everlasting" (Jer 33:11) NAS. This is very essence of God's nature, He is Good! He has always been good, even from eternity past, so it is said, "For His lovingkindness is everlasting." God is originally good, and the source of goodness in the creation, so that when He created all things He pronounced, "And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good." NAS (Gen 1:31)

**Everything that comes from God, His creation, His eternal plan, His laws and statutes, His sovereign rule cannot be anything but good!** The longer we sit and ponder God's goodness, the more clearly we see just how kind and gracious He is!

**Ps 106:1** - Oh give thanks to the LORD, for **He is good**; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

**Nah 1:7** - 7 The **LORD is good**. A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him. NAS

What is this goodness that God is? It has been defined as, "the benevolence, love, mercy and grace of God." Indeed there are no words to describe the meaning of God's goodness. It is certainly the opposite of evil, being that which is "good," that which promotes *happiness* and *prosperity, success and welfare*. His *benevolence* is kind to all His works, His *love* delights in pleasure toward all He has made, His *mercy* is expressed in *pity* and *compassion* for the needy, *gentleness* and *lovingkindness* to His creation, and His *grace* grants His goodness even to the unworthy. He is always *giving*, as it is His nature to give and give. Indeed every good thing comes down from the Father of lights. (Jam 1:17) God is continually kind and benevolent even to the wicked, His enemies, and those who oppose His goodness. What fullness and complete goodness is in the blessed Creator!

**Ps 145:9** - 9 The **LORD is good to all**, And **His mercies are over all His works**. NAS

**Ps 36:6-8** - 6 Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep.

O LORD, you **preserve both man and beast**. 7 How **priceless is your unfailing love!** Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. 8 They feast on the abundance of your house; **you give them drink from your river of delights**.

Oh how we underestimate the goodness of God. God clothes and feeds us, and showers us with love and family, pleasure and happiness, and yet would we speak a word of complaint? Oh dear reader, count thy blessings! We frequently consider why God allows bad things to happen, yet we continually look upon our sin and the sins of others as just another part of life. Oh the goodness of God in passing over our sins!

Although God is patient and forbearing, He will not allow this forever. **Indeed because He is good, He must therefore punish evil**. Would God be good if He just allowed the evil that goes on and never brought it to justice? Would He be good if child molesters and rapists, killers and liars, and yes even everyday sinners like you and me were allowed to just go on thru life, never having to give account for our actions? Indeed He must bring evil to account, and it will be the brightest day of all His goodness when death and hell are put away forever! Yes and Amen, there is coming a day when He will rid the earth of every form of evil that can be named, and it shall henceforth be called the "Home of Righteousness."

**Matt 5:45** - He causes his **sun to rise on the evil and the good**, and **sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous**. NIV

**Matt 13:49-50** - 49 "So it will be at the end of the age; the angels shall come forth, and **take out the wicked from among the righteous**, 50 and will cast them into the furnace of fire; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. NAS

**Rev 20:10** - 10 And **the devil** who deceived them **was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone**, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night **forever and ever**. NAS

**Rev 21:3-4** - 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, 4 and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there **shall no longer be any death**; there shall **no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain**; the first things have passed away. " NAS

The gracious mercy of God is expressed in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God is so exceedingly good, that he would come to the earth and being innocent, pay the penalty so that the guilty can be acquitted. What marvelous love is this! Oh blessed Goodness! How have I been released from the prison of my sin? The guilt and shame of my sins is never to be remembered again. ***The salvation of God in Christ is exceedingly good!*** What's more is that His goodness showers upon us not only eternal life, but He now grants to us all things whatsoever we need for now and forevermore. The blessings and bounty of God's goodness include love and joy, peace and compassion, indeed His patience and kindness now run through our veins as a river of heavenly delights! Blessed lord, "Thy lovingkindness is better than life!" (Ps 63:3)

**2 Cor 5:21** - 21 He made Him who knew no sin to **be sin on our behalf**, that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him**. NAS

**Eph 2:4-7** - 4 But God, being **rich in mercy**, because of **His great love with which He loved us**, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, **made us alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that **in the ages to come** He might **show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us** in Christ Jesus. NAS

Think with what goodness God has made His creation. The birds and bees, and the flowers and the trees, with what beauty He has graced the earth! And what about our bodies? How perfectly suited for our creative minds has He given us hands by which we can do our good pleasure. Or how about the flavor of your favorite meal, and even vittles to fill a hungry belly. Or the tingling rush of a hot fire on a cold winter's night, or the sweet butterfly kisses of precious young daughter! ***Oh the magnificence of the goodness of God!*** Volumes could not contain the expressions of the riches of His kindness to us! If we could spend a lifetime considering the loveliness of God's creation, how much more lovely is the One from whom it all flows! How vast is the sum of His goodness? With what shall we respond to the goodness of God? With simple gratitude and a heart of thanksgiving shall we acknowledge His wonderful goodness to us!

**1 Tim 4:4** - 4 For **everything God created is good**, and nothing is to be rejected **if it is received with thanksgiving**, NIV

**Ps 50:14-15** - 4 "Offer to God a **sacrifice of thanksgiving**, And pay your vows to the Most High; 15 And **call upon Me** in the day of trouble; **I shall rescue you**, and you will honor Me. " NAS

# God is Love

1 John 4:16

And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. NAS

God's love is....

## Infinite

**Complete and full understanding of God's love is humanly unknowable.**

There are many things that we do know about God's love. Indeed to know God is to know His love. But to know its fullness is quite another thing. God's love is greater than the distanced between heaven and earth. This expresses the absolute and total infinite measurement of God's love. It is truly infinite and therefore not fully comprehensible by finite beings such as us. God's love surpasses knowledge as Eph 3:19 points out. This is a marvelous truth, indeed it such a comforting Truth because we have the privilege of being the objects of His love. And why? Because we "fear Him." This great love is toward those who fear Him. We can never therefore plumb the depths of God's love for us, nor can it ever run dry. Rather it is a river as infinitely full and complete as God Himself. **God's love is infinite.**

**Ps 103:11-13** - 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. 12 As far as the east is from the west,

So far has He removed our transgressions from us. 13 Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him. NAS

**Eph 3:18-19** - 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, NAS

**Job 11:7-9** - "Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? 8 They are higher than the heavens-what can you do? They are deeper than the depths of the grave-what can you know? 9 Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea. NIV

## Gracious

**God's extends His love to them which are undeserving.**

Friends, in relation to God we must ask ourselves, "What is it in us that is deserving of God's love?" Being the sinful creatures that we are, we continually violate His love and kindness to us. We often show contempt for His love in ways, which deserve His wrath rather than His benevolence. At times we are unloving, ungrateful, unforgiving, and we elevate our own selfish wants above the needs of others and our desires above God's. Now you realize that if God loves a being like this, it is truly "unmerited." ***Consider therefore the love of God.*** God gives His love to us when we are sinners, His enemies (Rom 5:8). When we were in our trespasses and sins against Him, Christ died for us. God gave His only Son, who had done nothing deserving of death, to die for the very people who were spurning and forsaking His love. If this is how God loves us when we are His enemies, how much more then does He love us when we turn away from our sin and embrace Him instead? God's love to us is so rich and full! I tell you the truth, when we embrace Him, He will put a royal robe on our backs, a ring on our finger, and invite us into His Kingdom to celebrate our return to Him with feasting and joy for the endless eons and ages of eternity. How often we overlook and take for granted such a great love. **God's love is Gracious.**

**1 John 3:1** - See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are. NAS

**Ps 36:7-9** - 7 How precious is Thy lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Thy wings. 8 They drink their fill of the abundance of Thy house; And Thou dost give them to drink of the river of Thy delights. 9 For with Thee is the fountain of life; In Thy light we see light. NAS

**1 John 4:10** - Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins. (ASV)

**Rom 5:8** - 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. NAS

**Rom 8:28** - 28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. NAS

## Eternal

**Because God is eternal, so therefore is His love.**

Granted that such a concept far transcends the grasp of our feeble minds, nevertheless, where we cannot comprehend we will bow in adoring worship (AW Pink). His love always has been, is now, and always will be. It will never end. God's love for us was "given before the beginning of time" (2 Tim 1:9). We were "chosen in Him before the foundation of the world...in love (Eph 1:4)" Indeed this is the meaning of the word "foreknowledge." (Rom 8:29, 1 Pet 1:2) He chose to love us in the ages past, He manifested His love to us through the death of His Son Jesus Christ and by the effectual calling of the Holy Spirit, and we shall partake of the sweet goodness of His love forever and ever, world without end. It is a timeless and eternal love. What awe in the thought! The divine contentment of God Himself shall rest in our hearts as we commune with Him forevermore. What a hope we have! How GREAT IS THE LOVE that the Father has lavished on us! Indeed it shall never cease. Indeed it will take the coming eons of eternity for the love of God to be exhausted upon our heads and in our hearts. **God's love is eternal.**

**Eph 2:4-7** - 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. NAS

**Ps 103:17**

17 But the lovingkindness of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, NAS

**Eph 1:4-6** - 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. NAS

## Immutable

**Because God never changes, His love never changes.**

His love no end nor measure knows, No change can turn its course,  
Eternally the same it flows, From one eternal source.

God's love for us was granted in Christ Jesus before the world began. Shall it somehow now take a different form? Will God change His mind? Will the Almighty get tired of loving His blessed Sons and Daughters? Indeed His love is from generation to generation, to our children's children will it endure, and none shall hinder it. God is not a shifting shadow or a wavering man. What He has decided to love, will be swallowed up in the depth of His love, and drowned in the great deep of His kindness forever. He loved you yesterday, He loves you today, He will love you tomorrow. **God's love is immutable.**

**James 1:17-18** - Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow. NAS

**Num 23:19** - 9 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? NAS

**Heb 13:8** - 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever. NAS

## Patient

**God is slow to anger, He suffers long with mankind, whom He has made.**

Think for a moment friends what God sees when He looks down from Heaven. A world full of suffering and pain, killing and hatred; and all at the free choice of mankind. Although there is much good in the world, it is overshadowed by such meaningless grief. Is this what God intended the world to be like. Well, the short answer is yes. Being omniscient and knowing all things, God knew exactly how things would turn out. Being therefore God, does He not have the ability to stop it? Can't He put an end to all of the evil that is in the world? Of course He can, and He will, when He is good and ready. But for now, He waits patiently for His purposes to be accomplished, the great purpose of salvation being chief among them all. Take heed to His word;

**Rom 9:22-24** - 22 What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath-prepared for destruction? 23 What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory- 24 even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles? NIV

You see God is aware of all the evil, which men do to one another, and He will indeed do something about it. But think what longsuffering He has toward men when He sees a starving child, or a helpless woman being raped, or a senseless murder, or many other examples of such evil. God is enduring with GREAT PATIENCE all the evil which man does under the sun in order for His purpose to be accomplished. This can be a hard thing to grasp but pay attention to His word;

**2 Peter 3:9** - 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. NIV

**Ex 34:6-7** - 6 Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; 7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations." NAS

As we see, the Lord waits with great patience for mankind to repent and be saved. He has given mankind free choice in regard to the evil, which he/she commits. And as we "have all sinned and come short of His glory (Rom 3:23)," He is awaiting our repentance, our free choice to turn our backs on evil and embrace Him, who is Love and Holiness and Truth. Indeed this is the reason for His patience, that we would come to repentance:

**Rom 2:4** - 4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance? NIV

Just think for a moment friends how God has been patient with you, enduring patiently while you have gone your own way so many times, and violated His love and faithfulness to you. Thank Him today for His tolerance and patience, and ask Him for strength and courage to do the right thing, to love and be patient with others, to forgive and to reach out in His love and kindness to everyone He puts in your path.

**1 John 3:18**- Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. NIV

## Pure and Holy

**God,s love is totally pure, absolutely righteous, and untainted by sin. It is Holy.**

Because God is pure there are no defects within Him. He is perfect in purity and devoid of anything malicious or unjust. Indeed He is the source of all moral excellency.

**1 John 1:5** - God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

God Himself is the definition of Holiness and Purity because in His person is found no sin or malady, but rather He is perfect and totally righteous in all of His ways. Holiness is the beauty that adorns the Triune God. Holiness is the lustre of His Glory.

**Psalms 29:2** "Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness."

Because God is Holy, He cannot approve or accept the presence of sin. Indeed Holiness is the exact opposite of sin. This is why God requires perfect holiness and perfection from us, because He is holy.

**Hab 1:13** - 3 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong.



Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves? NIV

This is why the “law of God”(the first five books of the Old Testament, the Torah) is so demanding upon human nature, and no man shall be justified by it. We simply cannot keep the moral law without failing in it at some point.

**Rom 7:9-13** - 9 And I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive, and I died; 10 and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; 11 for sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it killed me. 12 So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

**Gal 2:16-17** - 16 nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.

God therefore hates sin, He has an abhorrence for sin which we cannot grasp. God’s wrath is said to be “kindled” by sin (Duet 32:22), and the scripture describes God’s terrible hatred and anger towards sin when his wrath breaks out against it.

**2 Sam 6:6-8** - 6 When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. 7 The LORD's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down and he died there beside the ark of God. 8 Then David was angry because the LORD's wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day that place is called Perez Uzzah.

Friends, for one sin Uzzah was struck down before the Lord. For one sin Adam and Eve were banished from the garden of Eden and the whole race of mankind was from that day forward held in bondage to sin and death. For one sin Moses was excluded from Canaan and Annanias and Sapphira were cut off from the land of the living. **Never was the hatred of Divine Holiness towards sin so demonstrated as it was when God’s wrath was poured out on His own sinless Son, who “bore our sins in His body on the tree.”** (1 Peter 2:24)

Since we therefore are not holy and perfect, we have reaped the consequence of death. Now this is why the gospel is so important. The only way we can achieve perfection before God is in His Son, Jesus Christ. In Him we have received moral perfection, and the righteous requirements of God’s holy law have been fully met.

**2 Cor 5:20-21** - 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him.** NAS

**Heb 10:14** - 4 because by one sacrifice **He has made perfect forever** those who are being made holy. NIV

So now because of this great work of redemption, we can now boldly approach the presence of God. Indeed now, God even lives and resides inside our hearts, as the scriptures says, “we are the temple of the Living God.” As we see God in His Holiness and therefore understand our sinfulness, may we be reminded what a marvelous thing He has done to reconcile us to Himself!

## Trustworthy

**God is faithful, He is an unfailing Rock in whom we can place our trust.**

Because God is infinite, there is no limit to His faithfulness. Oh how we need someone to turn to in our day of affliction. There is nothing to move God, His promise is as sure as the noonday sun.

**Ps 36:5** - 5 Thy lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Thy **faithfulness reaches to the skies.** NAS

When we look around in our world today, very few things appear to be sure. Nations rise and fall, economies thrive and then falter, at times it seems like we can place our trust in nothing. A quote from the beloved AW Pink;

There are seasons in the lives of all when it is not easy, no not even for Christians, to believe that God is faithful. Our faith is sorely tried, our eyes bedimmed with

tears, and we can no longer trace the outworkings of His love. Our ears are distracted with the noises of the world, harassed by the atheistic whisperings of Satan, and we can no longer hear the sweet accents of His still small voice. Cherished plans have been thwarted, friends on whom we relied failed us, a professed brother or sister in Christ has betrayed us. We are staggered. We sought to be faithful to God, and now a dark cloud hides Him from us. We find it difficult, yea, impossible, for carnal reason to harmonize His frowning providence with His gracious promises. Ah, faltering soul, severely tried fellow pilgrim, seek grace to heed Isaiah 50:10, "Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of His servant, that walketh in darkness and have no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon His God."

Friends, we have simply to trust in God. He knows our need, indeed He has made a promise and provision for it long before we were born. In all His relations with His people God is faithful. No one ever trusted God in vain. God is True, He is sure, an immovable Rock, indeed none can stay His hand or say to Him, "What have you done?" Not only does His word abound in illustrations of His fidelity in fulfilling His promises, but it also records numerous examples of His faithfulness in making good His threatenings. You can be sure His word will come to pass. "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and she shall call his name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14) Centuries passed and the scripture says again, "When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His son, made of a woman." (Gal 4:4) And "He is faithful who promised!" (Heb 10:23)

**Prov 3:5-6** - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. NAS

We can place our trust in God because He is Faithful. He will never fail us. The bible is full of His promises and recordings of them being fulfilled again and again. We have need only to trust Him. God promised Abraham a son, and when it appeared that time was up on God to make good, He came to Abraham and Sarah at the ripe old age of 100 and Laughter (Isaac) was born.

**Isa 40:31** - 31 But **they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength**; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. KJV

**Ps 27:14** - 14 Wait for the LORD; Be strong, and let your heart take courage; **Yes, wait for the LORD**. NAS

**Isa 30:18** - 18 Therefore **the LORD longs to be gracious to you**, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him. NAS

Friend, you have only to place your trust in God to find your heart at peace. To those who hope in Him, they will not be disappointed. GOD'S LOVE NEVER FAILS! He is faithful!

**1 Cor 13:7-8** - 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 **Love never fails**; NAS

## Redeeming

**God paid a dear price in order to love us.**

Consider the following statement from the man of God, Isaiah;

**Isa 53:3-5** - He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. NAS

These words describe the passion of Christ, His death and crucifixion for the people of His love. Notice how "He was forsaken of men, despised, and we did not esteem Him." He came for a people who despised Him, who rejected Him, who in their vicious terror, took His life. He came to pay a price for a people who were so steeped in their sin, so blind to their own disease that they brutally murdered the only One who could save them. This is Love. A redeeming love, a powerful love, an unfailing love. Friends, Jesus died

for my sin and for yours. I am the reason He was murdered and sacrificed. You are the perpetrator of His death. Indeed, He **bore our sins** in His body, He **carried our sorrows** and was pierced through for **our transgressions**. We were healed by His scourging, and the act that brought us peace, was Jesus taking the wrath of God for our sins upon Himself. Jesus did this willingly.

**John 10:14-18** - 14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me- 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father-and I lay down my life for the sheep. 17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life-only to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." NIV

Jesus laid down His life so that you and I could live. He was "smitten of God" for my evil deeds. He was "crushed" for your sins. There are no words to describe this redeeming love. God came to love us friends, when we were His enemies. The desperately sick killed the doctor who came to heal them. He came to a people who were in rebellion against Him.

**Rom 5:8-11** - 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were **still sinners**, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, when we were **God's enemies**, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! NIV

The value of this love cannot be measured. The saints in heaven shall praise God throughout all eternity, and it shall not begin to describe the marvelous love of God our Saviour. But our pleasure it is. Indeed "His praise shall continually be in my mouth."

Friends, ponder this quality of God's love. Would you give the life of your only child for your enemy's pardon? Even those who were in utter rebellion against you? This love leaves me speechless!

**1 John 4:10** - 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. NAS

**2 Cor 5:21** - 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. KJV

**We went astray, He bought us back.**

**Ps 49:7-9** - 7 No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him-- 8 the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough-- 9 that he should live on forever and not see decay. NIV

**2 Cor 5:21** - 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. NAS

## Our Responsibility to God's love.

**We have an obligation and a responsibility to God's love.**

Indeed it is the great commandment which we have received from Him. That we should love. That we should love God and our neighbor.

**1 John 4:11** - 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to **love one another**.

**1 John 3:23-24** - 23 And this is **His commandment**, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and **love one another**, just as He commanded us. NAS

Friends, can we just go now through our lives having experienced this great love of God, and shut up our well of compassion and love for those around us? Are we still mere men, or are we the children of God? After receiving Christ Jesus as Lord, we will we now spurn His authority by withholding in selfishness what He has given us so freely? We cannot. We no longer live our lives for ourselves, but for Him who loved us.

**2 Cor 5:14-15** - 14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that **those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them** and was raised again. NIV

Now we might be quick to agree that we have an obligation, but are we truly loving others and giving the love of God freely to those around us? Friends, stop for a moment and ponder these questions;

- What do you live your life for?
- What is it in life that you are pursuing?
- What do you spend your time doing and what is the purpose of it?

An honest answer to these questions will tell you where your treasure is. My earnest prayer is that you live your life to give the love that gave itself for you. That this love would abound in your life to overflowing, and that people would see this love and give glory to God your Father because of it. Indeed this is the purpose of our life and our salvation.

Concerning our obligation to love, heed the teaching of Jesus our Lord;

**Matt 5:38-48** - 38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 "But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 "And if anyone wants to sue you, and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. 41 "And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you 45 in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? 47 "And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. NAS

Many of these responses to life's situations are hard to accomplish, indeed it is impossible with men. But it is only in reliance upon His power that we can live in this manner. And these are not optional, but rather imperative. These are commandments. For the true Christian, love is not some humanly attained characteristic, but a divine fruit which comes from the indwelling Holy Spirit. Friends, how is the love of God expressed in our life? Are we truly living for Him? Only as we see the love of God manifest in our life can we experience the blessed assurance which comes from knowing Him.

**John 13:34-35** - 34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." NAS

**1 John 3:14** - 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. NAS

Let your life be a scale by which the love of God is measured. Do you abide in Him, and does His love abide in you? This is how we KNOW that we have passed from death into life! May His love abound in your life, so that others may see it and glorify God!

## **Our Responsibility to God's love.**

### **What does God's love look like in our lives?**

Jesus answers this very important question here in Matthew;

**Matt 5:38-48** - 38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 "But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 "And if anyone wants to sue you, and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. 41 "And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you 45 in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? 47 "And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

He tells us that we are to be perfect in love, even as God is perfect. Our first reaction is to tremble in fear at this statement because we realize that this is a hard thing to attain. Nevertheless, it is Christ's commandment to us. Friends, would Jesus ask us to do something that was beyond our reach or ability to attain to? Of course He would not. But when we understand what He calls us to, and then we begin to desire to fulfill it, we have made a great stride. Notice how this love says Jesus, is different than the love

that the world possesses. The world loves those that love it, it greets those who are its brothers. But the love that He calls us to is different. We are to love those who are evil, who take your coat, and sue you. We are to love even our enemies and those who persecute us. Friends, this is a **Divine Love which does not originate in the human heart** but is a fruit of the Spirit of God abiding in us. So you see, **we can attain this love** if we will allow God to shine through us. This can only happen if we are willing to “lose our life for His sake.” If we hold tightly to our so called human rights, we do not allow this divine love to be seen in us. We must be willing to deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Jesus (Matt 16:24-25). We must be willing to forgive the thief, and walk under the burden of those who force us. We must be willing to love those who hate us and use us for their own gain. In these things the divine love of God is seen in us. This is God’s perfect love. He came into a world of sinners to die for the very ones who killed Him. This is a sacrificial love. It is willing to give up its own selfish desires for the benefit of others, and this out of reverence for God. Heed the words of God through John the beloved;

**1 John 3:16-18 - 16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us;** and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. NAS

Here John points to the sacrificial love of Christ and calls us to the same. Here John tells us that **our love must take action and be manifest to be real**. It cannot be a mere confession or a good motive, but that it must take form and be seen. If this love is in us, **IT WILL** manifest itself.

Friends, consider your life today, is the love of God being manifested through your actions? I urge you to take a sober look at your life and heed these words of God.

This love can be real in our lives, but we must first desire to possess it. We must have a hunger and a thirst for this love. We must have godly passions in our hearts if we want to be like God. Godliness is born out of a desire to be like God. **Our hearts must burn with the fire that is in the heart of Jesus!**

If we are lacking these things today, let us start by asking God to change our hearts and give us these desires. Let us ask of God who gives to all liberally. If you ask the Father of Love to fill your heart with His love, what will you receive my friend?

**Matt 7:7-8 - 7 "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. 8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened. NAS**

**Infinite** – Because God’s love is infinite, we should have an inexhaustible supply of love for those around us. Our love should imitate God’s love, like a father’s compassion towards his children.

**Eph 4:32-5:2 - 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. 5:1 Be imitators of God,** therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and **live a life of love**, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. NIV

**Eternal** – Because God’s love is eternal, we should decide to love everyone that God puts into our lives in the future beforehand, as well as those that those who in our lives now. We should do all we can to reconcile with anyone who has something against us from the past, as far as it is possible. Our love should endure to those around us, like a strong fortress. If love never fails, at what point should our love cease for those dear people that God has allowed us granted into our lives, including our enemies.

**Ps 100:5 - 5 For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting.** And His faithfulness to all generations. NAS

**1 Cor 13:7-8 - 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails;** NAS

**Gracious** – Because God's love is gracious, we should extend to favor to people which they have not earned. We should love others because God first loved us. **The reason we love is because God loves, not because people earn it.**

**Rom 5:8** - 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were yet sinners**, Christ died for us. NAS

**Luke 6:35-38** - 35 "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, **expecting nothing in return**; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. 36 "Be merciful, **just as your Father** is merciful. 37 "And do not judge and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned. NAS

**Immutable** – Because God's love never changes, we should be a rock for others to lean on. We should have an unwavering love for all those who God has put into our lives. We should strive to be unchanging and consistent, so that other can rely upon us.

**Num 23:19** - 9 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? NAS

**Patient** - Because God's love is patient, we also should suffer long with those around us. Remember how God has been patient with us. God changes people over time through many different circumstances in their lives.

**Pure and Holy** – Because God is pure, we also should be holy in all that we do and say. We are to reflect a perfect God to those around us with a perfect love.

**1 Peter 1:22-23** - 22 Now that you have **purified yourselves** by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, **love one another deeply, from the heart**. 23 For you have been born again, NIV

**Trustworthy** – Because God is faithful, we also should have the utmost integrity. It is our obligation to be faithful to God and to our neighbor.

**Redeeming** - Because God's love is redeeming, we should love others with a self-sacrificing love. We must be willing to deny ourselves and give to those in need around us, both spiritually and physically.

**We are to live in love;**

**1 John 4:16**- "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. **God is love.** whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him."



# God is Light

I John 1:5-

"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:

**God is Light**; in him there is no darkness at all."

God is morally pure. This is His *nature*, God [ **IS** ] light. He is without sin or any type of blemish or imperfection. He is absolutely the highest and purest form of moral excellency and perfection. We can attribute to God no impurity or even the slightest taint of imperfection, there is in Him, **NO DARKNESS** at all. Light and darkness are frequently used in the bible of analogies of truth and lie, purity and sin. John will use this understanding of God for us to understand then how we should relate to Him.

**Isa 60:19** - 9 "No longer will you have the sun for light by day, Nor for brightness will the moon give you light; But you will have the LORD for an everlasting light, And your God for your glory. He is revelation to the soul, and to all of creation for that matter. In the Kingdom of God there is no sun for God himself is there light, and the brightness of his countenance shines and reflects throughout the glorious City of God, which itself is constructed of precious jewels that all refract and reflect the very Glory of the Great King. What a profound truth this is. God help us to see, and that is exactly what light does. The dictionary gives this definition for light," **That which causes the eye to see**". In contrast to this light, the bible makes reference to sin as darkness, as a matter of fact, Jesus refers to those who will be separated from God forever going to a place called "outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

**Ps 119:130** - 130 The unfolding of **Thy words gives light**; It gives understanding to the simple. The Word here is said to give light, which is understanding. It is the understanding of the reality of the universe, not just what we see with our eyes, but indeed the understanding of God the Creator of all things and His will and purpose for those things which have been made by Him and for Him. He himself is the true light which gives light to all men.

**John 1:9** - There was the **true light** which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

**John 8:12** - 12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, "**I am the light** of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have **the light of life**." NAS

God therefore, has given us understanding that we may know and understand the purpose for which we were made. We exist for His purposes. We were made for Him, and He therefore is the One who gives life and breathe and all things.

**John 3:19-21** - 19 "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. 20 "For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God." NAS

It might be said as well that in Christ we receive Light in our soul, and "he opens the eyes of our heart", where we can see the true reality of this present age and so respond in a manner pleasing to God. Consider this passage in 2 Corinthians.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-6**- "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the **light of the gospel of the glory of Christ**, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made **His light shine in our hearts** to give us the **light of the knowledge of the glory of God** in the face of Christ."

**2 Corinthians 4:18**- "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is **unseen**. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

Now just how do we "fix our eyes on what is unseen"? That does not make any logical sense at all. But you see he is not talking about what you see with your physical eyes, but rather your spiritual eyes, the eyes of your heart, the eyes of your understanding, where you perceive and comprehend spiritual truth and reality, and it is these eyes that Christ gives Light to. He is the Light that gives **true Light** to all men.

**John 12:35-36** - 35 Jesus therefore said to them, "For a little while longer the **light is among you**. Walk while you have **the light**, that darkness may not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. 36 "While you have **the light**, believe in **the light**, in order that you may **become sons of light**." NAS

Friend, won't you cast yourself before God today recognizing your desperate need for Him! He alone can grant us understanding of this life and what it is all for, for its meaning and purpose is derived from Him. Come to Christ that He may open the eyes of your heart and fill you with His knowledge and wisdom!

**John 12:46**

"I have come as light into the world,  
that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness.NAS

**Heb 4:16** - 16 Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need. NAS

(Isaiah 6:9-10, Matt 13:11-17, John 12:35-40, 1 John 2:8-10, John 8:12, Eph 5:8-14)  
(Ps 27:1, Ps 119:130, Is 60:19-20, John 1:4-9, John 3:19-21, John 8:12,  
Acts 26:17-18, Col 1 :12-13, Eph 5:8-14, 1 Tim 6:16)