

This week and next week we are going to talk about GOD. What a subject! – a subject appropriate for church, to be sure. But our FAITH ENGAGE series is to help you make “church” subjects applicable to “everyday” situations.

We will examine “GOD” by **(1)** looking at his unique attributes – that is, those qualities that are His and His alone – qualities that no one but God can have. That will be our consideration for today. And then next week we will be **(2)** looking at God's shared attributes – that is, those qualities that God possesses in perfection, but chooses to share with us, that we might share God with our world.

So this week, GOD'S UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES and next week GOD'S SHARED ATTRIBUTES.

As I examine various theological treatises on God, I determine that God's unique attributes are best remembered as FIVE. Again, these are those qualities that belong to God alone and can belong to no other creature.

- 1. GOD IS SUPER-SMART** (Omniscient)
Lord over THOUGHT
- 2. GOD IS SUPER-HUGE** (Omnipresent)
Lord over SPACE
- 3. GOD IS SUPER-SAME** (Immutable)
Lord over CIRCUMSTANCE
- 4. GOD IS SUPER-STRONG** (Omnipotent)
Lord over MATTER
- 5. GOD IS SUPER-OLD** (Eternal)
Lord over TIME

First of all, note that we humans could be accurately described as creatures of MATTER and THOUGHT, that are operating in SPACE and TIME, navigating through a series of CIRCUMSTANCES. This would be a philosophical way of describing our existence. Then note that God's five unique attributes make Him LORD over all these. There is no aspect of our being, or of the universe in which we live, that He does not create and control. Another way to say this is that his “Godness” is all-encompassing and complete.

Secondly, note that it is conceivable that a God over us could possess some, but not all of these attributes. But if that were so, He would be God, but not Lord of all. For example, God might be all of the above, except not all-powerful. If so, He would still be God (for only God can be all those things) but He would not be Lord over matter. If that were so, we would have a God that was NOT in control of all things. That would be conceivably possible, but certainly not satisfying nor comforting. That God is ALL FIVE gives us GREAT mental, physical and emotional SECURITY.

Thirdly, note that these five attributes of God give us a great starting point at a DEFINITION of God – or at least, the beginning of UNDERSTANDING as to who He is. **GOD is the all-knowing, all-consuming, all-consistent, all-powerful, self-existing ONE.** Now, I say “starting point” because these do not include His MORAL attributes, such as LOVE, RIGHTEOUSNESS and JUSTICE. We will look at these and others next week, to better complete a “definition” of God – best as we can.

To summarize these three points to note:

1. God is ALL- COMPASSING AND LORD OF ALL
2. God’s unique qualities give SATISFYING SECURITY
3. God’s unique qualities HELP DEFINE OR EXPLAIN GOD

Now, there are abundant Scriptures to support each of these 5 attributes of God. But wouldn’t it be nice if all 5 qualities were addressed in one place?? Well thanks to David and his song-writing, we have all 5 of these unique qualities of God taught in Psalm 139. And that’s why I chose to list the 5 in the order I did –because that’s the order they appear in Psalm 139. So let’s go there!

PSALM 139

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------------|
| Vs. 1-6 | OMNISCIENT | (All knowing) |
| Vs. 7-10 | OMNIPRESENT | (All-consuming) |
| Vs. 11-12 | IMMUTABLE | (All-consistent) |
| Vs. 13-14 | OMNIPOTENT | (All-powerful) |
| Vs. 15-16 | ETERNAL | (Self-existing) |

OMNISCIENT (Super-Smart)

Psalm 139:4b ... Behold, O Lord, You know it all.

Psalm 147:5 Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.

[Isaiah 46:9b, 10 For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 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.”

Isaiah 55:8-9 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.”]

Hebrews 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

FAITH ENGAGE: God understands and cares about your concerns.

1 Peter 5:8 Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

OMNIPRESENT (Super-Huge)

Psalms 139:7 “Where can I go from Your Spirit?”

Jeremiah 23:23-25 “Am I a God who is near” declares the Lord, “and not a God far off?” “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.

FAITH ENGAGE: God is always with you

Hebrews 13:5 (*quoting Deut. 31:8*) “...I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.”

IMMUTABLE (Super-Same)

Psalms 139:12b “Darkness and light are alike to you”

[**Malachi 3:6** For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.]

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

FAITH ENGAGE: You can count on God’s love and mercy

Lamentations 3:22-23 “*The Lord’s lovingkindnesses never cease ... Great is Your faithfulness.*”

OMNIPOTENT (Super-Strong)

Psalms 139:14 “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

[**Genesis 17:1** “I am God Almighty”]

Jeremiah 32:17, 27 Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult to You. Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?

FAITH ENGAGE: With God, all things are possible

Matthew 19:26 *Looking at them Jesus said to them, “With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”*

ETERNAL (Super-Old)

Psalms 139:16 “Your eyes have seen my unformed substance.”

Exodus 3:14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"

Revelation 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega", says the Lord God "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

FAITH ENGAGE: God is the very meaning of life

Psalm 90:2 Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God

ENGAGE SUMMARY

God knows and cares

God is with you

God is love

God can do it

God is the meaning of life

Can you list the 5 unique attributes of God?

Which Psalm refers to all 5 attributes?

Can you relate these 5 attributes to someone's need?