

A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

God created humanity for relationships: relationships with each other, with nature, and with God. However, human sin separated us from God, turning what should have been a loving relationship into one filled with hate and disobedience (Rom. 5:10). Yet, God has reached down to us to deliver us from sin and death because he wants to have a relationship with us. In Christ, God has built a bridge that allows us to relate to him.

Deep, meaningful relationships require knowledge of the other person. The more we know God, the more our love can grow and mature. Also, our obedience and service will spring forth from this knowledge and love of God.

Then, how do we get to know God? Our relationship with God begins and ends with Jesus. We get to know God as we know Jesus. His death and resurrection have given us direct access to God. We now know Jesus and God in two ways:

1. Through the work of the Holy Spirit in each believer
2. Through the revealed Word of God

“This is what the LORD says: ‘Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,’ declares the LORD.” —Jeremiah 9:23–24

“Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” —John 17:3

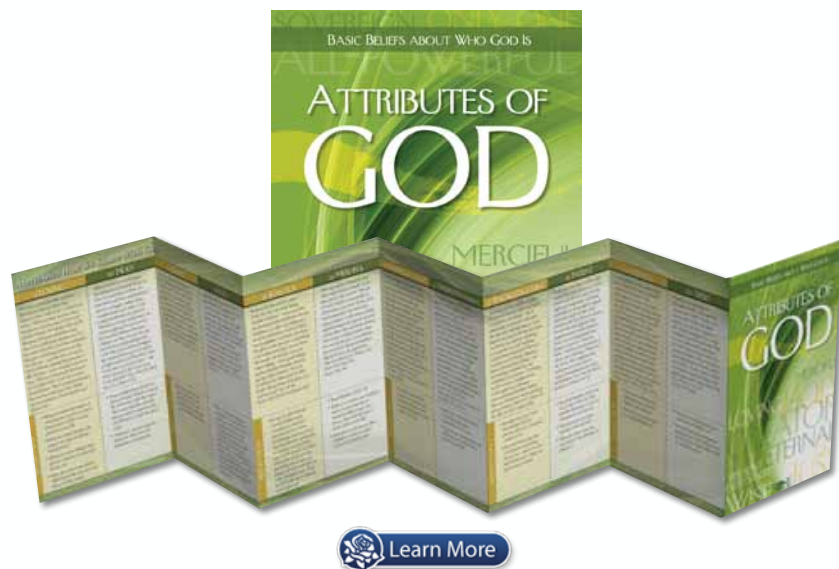
It is good for us to be near unto God. It is eternity to know him intimately in our daily lives... That's the mark of believers. They know what joy there is in being near unto God, and they want nothing else. —Abraham Kuyper, Near Unto God

GOD'S ATTRIBUTES AS A WINDOW

Knowing who God is, his character and his nature, can be discovered through learning about his attributes. One way to think about God's attributes is by distinguishing between the attributes that belong only to God and the attributes that we also share with him—we share these attributes with God because he made us in his image. The first kind of attributes is called *incommunicable*, while the second kind is called *communicable*. In God, no attribute is more important than the others are. All of them, in conjunction, make God who he is.

INCOMMUNICABLE (THE ATTRIBUTES THAT ONLY GOD HAS)	COMMUNICABLE (THE ATTRIBUTES WE SHARE WITH GOD)
1. TRIUNE	1. LOVING
2. ONE	2. HOLY
3. TRANSCENDENT	3. GOOD
4. INFINITE	4. JUST
5. ETERNAL	5. JEALOUS
6. CREATOR	6. MERCIFUL
7. OMNIPRESENT	7. SOVEREIGN (AUTHORITY)
8. IMMUTABLE	8. OMNIPOTENT (POWERFUL)
	9. KNOWLEDGEABLE (OMNISCIENT)
	10. PATIENT
	11. FAITHFUL
	12. SPIRIT

The attributes of God provide us with a window through which we can contemplate who God is. As we contemplate and learn about God's character, we begin to grasp the glorious, loving, awe-inspiring, and holy person that is the only one worthy of our allegiance. Jesus modeled these characteristics in his life and ministry. By learning what they mean and how they apply to our lives, we can grow in our faith by being imitators of God.



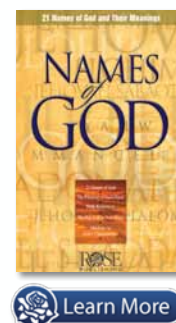
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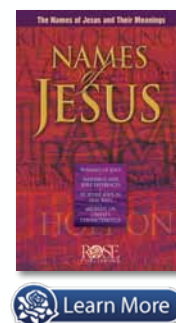


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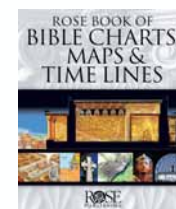


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