

The Pursuit Of God

Session Eight / August 10, 2016

The Attributes Of God

An attribute of God is anything that is true of Him.

THE IMMUTABILITY OF GOD

1 James 1:17

2 **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the**
3 **Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.**

4
5 *By the immutability of God we mean that in essence, attributes, consciousness and will,*
6 *God is unchangeable. All change must be to the better or the worse. But God cannot*
7 *change to the better since He is absolutely perfect; neither can He change to the worse*
8 *for the same reason. He is exalted above all causes and even the possibility of change.*
9 *He can never be wiser, more holy, more just, more merciful, more truthful - nor less so.*
10 *Nor do His plans and purposes change.*

11
12 *The immutability of God is due to the simplicity of the essence of God. Man has a soul*
13 *and a body, two substances; God has but one, therefore He does not change. It is due to*
14 *His perfection. Any change in His attributes would Him less than God; any change in*
15 *His purposes and plans would make Him less wise, good and holy.*

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17

18 Other scriptures that corroborate God's immutability:

19

20 Malachi 3:6

21 **For I am the Lord, I change not**

22

23 God's power has never abated. Romans 4:20-21

24 **He (Abraham) staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was**
25 **strong in faith, giving glory to God; [21] And being fully persuaded that, what he**
26 **had promised, he was able also to perform.**

27

28 As mentioned above, God's divine plans and purposes never vary. Isaiah 46:10

29 **Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are**
30 **not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:**

31

32 God's promises are eternal. 2 Cor. 1:20

33 **For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of**
34 **God by us.**

1 God's mercy is unchanging. Psalm 103:17

2 **But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear**
3 **him, and his righteousness unto children's children;**

4
5 And God's judgment is a sure issue. Isaiah 28:17

6 **Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the**
7 **hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding**
8 **place.**

9
10 But....do not the scriptures teach of God's changing His mind on occasion? God's
11 immutability is not like stone that does not respond to changes about it, but like that of the
12 column of mercury which rises and falls according as the temperature changes. His
13 immutability consists in His always doing the right. For example: Jeremiah 18:8 **If**
14 **that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of**
15 **the evil that I thought to do unto them.**

16
17 This is what happened in Nineveh in response to Jonah's ministry there: Jonah 3:10

18 **And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God**
19 **repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.**

20
21 I was born in 1937. How people and things have changed in that nearly-80-year span! My father bought a gorgeous Chevy convertible for under \$400. Try that now! Most homes and businesses in our city had no air conditioning. Break was a dime a loaf. Milk about the same per bottle. The world was gearing for war against the Axis powers of Germany, Italy and Japan. Today those nations are our allies. The nation of China was a sleeping giant. Not many people lived past the age of 50 or 60, whereas today it is not unusual for a person to hit the 100 mark. Our highways were narrow and antiquated - many in our area of Iowa with literal curbs. In other words - we live in a world of change. So to converse about an unchangeable God is like a foreign language to people who have little time for theology (which means "the knowledge of God.") We sing in an old hymn: "*Change and decay in all round I see; oh, thou who changest not, abide with me!*"

22
23 Tozer expounds, *All that God is, He has always been, and all that He has been and is He*
24 *will ever be. Nothing that God has ever said about Himself will be modified; nothing*
25 *the inspired prophets and apostles have said about Him will be rescinded. In God no*
26 *change is possible; in men, change is impossible to escape. We are in constant flux.*
27 *Each man appears for a little while to laugh and weep, to work and play, and then go to*
28 *make room for those who shall follow in the never-ending cycle.*

2
3 At this point someone may ask: SO WHAT? So what that God never changes? Of
4 what possible benefit is that to me?

5
6 To the skeptic who ponders whether God is real or not, to the insincere alleged Christian,
7 to the person more interested in material acquisition than eternal truth, the answer is, "It
8 probably doesn't matter much. But to those persons who truly PURSUE GOD AND
9 KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HIM, it makes all the difference in the world to know that God
10 never changes, that we have a sure foundation.

- 11
12 1. God's attitude toward mankind is the same as it has always been, never fluctuating
13 with politics, material issues or any other invading thought. His attitude toward us is the
14 very same as it was in the beginning of everything.
15
16 2. God is always receptive to my boldly coming before the throne. He bids me to come
17 because the death of Jesus on the cross tore the veil of the temple in two.
18
19 3. God is not closed certain days of the week, nor does He keep meticulous office hours.
20 There is never a period in His "day" when the lovers of Jesus are not welcome.
21
22 4. God never changes so that he has to "cool off" or gain enthusiasm to our needs.
23
24 5. God's attitude toward sin has not varied since He thrust sinful Adam and Eve from
25 the Garden of Eden.
26

27 These and multitudinous other reasons are why we exult in the fact that God never
28 changes, that He CANNOT change, that He WILL NOT change.
29

30 Illustration of immutability: When Lloyd C. Douglas, famed author of the novel *The*
31 *Robe* and other classics, was a university student, he lived in a board house. Downstairs
32 on the first floor was an elderly, retired music teacher, who was infirm and unable to
33 leave the apartment. Douglas said that every morning they had a ritual they would go
34 through together. He would come down the steps, open the old man's door, and ask,
35 "Well, what's the good news?" The old man would pick up his tuning fork, tap it on the
36 side of his wheelchair and say, "That's middle C! It was middle C yesterday, it will be
37 middle C tomorrow; it will be middle C a thousand years from now. The tenor upstairs
38 sings flat, the piano across the hall is out of tune, but, my friend, THAT is middle C!" The
39 old man discovered one thing upon which he could depend, one constant reality in his
40 life, one still point in a turning world. For Christians, the one "still point in a turning
41 world", the one absolute of which there is no shadow of turning with God.

1 WHY IS GOD'S IMMUTABILITY SO IMPORTANT TO YOU AND ME?

2
3 This attribute of never changing is why we can be so dependent upon Him. Everything
4 about our Heavenly Father is utterly inviolable. He cannot be moved. He cannot
5 change.
6

The great preacher of a century ago, Jonathan Edwards, pointed out that God's immutability is one of the reasons His enemies hate Him so much. Yes, they too have enemies. But those enemies can grow weak. They have other enemies which can distract them. Other enemies simply can be fooled. But God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, will never cease to be all powerful. His wrath will never diminish in the face of mankind's sinning. His eyes will never dim; His strength will never abate.

7 Having been a father myself for well over five decades, I understand my changeability.
8 Most of the time I have been a gentle parent; but at other times, in exasperation or
9 weariness, I have spoken to those kids in ways I regret. At other times when they needed
10 my full attention I have been distracted. But not so with God. His demeanor to me
11 remains constant. I know when I lie down to sleep that He loves me; and when I awake
12 He will still love me. It is an absolute certainty. How do I know that for sure? His
13 written word, the Holy Scriptures, His contract with me points it out again and again.
14 Nothing can take me from His hand.

15
16 *Fountain of being! Source of Good!*
17 *Thou dost remain!*
18 *Nor can the shadow of a change*
19 *Obscure the glories of Thy reign.*

20
21 *Earth may with all her powers dissolve,*
22 *If such the great Creator will;*
23 *But Thou forever art the same.*
24 *I AM is Thy memorial still.*

25
26 Now let us turn our attention to yet another of God attributes – that of His divine
27 OMNIPOTENCE.

28
29 THE OMNIPOTENCE OF GOD

30
31 For sixteen years I stood before an open network radio microphone and opened the

1 *Revivaltime* broadcast to 80 nations on 600 stations with statements regarding the power
2 of God. After that brief 30 second opening, the *Revivaltime* choir boomed out our classic
3 theme song:

4 All hail the power of Jesus' Name,
5 Let angels prostrate fall
6 Bring forth the royal diadem
7 And crown Him Lord of all!

8
9 In response during those years I received 1/25 MILLION letters (there were no emails),
10 many of those letters containing testimonies of the power of God

11
12 *By the omnipotence of God we mean that He is able to do whatever He wills; but since*
13 *His will is limited by His nature, this means that God can do everything that is in*
14 *harmony with His perfections. There are some things which God cannot do:*

- 15 • *He cannot look upon sin (iniquity) Habakkuk 1:13 Thou art of purer eyes*
16 *than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon*
17 *them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth*
18 *the man that is more righteous than he?*
- 19 • *God cannot deny Himself 2 Tim. 2:13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful:*
20 *he cannot deny himself.*
- 21 • *God cannot lie Hebrews 6:18 That by two immutable things, in which it was*
22 *impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for*
23 *refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:*
- 24 • *God cannot commit sin James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am*
25 *tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any*
26 *man:*

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29 But then someone will shrewdly ask, "If God is so powerful, why does He not take sin out
30 of the world and make this a paradise?" Good question....and it reminds us that He
31 already did that in the Garden of Eden. But God's power never violates the FREE
32 WILL OF MANKIND. It's why He never saves anyone by force. Your will - that
33 which you want - determines to what extent God exercises His almighty power on your
34 behalf. God has limited Himself - at least to some extent - by the free will of His
35 rational creatures.

36
37 That holy Bible in your hand or home clearly teaches the omnipotence of God. From the
38 very start, our Heavenly Father makes it clear:

39
40 Genesis 17:1

41 **And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram,**

1 and said unto him, **I am the Almighty God**; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

2
3 The great patriarch JOB understood this very well and after years of testing declared::
4 Job 42:2 **I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be**
5 **withholden from thee.**

6
7 Jeremiah's tribute is brilliant: Jeremiah 32:17

8 **Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great**
9 **power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:** Jeremiah
10 32:27 **Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for**
11 **me?**

12
13 Jesus Himself staunchly proclaimed: Matthew 19:26 and said unto them, **With**
14 **men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.**

15
16 And scripture concludes with this glorious declaration: Rev. 19:6 **And I heard as it**
17 **were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice**
18 **of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.**

19 20 WHAT DOES THE WORD "OMNIPOTENT" MEAN?

21
22 Omnipotent means "having all power." It is derived from the familiar word "almighty",
23 a word that appears 56 times in the King James Bible. **THAT WORD IS NEVER USED**
24 **OF ANYONE BUT GOD.** He alone is omnipotent.

25
26 Consider the fact that God has limitless power. And, difficult for our finite minds to
27 comprehend, He is the very SOURCE OF POWER. Jesus declared this to His eleven
28 remaining disciples on the Mount of Olives just as He was about to be taken back to the
29 throne of God: Acts 1:1-8 **The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all**
30 **that Jesus began both to do and teach, [2] Until the day in which he was taken up,**
31 **after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles**
32 **whom he had chosen: [3] To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by**
33 **many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things**
34 **pertaining to the kingdom of God: [4] And, being assembled together with them,**
35 **commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the**
36 **promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. [5] For John truly**
37 **baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days**
38 **hence. [6] When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord,**
39 **wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? [7] And he said unto**
40 **them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in**

1 **his own power. [8] But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come**
2 **upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea,**
3 **and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**
4

5 We Pentecostals believe in obedience to Jesus' command and His promise that we can
6 receive a necessary portion of God's power upon being filled with the Holy Spirit. The
7 Baptism in the Holy Spirit is an impartation of divine power. In today's religious pop
8 religious world, the Baptism is described as something that immediately hits a person
9 when bopped on the head or shaken by some ecclesiastical famous preacher, dropped to
10 the floor, and after a few seconds lifted to his or her feet after saying a few words in some
11 unknown language. While I believe in the initial evidence of tongues as described in
12 Acts 2 and other places, speaking in tongues is not the baptism in the Spirit. An infusion
13 of divine power IS! Jesus said so. This in no way demeans the miracle of tongues but
14 it does elevate to priority the reception of power not previously found in that person -
15 power for service, for witness, for spiritual victory. Far too many in major Pentecostal
16 meetings feel they have received the Baptism for some evangelist says so, but there is not
17 a whit of change in their spiritual day-to-day lives. They are as weak spiritually the next
18 week as they were before. Is this the power of God? Think it through! By the way,
19 while most Pentecostals are enthralled with the first two chapters of Acts they should
20 realize there are 28 chapters in that formational book. In the last 26 chapters we read
21 what the early believers accomplished for God with that promised Holy Spirit power.
22

23 We must remember that the Holy Spirit's provided power belongs to God, not to the one
24 given it., Everything that is done, every accomplishment, every breakthrough is to the
25 glory of God, not the human seen doing it.
26

27 It was my privilege to serve for a few years in the Christian and Missionary Alliance
28 fellowship, founded in the early 1900's by a powerful man of God, A. B. Simpson. As
29 he approached middle age, Simpson's health was not good and he was despondent over it.
30 In fact, he considered leaving the ministry altogether. Then he heard the words of an old
31 spiritual song: *Nothing is too hard for Jesus.* The truth gripped his soul. He found a
32 place to spend time alone with God and several days later was wondrously healed in
33 body, mind and soul. He then founded the CMA, one of the truly great missionary
34 societies ever. Here in Ft. Myers we have Shell Point, a retirement village for the CMA,
35 where some of the most powerful men and women of God have lived. Thirty five years
36 later, following his time alone with God, Simpson was still laboring prodigiously in the
37 service of Jesus. His faith in the God of limitless power supplied him with the strength
38 needed for his long and terrific lifetime of service to His King.
39

40 Throughout Scripture, you and I are urged to trust God in every aspect of our lives.

1 Here are just a few the verses so designated:
2

3 Isaiah 45:11-13

4 **Thus saith the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to**
5 **come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me.**
6 **[12] I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have**
7 **stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded. [13] I have raised**
8 **him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he**
9 **shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the Lord of hosts.**

10
11 Jeremiah 32:16-17

12 **Now when I had delivered the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of**
13 **Neriah, I prayed unto the Lord, saying, [17] Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made**
14 **the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is**
15 **nothing too hard for thee:**

16
17 Acts 4:24-31

18 **And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and**
19 **said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all**
20 **that in them is: [25] Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the**
21 **heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? [26] The kings of the earth stood**
22 **up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.**
23 **[27] For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both**
24 **Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered**
25 **together, [28] For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to**
26 **be done. [29] And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy**
27 **servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, [30] By stretching forth**
28 **thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy**
29 **child Jesus.**

30 **[31] And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled**
31 **together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of**
32 **God with boldness.**

33
34 Faith comes by reading, hearing, and understanding the Word of God. May these studies
35 on THE PURSUIT OF GOD embolden your life for Christ.

36
37 Next week: More of the pursuit of our great God.
38
39