

## LESSON 5

# Attributes of God - 1

**Objective** : Grow in the wisdom of God by leading a worthy life.

**Bible Portion** : Isaiah 40:12-31

**Memory Verse** : Isaiah 40:25-26

“To whom then will you liken Me, Or *to whom* shall I be equal?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these *things*, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of *His* power; Not one is missing.

## **Introduction**

What idea comes into your mind when you think of God? No religion has ever reached above the idea of deity it holds, and no people ever reached above the religion they follow. The spiritual and moral standard of the people depend on the religion they follow. The term 'God' is a powerful word followed by people in all languages. There is a need of self-examination of our understanding of the reality of God. It is very important in leading a sinless life. The wrong conception of God will lead the people into errors in the realness of teachings and life. So we should possess a clear and unique idea of God, and that it must be passed to coming generations.

### **Can you discover everything about the Almighty? (Job 11:7)**

Who is God? What kind of person he is? To whom can he be compared to? These are the important questions that we face. The conscience of men thinks and form ideas based on the foreknowledge and experience. Moreover, it is liable to the limits of place. So, God formed out of men's thoughts may not be true and complete. God is eternal, omnipotent, infinite and creator-sustainer-destroyer one. If we can limit God in human thoughts, is that God smaller than us? It is folly to define eternity with hours and omnipotence with human power! According to Paul, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, which no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever, Amen (1 Tim. 6:16). How one can know such a God? The answer of the Bible is that it is possible 'through Christ' God revealed himself to man 'in Christ' and 'by Christ'. Faith is the wherewithal of knowledge, love and experience. As we approach Christ Jesus with faith and love, the darkness will be removed and, we will be equipped to know God by the light of eternal son. Holy Spirit will lead us and guide us with instructions. So let us learn the invisible attributes of God with prayer.

### **Invisible Attributes of God**

Holy Spirit reveals us the invisible attributes of God through Jesus Christ. We get this revelation through the wherewithal in the form of nature, conscience and the word of God. The word of God is the most

important among them. Like a diamond has many sides, the revelation of God has many sides. They can be divided for easy access into two parts. They are Natural Attributes and Moral Attributes. First of all let us consider the natural attributes.

### **1. God is Spirit (Jn. 4:2)**

Jesus Christ revealed this truth when he spoke to the Samaritan woman at Sukhar. What shape comes to your mind when you hear the term spirit? It is difficult to understand 'the spirit'. It does not have a physical body. It is not the cloud on the sky, neither the wind that moves the plants nor the vampire that frightens the kids. Though it may not have a visible body, it has personality, knowledge, power, emotion and feelings. It cannot be limited in a specific form. That is why God strictly detested idolatry. God cannot be contained in a place or a temple (Act 7:48-49, 17:24:25, 1 King 8:27).

God is Spirit and invisible. He cannot be compared to anyone in the world (Is. 40:25, Duet. 4:15-18). No one has ever seen God (Jn. 1:18). If God is invisible, how could Moses and Israelites see Him? (Ex. 24:9-10; 33:18-20). How can we explain the meeting of the angel of God to Abraham and Gideon? (Gen. 18:1,2, 17, 20, 22; 19:1). God, who is invisible, sometimes revealed himself visibly. They did not see the original form of God. It might be a shadow of God. In Ex. 30:20, God told Moses that he cannot see his face. The angel of God who had appeared to Gideon was Jesus Christ who came into the world to reveal God. He had appeared to them not in the full glory that He possesses. He took the form of a man. At the end of the time, Jesus incarnated himself into the world as a man (Jn. 1:18).

Though God is invisible, He has individuality. We read in the Bible that 'God speaks' and 'God loves'. The evidence of the personality is that it has wishes, emotions and activities (Jer. 31:2,3,11,20; Deut.16:9). God, as spirit, is living and is the source of life (Jer.10:10-13). We use the eyes of the heart to see the invisible and powerful God. The worshippers of truth must worship God in truth and spirit (Jn. 4:23). No one limit God in physical circumstances and please God in external worship.

## 2. God is Omnipresent (Ps. 139:6-12)

God's omnipresence proves that God is spirit. Psalms 139 is a meditation talk of God's omnipresence. Jeremiah 23:24 also says that no one will be able to hide from the sight of God and it is God who is filled in heaven and earth. In Hindu thought God is everywhere is right, but we cannot limit Him in a pillar or plant. Do not worship an idol. God works in the Universe independently. His presence is available to anyone at anytime. The risen Christ lives at the side of God, (Eph. 1:20; Act. 7:56; Mk. 16:19). I will be with you till the end of the world (Mt. 28:20), I will be in the midst of the one or two gathered in my name (Mt. 18:20). These promises show that Christ is with His people in the earth. God is omnipresent. God, the father and son Jesus are same (Jn. 14:18, 19, 20, 23; Rom. 8:9). Moreover, the Holy Spirit transforms in the nature (Gen. 1:2). He also makes the non-believers aware of sin, justice, and judgement. The prayer in the name of Jesus is being heard by God who is present everywhere. Let us submit ourselves in the presence of God to experience Him in a better way.

## 3. God is Omnipotent (Gen. 17:1)

The most important thing for a successful life is the strong faith in the omnipresence of God.

1. **Nature** is under God (Ps. 107:25; Gen. 1:1-3; Nahum 1:5,6; Mt. 8:26, Ex. 14:21).
2. **Man** is under God. God made Nebuchadnezzar, the great Babel king a grass eating ox. God reigns over the kingdom of men (Dan. 4:32, 5:21). Paul, the enemy of Christ was transformed at Damascus by God. So man is very weak (Act. 9:3-9, Lk. 12:16-21; Jam. 4:14-15).
3. **Angels of God and Satan** are under the will of God (Dan. 4:5; Heb. 1:13-14; Ps. 103:20-21; Job 1:10-12; 2:6; Lk. 22:31-32; Rev. 20:2-10).

God designs His omnipresence according to the goodness, will and perfection. Nothing is impossible to God, but he doesn't act anything which is contrary to eternal love, wisdom and holiness .

#### **4. God is Omniscient:**

God knows everything and His wisdom do not end (1 Jn.3:20, Job 37:16, Ps. 147:5). God sees and knows everything (2 Deut. 16:9). He knows the smallest and the largest in the nature in perfect way (Ps. 147:4, Mt. 10:29). He knows all men, their deeds and words (Ps. 33:13,15; Prov. 5:21; Ps. 139:4). He understands men's sufferings and thoughts (Ex. 3:7; 2 Deut.28:9). God is wise to understand what happens from eternity and also the state of men there (Act. 15:18, Is. 46:9-10; Eph. 1:9-12; 3:4-9, Col. 1:25-26). God knows what is good for all men and what they will become. So, it is blessed to submit ourselves fully in the hands of God (1 Pet. 1:2; Prov.3:4-5). God is the one who knows our secrecy and public matters. We should lead a holy life by submitting ourselves fully to the Lord who knows our sins, and the omnipresence of God help us to do so.

#### **5. God is Eternal (Ps.90:2)**

The subject 'eternity' is seen throughout the Bible. What do you mean by saying 'God is eternal'? Do we get the awareness of the ages based on the events?

God is beyond times and ages. So, Moses tells in Psalms 90, 'Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.'

Abraham also received this revelation. He worshipped in the name of Yahweh who is eternal (Gen. 22). There are verses which talks of the eternity of God (Deu. 33:27; Ps. 145:13; 102:24-27; Is. 9:6; 40:28; 57:15; Jer. 10:10; Dan. 4:3; 9:24, Matt.3:6, Hab 1:12, Rom.1:20; Jn. 1:1; Rev.1:8; 22:13). God has no beginning and the end. God is eternal and has no change in himself.

God is eternal. There is no need of talking about His beginning and sustaining. He is the life and the source of life.

We have learnt in this lesson, the natural attributes of God. He is omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient and eternal. Let us learn the moral attributes of God in the next lesson. Let us praise God about His revelation to us.

## Questions

1. Why is it necessary that one has to keep the right knowledge of God?
2. How can one discover everything about the almighty God ?
3. 'God is spirit' Explain?
4. How our worship is affected by the notion 'God is spirit'?
5. Explain the omnipresent quality of God?
6. How the word of God reveals us the omnipresence of God?
7. God knows everything. Explain it with the help of the Bible?
8. God is omniscient. How our life gets influenced with this notion?
9. Explain that 'God is eternal'?