

A.W Tozer said, *“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”*

Do you agree? Why or why not?

How has who you believe God is defined who you are?

What are some of the hardest things for you to believe about God?

Do you ever doubt the existence of God? How do you combat your doubts?

Read Daniel 11:32. What is the relationship between a growing knowledge of God and the courage and endurance you need to accomplish great things for God? What great things are being produced in your life as a result of your growing knowledge of God?

The attributes of God are his essential characteristics revealed in creation, history, and scripture. Yet God’s attributes are most clearly seen in Christ. How significant is THINKING about the attributes of God when you are not FEELING the nearness of God? Have your wrong feelings prevented you from thinking right thoughts about God? How can you change your relationship with God by right thinking?

Learning “rational propositions about God” that do not lead to a deeper “personal relationship with God” fuel arrogance and increase our judgment. How has growing in your knowledge of God increased your capacity for loving God, enjoying God, and telling others about him?

Discuss this statement: *“Good lovers make good students of the beloved.”*

1) God is Sovereign. Humble yourself before Him. (Daniel 4:34-45)

The Sovereignty of God: God’s has free and absolute control which ensures all things he decrees or allows will be accomplished.

How does the thought of God’s sovereignty humble you? What action does God take toward those who challenge his sovereignty with their own?

Aspects of God’s Sovereignty

- a) **God is Self-Existent.** (Acts 17:24-25) God is eternal. He never had a beginning. He will never have an end. He exists outside of time and space. He is not busy. He is never behind in his schedule. He is not under any pressure to meet a deadline. He is independent. God never experiences need.

Those who know God is sovereign understand they exist to make much of God. God does not exist to make much of them. They never serve him are never motivated by the thought that God needs them. They experience rest and peace in the business of life knowing God has our days numbered our days on earth but will enjoy him eternally in heaven.

How does God’s self-existence change your perspective on the business of your life and schedule?

How does God’s independence change your perspective on serving him?

- b) **God is unchanging.** (James 1:17) He is faithful. God always keeps his word. God is never moody or impatient. No rival will ever keep him from accomplishing all that he has planned.

Those who know God is unchanging never stop believing he will fulfill all his promises no matter how bad it looks.

What circumstance in your life right now makes it hardest for you to believe God will keep his promises?

- c) **God is Omnipresent.** (Psalm 139:7-12) He is everywhere present at the same time.

Those who know God is omnipresent sense his presence where ever they are. They should never need to feel lonely or afraid. Those who do not know God should never feel safe.

Do you frequently feel lonely or afraid? How can God's omnipresence dispel loneliness and fear?

- d) **God is Omniscient.** (1John 3:20) He knows everything that has happened to you and will ever happen t you and why.

Those who know God is omniscient live with the sense that God is watching and caring for them. They live knowing that God takes pleasure or experiences grief as they live on display before the eyes of God.

Do you feel like God knows you, your past, and your concerns?

- e) **God is Omnipotent.** (Isaiah 46:9-10) God is absolutely free and able to do anything his will desires to do. Nothing ever seems difficult for God. He is never frustrated by an enemy or by evil. God can change anything, any time he has the desire.

Those who know God is omnipotent patiently wait for God to exercise his power in the face of suffering.

Those who know God is sovereign believe all that comes into their lives is either allowed or decreed by a good God who will use it for good.

What do you wish God would change most in your life? Do you believe he can do it? How does a belief in God's omnipotence motivate your prayer life?

2) God is Wise. Trust Him. (Romans 11:33-36)

The Wisdom of God: God always acts in the in a way to bring about the highest possible good. Not only could his acts by better done, a better way to do them could not be imagined.

Those who know God is wise will trust God's way is always best. They will stop contending with God. They will stop arguing with God. Their prayers will be transformed from telling God what he should do into asking him what to do with a predetermined inclination to do it.

God has made his wisdom available to us. He stands ready to manage our lives in a way that ensures our eternal happiness the moment we choose to trust his wisdom believe his way is best.

In what way is your wisdom contending with God's wisdom? What do you prayers reveal about whose wisdom you are trusting?

Describe a time in your life when your trust in the wisdom of God has been challenged by tragedy. How have you processed your pain through the grid of God's wisdom?

3) God is Good. Seek Him. (Nahum 1:7, Psalm 84:11-12, Genesis 5:20)

The Goodness of God: God is the final standard of good, and that all that God is and does is worthy of approval¹

Those who know God is Good reject lies that God is the source of their pain. They refuse to get angry at God and instead have a righteous anger toward the enemy of their good God. They understand that God takes what men mean for evil, and uses it to for their good. They take pleasure in pursuing God as the ultimate good.

The good that God brings about is often different than the good we envision. Describe something evil that someone did to you. Do you believe God is good enough to use it for your good?

Have you stopped seeking him because evil circumstances have eroded your belief that God is good?

¹ Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 197.

4) God is Holy. Fear Him. (Isaiah 6:1-3, 1Peter 1:16-17)

The Holiness of God: God is separated from sin and devoted to seeking his own honor.

God hates what is evil and responds with anger to all sin and rebellion. God hates everything that threatens his honor and glory. God holiness requires judgment of everything that he does not declares holy. Everything unholy will be incinerated by God's holiness. Believers should fear his fatherly discipline and unbelievers should fear his ultimate judgment.

Those who know God is holy will strive for personal holiness. They will live within the boundaries of what is holy. They will guard themselves from being contaminated by the unholiness in this world by refusing to indulge in sensual appetites. They will guard what they allow through the gates of their senses.

How are you striving for personal holiness? How?

Have you discounted personal holiness in reaction to potential legalism?

5) God is Love. Adore Him. (Psalm 145:7-8, 1John 4:7-12)

The Love of God. God feely and eternally gives of himself to benefit those in desperate need of what only he can provide.

- Gracious love is God' goodness toward those who deserve only punishment.
- Merciful love is God's goodness toward those in distress.
- Patience love is God's goodness toward those who continue to sin over a period of time²

Those who know God is love, love him in return and imitate his love for others. They find their security and significance in the unconditional love of God rather than their performance or the acceptance and approval of others. They sacrificially lay down their rights and consider the needs of others more important than their own. They extend grace and forgiveness toward those who offend them. They express mercy to those in distress and patiently wait for God to change those who sin against them.

Do you know that you are so loved by God that you have security and significance that can't be gain from your performance or the acceptance of others?

Has God's love so overwhelmed you that you freely and easily forgive others, show mercy to those in distress and are patient with the most unlovable people you know?

² Adapted from Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 198.