

What Does The Bible Teach About God the Father?

I. God's Divine Nature:

A. Omnipotent (All Powerful) – God can do all things, nothing is too hard for him, all things are possible with Him.

1. Jesus said of God's Omnipotence, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." - Matt 19:2.
2. Job testified of God, "I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You." - Job 42:2.
3. God says of Himself, "Is anything too hard for the LORD?" - Gen 18:14.

God's omnipotence is limited only by His own wise, holy, and loving will. God can do anything, but will do only what His infinite wisdom, holiness, and love dictate.

1. Isaiah 59:1-2 – "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear."

B. Omniscient (All Wise/Knowing) – God knows all things. He possess all knowledge and understanding.

1. 1 Jn 3:20 – "For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things."
2. Job 37:16 – "Do you know how the clouds are balanced, those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge?"
3. Ps 147:5 – "Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; his understanding is infinite."

C. Omnipresent (Present Everywhere) – God is everywhere. He is in all parts of the universe all the time.

1. Ps 139:7-10 - Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.
2. Jer 23:23-24 - "Am I a God near at hand," says the LORD, "And not a God afar off? Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?" says the LORD; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the LORD.

D. Eternal –God is eternal. His existence had no beginning and will have no ending. He always was, always is, and always will be.

1. Gen 21:33 - Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.
2. Isa 40:28 - Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

E. Self – Existent – God has life in Himself. He is self-existent. God not only exists from eternity, but also exists from Himself.

1. John 5:26 - "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself."

F. Immutable – God is unchangeable. His counsel, purpose and character are always the same.

1. Mal 3:6 - "For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob."
2. James 1:17 – "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

G. Holy – God is absolutely Holy, which means He is free from all defilement being completely pure.

1. Isa 6:3 - And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!"
2. Ps 99:5 - Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His footstool-- he is holy.
3. 1 Pet 1:15-16 - But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

- H. Spirit – God is Spirit. Being a Spirit He is invisible although He can manifest Himself in visible form if He so wishes.
1. Jesus declared to the women at the well that God is a spirit and must be worshipped in spirit and in truth - John 4:24.
 2. Jesus also declared to the disciples upon his resurrection that "*a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see Me have*" – Luke 24:39.
 3. Therefore if God is a Spirit as Jesus said then He does not have a physical body.
 4. Being a Spirit God is Invisible - Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17, 6:16; c.f. John 1:18
 - a. Since God is Spirit and invisible he requires us to worship Him in spirit and in truth – John 4:24. That is one of the reasons why He forbade the Jews to make any idols or images to worship, because no physical idol can truly represent the Invisible God.
 - b. The Bible also clearly states that God is not a man:

Hosea 11:9 - "I am God, and not man."

Numbers 23:19 states "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"
 - c. The apostle Paul speaks of the foolishness of man in his sinful nature to try and make the Invisible God into any image man could conceive. Romans 1:22-23 "Professing themselves to be wise they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man."
 - d. Some misunderstand Isaiah's vision of seeing the Lord "sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple," to mean that God the Father is a man. But John tells us that this was a vision of Jesus in John 12:4.
 - e. Some misunderstand God making man in His image to mean that He has a physical bodily image, but God was not referring to bodily likeness, but to intellectual and moral likeness.

II. God's Divine Personality:

- A. Living – God is a living God. He hears, sees, knows, feels, wills, acts, as a person.
1. Acts 14:15 - and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them."
 2. Ps 94:9-10 – "He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see? He who instructs the nations, shall He not correct, he who teaches man knowledge?"
- B. Relational – God has revealed Himself to have a present, personal, and active role in His creation. He is personally and actively present in the affairs of both the seen and unseen realms of His creation.
1. Relation to Creation as Creator and Sustainer:
 - a. Acts 17:24-25 - "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things."
 - b. Ps 104:14 – "He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the service of man, that he may bring forth food from the earth."
 - c. Matt 6:26 - "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"
 - d. Involved in the weather: Ps 148:8- "Fire and hail, snow and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word."
 - e. Involved in the seasons: Gen 8:22 - "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease."¹
 2. Relation to Angels as Father Creator:

¹ R. A. Torrey, *What the Bible Teaches*, 13-36.

- a. They worship and minister to Him - Rev 4:8 – “The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”
- b. He directs their activities- Heb 1:14 –“Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”

Luke 1:19 – “And the angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings.”

3. Relation to Jesus as Father to Son:

- a. The Father sent the Son - John 3:16- “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
- b. He sealed the Son - John 6:2b – “...God the Father has set His seal on Him.”
- c. He honours the Son - John 8:54 – “Jesus answered, “If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God.”
- d. He loves the Son - John 10:17 - “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.”
- e. He glorified the Son - John 12:28 - “Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, saying, “I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.”
- f. He taught the Son - John 8:28 – “Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.”
- g. He delights in the Son - Matt 3:17- “And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (John 8:29)
- h. He listened to His Son - John 11:41-42 “...And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.”
- i. He offered His Son - Rom 8:32- “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” (John 18:11; 1 John 4:9-10)
- j. He raised His Son - Eph 1:20 – “which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.”
- k. He exalts His Son - Phil 2:9-11- “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Eph. 1:21)
- l. He makes his Son head of the Church - Eph 1:22-23- “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”
- m. He commits judgement to the Son - John 5:22-23 - “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”
- n. He will send Jesus once again to the earth with great glory - Matt 16:27- “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”²

4. Relation to the Believer as Father to Child – “The Fatherhood of God is an important doctrine of the New Testament... The assurance of the love and care of our Heavenly Father is a great comfort to Christians and an encouragement to faith and prayer.”³

- a. He foreknew the believer - Rom 8:29 – “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (1 Peter 1:2)
- b. He predestinated the believer - Eph 1:5,11 – “having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,.. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.”

² Willmington's *Complete Guide to Bible Knowledge*, 130-135.

³ Chafer, *Major Bible Themes*, 50.

- c. He elected the believer - Eph 1:4 – “just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.” (Luke 18:7; Rom. 8:33, Col. 3:12; 1 Thess. 1:4; 2 Thess. 2:13; Titus 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:1-2, 2:9)
- d. He gave all the elected believer to Christ - John 6: 37,44 - "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out... "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 10:29, 13:3)
- e. He called the believer- Rom 8:28- “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” (Rom. 8:30a; 1 Cor. 1:9; 2 Thess. 2:14)
- f. He conforms the believer to the image of Christ - Rom 8:29 – “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (2 Cor. 3:18)
- g. He justified the believer - Rom 8:33 – “Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.”
- h. He indwells the believer - John 14:23 0- “Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”
- i. He sealed the believer with the Holy Spirit at the request of Christ - Eph 4:30 – “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” (Eph. 1:13; John 14:16, 26, 15:26)
- j. He keeps the believer - John 17:11 - "Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.”
- k. He honours the believer - John 12:26 - "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.”
- l. He blesses the believer - Eph 1:3 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”
- m. He loves the believer - II Th 2:16 – “Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace.” (John 14:2, 23, 17:23)
- n. He comforts the believer - 2 Cor 1:3-4 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” (Rev. 21:4; 2 Thess. 2:16)
- o. He sanctifies the believer - Jude 1:1 – “Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ.” (John 17:17)
- p. He gives peace to the believer - Col 1:2 – “To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (John 14:27; 1 Cor. 1:3; Gal. 1:3; Eph. 1:2; Phil. 1:2; 1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:2; Titus 1:4)
- q. He reveals truth to the believer - Eph 1:17- “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.”
- r. He supplies the needs of the believer - Phil 4:19 – “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Matt. 6:32-33)
- s. He seeks the worship of the believer - John 4:23 - "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.”
- t. He disciplines the believer - Heb 12:6-8 – “For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives. If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.”
- u. He restores the believer - Ps 23:3 – “He restores my soul; he leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.” (Ps. 51:12; Luke 15:21-24)
- v. He will someday gather all believers in Christ - Eph 1:10 – “that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth- in Him.”

- w. He will someday reward all believers - 2 Tim 4:8 – “Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” (Matt. 6:1; Heb. 11:6)
 - x. He will someday glorify all believers - Rom 8:30 - Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.
 - y. He has prepared a kingdom for believers - Matt 25:34 - "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" (Matt. 13:43, 26:29; Luke 12:32)⁴
- C. Creative – God is creator of all existing things. His creation displays God’s creative power and genius.
- a. Gen 1:1 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- D. Righteous – God is righteous and just, meaning that His character always does what is right.
- a. Ps 145:17 - The LORD is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works. (Ezr. 9:15; Ps. 116:5; Jer. 12:1; John 17:25)
- E. Loving – God is love. God doesn’t just love, but He is love. Love is the very essence of His moral character. He is the source of all true love.
- a. 1 Jn 4:8,16 - He who does not love does not know God, for God is love... And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.
 - b. God loves all mankind - John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (Rom. 5:6-8; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9)
 - c. Although He loves all mankind, He has a special love for those who are in Christ in that He loves them with precisely the same love He has for Christ Himself - John 17:23 - "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."
- F. Merciful – God is merciful, abundant in mercy/kindness. God’s mercy is manifested towards whom He will. He is absolutely sovereign in the exercise of His mercy.
- a. Ps 103:8 – “The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.” (Deut. 4:31; Ps. **62:12**, 145:8, 86:15)
- G. Gracious – God is the essence of grace (undeserved favour) and desires to extend His grace to all.
- a. Ps 116:5 – “Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yes, our God is merciful.” (2 Chr. 30:9; 1 Pet. 2:3; Joel 2:13)
- H. Faithful – God is faithful, meaning that He is absolutely reliable.
- a. 1Thes 5:24 – “He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.” (1 John 1:9; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Cor. 1:9, 10:13; Is. 49:7)⁵
- I. Good – God’s character is the essence of goodness. “God is essentially, absolutely and consummately ‘good.’”⁶
- a. Matt 19:17 - So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." (Matt. 19:17; Mark 10:18; Luke 18:19)

⁴ Willmington's *Complete Guide to Bible Knowledge*, 135-38.

⁵ Torrey, 26, 42-52, 58.

⁶ PC Study Bible Electronic version *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*