

THE NATURE OF GOD

[This lesson is designed to teach us the nature of God. God's nature is revealed in His Creation, His Word, His attributes and His Names. The Word of God reveals the nature of God to us. Jesus Christ is the Word in flesh—the perfect expression of the nature of God—the exact representation of God. God's true picture is revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. Our picture of God—affects not only our posture/stance toward God, but also our posture/stance toward people, the world and the devil].

What Do We Mean By the Term “Nature of God?”

- Nature of God is His Characteristics, Attributes and Qualities. Basically who He is, what He does.
- God's nature is revealed both in His attributes and His Names.
- All of Creation reveals who God is and speaks of His greatness.

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

Psalm 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.

- The Word of God reveals the nature of God to us.
- Jesus Christ is the Word in flesh—the perfect expression of the nature of God—the exact representation of God. God's true picture is revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.

John 1:1,14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 1:3

Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

- God's Word and His Works are always consistent with His nature—with who He is. God will never say something or do something that contradicts who He is. So an important test to evaluate that something is truly of God—is to see if it aligns with God's nature.

“Whatever you think you know about God, which you do not find in the Person of Jesus Christ, you have reason to question” — Bill Johnson

“Jesus Christ is Perfect Theology” — Bill Johnson

See God for who He really is and worship Him for who He is.

Do not permit your picture of God to be tainted by life's experiences or people's opinions.

- Our picture of God affects not only our posture/stance toward God (even how we pray), but also how we relate to people, the world and the devil.

The greatest revelation of who God is, is in the Person of Jesus Christ

God's Attributes Reveal His Nature

God is the Creator and Eternal

Genesis 21:33

Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.

Psalms 90:2

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

- No one made God. He always existed. He is self-existent and self-sufficient, not dependent on anything else for His existence. At some point, He decided to make us and He has lived with us ever since.
- Unlike Him, we are all created and have a beginning.
- All things were created in Him, through Him, for Him.



Colossians 1:15-17

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

1 Timothy 1:17

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

He is Spirit-person

John 4:24

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

Psalms 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.

We are spiritual beings and are therefore capable of relating to God who is a spiritual being

- God does not have a natural mortal physical body like ours.

- However, He is not some formless, jelly-like, impersonal, Spirit-force. The Bible reveals God having a form similar to us. He has hands, eyes, ears, feet, and so on. God also has feelings and emotions like us—He loves, He cares, He laughs, He weeps, He is angered, He forgives. He is a Person and hence a personal God.
- Hence God desires relationship. He is described as Father. He considers us believers as sons and daughters and part of His family.
- Bible records that at times He takes on a physical appearance in order to communicate (Theologians call this as epiphany). Example: Moses (Exodus chapters 33, 34).



He is All-powerful (Omnipotent)

Luke 1:37

For with God nothing will be impossible.

- God's power is absolutely limitless, yet He has declared that there are certain things He will not do. For example, He will never be unfaithful, never lie, never stop loving. He cannot do these because these are contrary to His character and nature.
- God is powerful all the time.
- His power is released through His Word.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

God's omnipotence is encapsulated in His Word. His Word is POWER!

He is All-knowing (Omniscient)

Psalms 147:5

Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.

Job 37:14-18

Listen to this, O Job; stand still and consider the wondrous works of God. Do you know when God dispatches them, and causes the light of His cloud to shine? Do you know how the clouds are balanced, those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge? Why are your garments hot, when He quiets the earth by the south wind? With Him, have you spread out the skies, strong as a cast metal mirror?

Isaiah 46:9,10

Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure.'

He is Present everywhere (Omnipresent)

Jeremiah 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.

Psalms 139:7

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

Acts 17:24

"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.

He is Triune

John 14:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

- The Bible presents this as fact, without giving a systematic explanation of how God is 'Three Persons in One.'

The Father represents the wisdom of the God-Head, He Conceives.

The Son represents the authority of the God-Head, He Commands.

The Spirit represents the power of the God-Head, He Creates.

- God the Father, God the Son and God the Spirit are all eternal, co-equal and are to be worshipped.
- Each Person of the God-Head work as One, in unity and harmony.

Psalms 104:30

You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the earth.

Job 33:4

The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

- Jesus and the Holy Spirit coming down

Matthew 3:16,17

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

- Father + Son + Holy Spirit

John 16:15

All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

- Jesus prays to the father for all believers

John 17:21

That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

He is Infinite

Psalm 147:5

Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

- Limitless : He cannot be measured, contained or fully grasped.
- Supreme : He is not a superior being but a supreme being.
- Eternal : He always existed and always will exist.

He is Holy and Righteous

- God's perfection is the standard for our moral character and the motivation for our lifestyle. Our moral code should follow His standard of Holiness.

1 Peter 1:16

Because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Hebrew Holy '*Qadash*'—Something withheld from ordinary use, treated with special care.

- He is untouched and unstained by any form of evil.

Hebrews 1:13

But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool?"

James 1:13

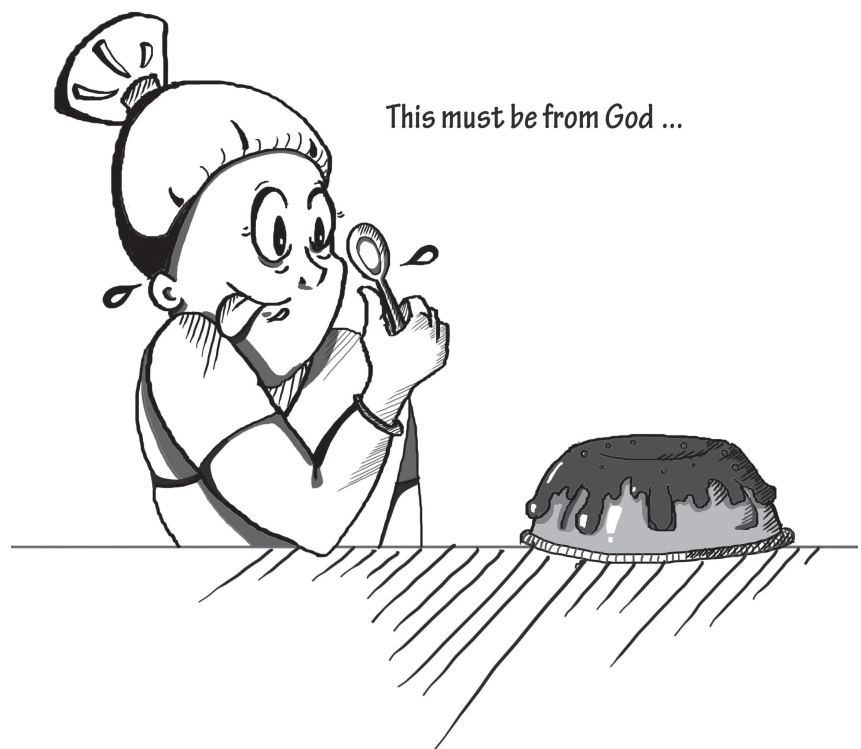
Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God;" for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

- God delights in righteousness

Jeremiah 9:24

But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.

- He only does and only commands others to do what is right according to His own Law.



Genesis 18:25

Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

He is Sovereign

- As Sovereign—He is absolute Master, Ruler, Lord and everything yields and bows to Him.

1 Timothy 1:17

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

- In His Sovereignty, He has chosen to entrust man with a free will and He has chosen to respect man's choice.
- God is so secure in His sovereignty that He is not afraid to give up control. As far as a human being's "free will" is concerned, God has given up control.
- Man's freedom to choose and the choices he makes, even if it opposes the purposes of God, in no way undermines, lessens or weakens God's Sovereignty. God is still in authority.
- However, man's choices also have their consequences.

God is so secure in His sovereignty that He has given up control when it comes to our lives. He has put the ability to control into our hands—that is called 'freewill!'

God respects our choices!

He is Just

- God respects each individual's choices and rewards them in accordance to their choices and actions. He doesn't show any favoritism or partiality.
- God's justice also involves judgment ...

Psalms 94:1-3

O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongs—O God, to whom vengeance belongs, shine forth! Rise up, O Judge of the earth; render punishment to the proud. LORD, how long will the wicked, how long will the wicked triumph?

... and acting in a fair way and doing what is inherently right.

Genesis 18:25

Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

- It is a part of God's nature—It is not a standard that exists outside of God to which He must conform.

Psalms 97:2

Clouds and darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

- In sending Jesus to be our Savior, God is both Just and the Justifier of those who have sinned.

Romans 3:26

To demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

He is Truthful and Faithful

- Jesus Himself is truth.

God is both just and the justifier

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

1 John 5:20

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

- God's Word is truth

John 17:17

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

- God is truthful and He cannot lie

Numbers 23:19

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?

Titus 1:2

In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.

Hebrews 6:18

That by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

- Therefore everything He says is absolutely true.
- He is Faithful. He keeps His promises

Deuteronomy 7:8,9

But because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.

- Faithfulness follows logically from immutability because if God does not change, then He cannot be unfaithful.
- Because you know God is Truth—you know you can absolutely rely on His Word.
- Because you know God is Faithful—you know He will never leave you or abandon you.

He is a Loving and Good God

- God is Love

1 John 4:8-10

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

- Love demonstrated

Romans 5:6-8

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

How good is your God?

Your conviction of the goodness of God should be absolute!

God is good, all the time!!!

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.

- God is absolutely good, all the time. God is so good, He cannot do me wrong. Even when He corrects me, He is doing it out of His goodness.

He is Merciful and Gracious

- It is the unmerited favor and goodness of God. He shows it on the basis of His generosity and goodness.
- So if we have the right understanding about the goodness of God, we will be able to say the following verse with conviction:

God is merciful and God is just.

But in God, His mercy triumphs over His judgment.

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.

- God's mercy is not a temporary thing or mood but an attribute of God's being, God has always been gracious and merciful.

Luke 1:50

And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

- Grace is a gift from God

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

- His mercy is lavished upon all His works

Psalm 145:9,10

The LORD is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works. All Your works shall praise You, O LORD, and Your saints shall bless You.

Ephesians 1:7,8

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence.

- His mercy brings us salvation

Titus 2:11

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

- Mercy triumphs over judgment (James 2:13). While it is true that we reap of what we sow (Galatians 6:7,8), it is His mercy that "writes off" or "cancels" the full reaping of evil, for all the evil we have sown. It is because of His mercies that we are not consumed (Lamentations 3:22). He does not deal with us according to our sins, but instead extends mercy (Psalm 103:10,17). The Cross is the greatest expression of this. When we repent, we position ourselves to receive His mercy.

Desire to conform to His nature! He desires for His nature to be expressed through us.

Make decisions and choices aligned to His nature.

Relate to people aligned to the nature of God—forgiveness, love, peace, justice.

He is Unchanging

Malachi 3:6

For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

- God's nature does not change across the Old and New Testaments. He is the same God through time. What changes is the "Covenants"—the basis on which man relates to God, changes across the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament reveals what man would experience if he attempts to relate to God on the basis of Law/Works—on what man is able to offer to God. The New Testament reveals what man would experience if he relates to God on the basis of grace given freely by God—on what God extends to man.
- He is today, exactly as He is revealed in the Old Testament, exactly as Jesus revealed Him to be in the New Testament.

The Names of God Reveal His Nature

The names used to describe God tell us much about His character and being.

ADONAI, "Lord" or "Sovereign"

Genesis 19:2

And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square."

John 4:11

The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?"

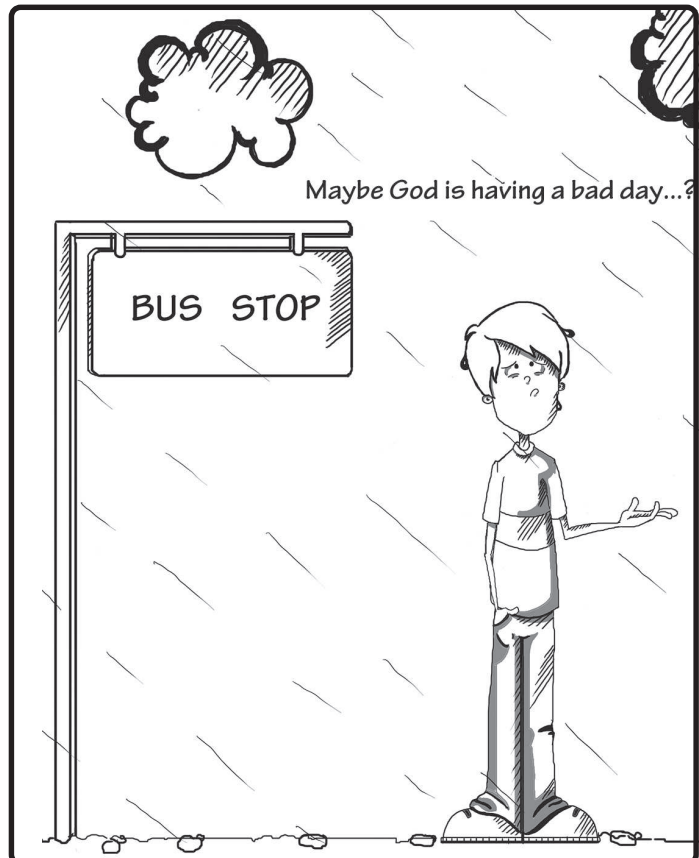
Thus, Lord is also used as a title for men. (Meaning: Master or owner, authorities and supremacy).

ELOHIM, The source of all creation, the powerful God.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

(This cannot be expressed as singular, it is a plural for majesty).



THEOS

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

It is a Greek equivalent of Elohim. It is never used for any being other than God Himself.

El, God

El-Shaddai, the Almighty, the Bountiful One, All-Sufficient One.

Genesis 17:1

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

El-Elyon, The Most High God

Genesis 14:19

And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth.

El-Olam, Everlasting God

Genesis 21:33

Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.

I AM that I AM

Exodus 3:14

And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

This Scripture reveals God as the eternal, self-sufficient and self-existent One.

YAHWEH "The Lord"

Genesis 4:1

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."

Jehovah Rapha : The Lord my Healer

Exodus 15:26

"If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you."

Jehovah Nissi : The Lord is my Banner/Victory

Exodus 17:15

And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-LORD-Is-My-Banner.

Jehovah Jireh : The Lord is my Provider

Genesis 22:14

And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

Jehovah Shalom : The Lord is Peace

Judges 6:24

So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and called it The-LORD-Is-Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

Jehovah Sabboath : The Lord of Hosts

1 Samuel 1:3

This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.

Psalms 24:10

Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory.

Jehovah Maccadeshecem : The Lord your Sanctifier

Exodus 31:13

Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: 'Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you.'

Jehovah Roi : The Lord is my Shepherd

Psalms 23:1

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Jehovah Sidkenu : The Lord our Righteousness

Jeremiah 23:6

In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Jehovah Shammah : The Lord is Present

Ezekiel 48:35

All the way around shall be eighteen thousand cubits; and the name of the city from that day shall be: THE LORD IS THERE.

KEY MEMORY VERSES

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

Colossians 1:15-17

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Our Father : Perhaps the greatest aspect of God's nature that we must grasp is that of "Father."

God is our Father!

The ultimate Father!

The perfect Father!

