

The Attributes of God
The OMNI God

What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.

Anyone remember this facility in Atlanta?? It opened in 1972; demolished in 1997



The name came from the Latin, omnis = all. The idea was that it would be an ALL-purpose facility

Among the attributes of God there are three that are familiar as an “Omni” attribute:

Omnipotent

Omnipresent

Omniscient

In the very helpful Children’s catechism there are some questions that relate to those attributes:

Q. 10. Where is God?

A. God is everywhere.

Q. 12. Does God know all things?

A. Yes; nothing can be hid from God.

Q. 13. Can God do all things?

A. Yes; God can do all his holy will.

NAME THAT TUNE – Lyrics of what song???

♪“For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. ♪ Hallelujah Chorus – Handel’s Messiah

Rev. 19:4-7

4And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

5And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

6And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

For God to be God, He must be all powerful. To reign, God must have power, and to reign sovereignly, He must have all power. And that is what omnipotent means, having all power. The word derives from the Latin and is identical in meaning with the more familiar “almighty” which we have from the Anglo- Saxon.

God doesn’t reign like earthly kings and queens. Even if they are “sovereign” in their royal power, they can’t create out of nothing. They don’t control the days and the seasons.

“Almighty” occurs fifty-six times in our English Bible and is never used of anyone but God. He alone is almighty. God possesses what no creature can: an incomprehensible fullness of power, a power that is absolute. This we know by divine revelation, but once known, it is recognized that is simply makes sense. Knowing that God is infinite and self-existent, and we see at once that He must be all-powerful as well, and that is a reason for us to bow before Him in worship and AWE.

Here we must address what is a common question for people.

“If God is all powerful and He is loving, why does he allow bad stuff to happen?”

Rabbi Kushner – why do bad things happen to good people?

He settled with the idea that God means well, but just can't pull things off.

I don't find that to be a source of comfort nor a motivation for worship. That kind of God seems to be too much like me, and I want and need a God who is not like me.

The gist of the argument is that evil and suffering are reasons to doubt the existence of God, i.e. “I can't believe in a God who would allow suffering when he is capable of stopping it, so God must not exist.”

This is an issue that has been around for a long time and a thorough treatment would take an entire sermon, but let me just point out this aspect of it. If you have suffering on one hand and God on the other, then you decide that God can't exist because of suffering, what are you left with? Suffering in a world with no God, no meaning, and no purpose. Is that really a better alternative?

But pull that thread a little more and here's what you're really left with...a world with no God and thus no real category for “suffering or evil”. If there is no God and thus we live in a random universe, then it's not legit to call something evil or suffering. It just is what it is because of the random evolution of things.

Tim Keller – NYC pastor

If there *is* a God, then evil creates a very grave personal problem. Why is God doing this? Doesn't he understand? (echoes of the Psalms)

But if there is *no* God, then you don't really have a good basis for being outraged. After all, nature is 'red in tooth and claw'. (Alfred Lord Tennyson) Death and destruction are perfectly natural. How can you consider *nature* to be *abnormal* when the 'strong eat the weak'? **You can only object to injustice if you already believe in some kind of 'super-natural' moral standard (some standard that comes from outside of nature). And where does such a supernatural standard come from, if there is no God?**

So, if evil and suffering are a stumbling block to believing in God, then get rid of God and you also get rid of evil and suffering, if you are consistent. Evil and suffering may create a problem for belief in God, but the Bible doesn't ignore them. They create an even bigger problem for the atheist.

Are you an atheist? Then you have no rational basis to even be outraged at suffering and evil. But you are anyway. Why? Because deep down you know there is an absolute moral standard outside of us.

Here's the GOOD NEWS. The absolute OMNIPOTENT moral standard took on flesh and lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died.

Phil 2:5-11

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Omnipotent God humbled himself to meet our need. There is no other God like Him.

This attribute is a source of comfort as we know that despite the trials we face, God can do above and beyond all that we ask or think. And He is able to redeem the hurts and suffering for our good and His own glory.

God's Omnipresence

Children's catechism...

Q. 10. Where is God?

A. God is everywhere.

Psalm 139

7 Where can I go from Your Spirit?

Or where can I flee from Your presence?

8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there;

If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.

9 If I take the wings of the dawn,

If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,

10 Even there Your hand will lead me,

And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

Few other truths are taught in the Scriptures with as great clarity as the doctrine of the divine omnipresence. Those passages supporting this truth are so common and plain. God shows up in very unlikely places to bring hope to his people.

They teach that God is at once far off and near, and that in Him men move and live and have their being.

While God is everywhere we can't see him, but we can see the impact of Him in the changed lives of believers. Creation itself bears witness to the glory and power of God, but we don't know his nearness unless our hearts are renewed by the spirit of God.

The teachings of the New Testament is that God created the world by the Logos, the Word, and the Word is identified with the second person of the Godhead who was present in the world even before He became incarnate in human nature.

Through Jesus Christ the Omnipresent God becomes immediately accessible and known to every believing heart.

The omnipresence of God serves as a source of comfort for the believer. One of the ways in which we grow in grace and faith is to "Practice the Presence of God". That concept has been essential in terms of cultivating a vital relationship with God.

Brother Lawrence wrote the Christian classic on this topic, but he's not the only one to address it. Other speak of "living before the Face of God". **The central idea is to internalize the reality that we live in God's world and that He is always with us.** Since he is with us, we should practice his presence – speak with Him, think of Him, bring Him into our decision making. For it is in God that we live, move and have our being.

Practicing His presence is more about a mindset than about adding something to our schedule. It costs us nothing. Though God's presence is FREE how often do we take advantage of it? How often do we apply it to our hearts for comfort? **The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is the Father of Mercies and the God of all comfort. His presence is a comforting reality.**

His presence does not guarantee a trouble-free life, we can be comforted in knowing that we are not ALONE. The presence of God is a HUGE THEME in scripture. From Genesis to Revelation we see the theme of God being with His people. Heaven is the experience of knowing the reality of the presence of God. REV 21:3

Being alone is a sad thing from Genesis on. "not good for man to be alone". We were made for fellowship with God and with one another.

One reason why we have community groups and CROSS groups is so that we don't have to face the trials of life alone.

"You'll Never Walk Alone" was a big hit from the musical Carousel in 1945, but it is sung regularly by soccer fans, especially in Liverpool England. The phrase is part of their logo.



Our Lafayette ADVENT WALK will be Nov 25th. We can walk with other believers in the community.

By Source, Fair use, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=22687343>
John Houlding, the founder of Liverpool F.C.

The ultimate expression of God's presence is in Christ – Immanuel – God with Us. Jesus promises that he is with us even to the end of the Age – Matt 28:20

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The presence of God does not guarantee a life without pain or sadness. It does guarantee that we can grow closer to God as we walk through the valley with Him.

Christ Himself knew trials and suffering, but He entrusted Himself to the Father even when he experienced the withdrawal of the Father's presence on the cross. The great cry of anguish was "My God, my God, why has Thou forsaken me." It wasn't a cry of pain about the nails or the crown of thorns. It was the anguish of losing the sense of God's presence – that was the hell of separation from God that Jesus took for us. He was cut off so that we wouldn't have to be.

Though He is always here with us we don't always feel close to Him. Typically, that is our fault. James 4:8 says, "Draw near to God and he will draw near to you." We must want to know His presence, His nearness. Walking in the presence of God can turn the most mundane activity into a time of delight and fellowship with the Father.

Whatever you do, do with all your might. Why? Because you do it in the presence of God and can do it for His glory – unless it is illegal or immoral.

The Divine Omniscience

Children's catechism...

Q. 12. Does God know all things?

A. Yes; nothing can be hid from God.

That truth is comforting and sobering.

We take comfort in knowing that God is not taken by surprise by the events of our lives. He is not tuning into to CNN, MSNBC OR FOX News to learn what is happening. God doesn't learn things that throw Him off schedule or change His agenda. I take comfort in that.

God's omniscience is also sobering – HE KNOWS EVERYTHING – every thought, every attitude, every motivation, every intention of our hearts. We can't fool him. That can be sobering or terrifying.

It can also be freeing – He knows us, and He loves us anyway. Therefore, we are free to be honest in repentance and prayer.

I MAY TOTTER ON THE BRINK OF HERESY, BUT I WANT TO CLOSE WITH THE first verse and chorus OF a SONG ENTITLED

God DOESN'T KNOW by BRUCE CARROLL

Mama always told me
That God knows everything
He hung the stars and knows them all by name
And now that I am older
And I've grown to love Him so
I've found that there are some things
Even God just doesn't know

God doesn't know a sinner He can't love
A broken heart He can't mend
A fallen tear He can't dry
God doesn't know a place where He can't be
In a moment's time to meet your every need
Yes, there's some things my God just doesn't know

Yes, there's some things my God just doesn't know

I PRAY that we would all be comforted and encouraged by the Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Omniscient God who loves us and gave His son for us.

DO YOU KNOW HIM??

PRACTICE IT:

Omnipotent – ask Him for big things because He is a powerful God.

Omnipresence – Draw near to Him

Omniscient – Pray honestly, repent honestly, even if it hurts.

Worship Him and take comfort in knowing that He is WITH US and FOR US.

--	--