

# Who Is Like Our GOD - Week 1

(Bulk of material taken from "The Attributes of GOD" by Steven J. Lawson)

**Proverbs 1:7** – *The fear of YHWH is the beginning of knowledge...*

- Fearing GOD is far more than having respect for him. It's trembling at the infinite gap between Him and us, between His majesty and our unworthiness, between His power and our frailty, between his holiness and our sinfulness, between His all-sufficiency and our desperation.
- The best place you can begin in your pursuit of knowing the Infinite, is to begin with the worship of quaking in His presence.
- *(Have a moment of prayer and repentance.)*

## HOOK

A.W. Tozer – "What comes into our minds when we think of GOD is the most important thing about us."

In this series we are studying GOD, Himself (verses His great works).

We must begin with the understanding that GOD is bigger than we imagine. He is unreachably immense, infinite, high above, and "other" from us.

- Story of Augustine and the boy at the seaside. "I'm emptying the ocean into that hole."
  - We will never comprehend Him, but may we stand in awe of His awesome majesty overwhelmed by His unfathomable character and SHOUT from our innermost selves....

## BOOK

**Psalm 113:2-6** - *Blessed be the name of YHWH from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of YHWH is to be praised! YHWH is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens! **Who is like YHWH our GOD, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?***

## LOOK

There is no subject the mind can imagine which is greater or higher than the study of GOD (theology). No truth is so mind expanding, heart filling, and life changing than this.

## Charles Spurgeon:

"There is something exceedingly improving to the mind in a contemplation of the Divinity (God). It is a subject so vast, that all our thoughts are lost in its immensity; so deep, that our pride is drowned in its infinity. Other subjects we can compass and grapple with; in them we feel a kind of self-content, and go our way with the thought, "Behold I am wise." But when we come to this master-science, finding that our plumb-line cannot sound its depth, and that our eagle eye cannot see its height, we turn away with the thought.... "I am but of yesterday and know nothing." No subject of contemplation will tend more to humble the mind, than thoughts of God. ...Nothing will so enlarge the intellect, nothing so magnifies the whole soul of man, as a devout, earnest, continued investigation of the great subject of the Deity."

- Truth: All of us have an idea of GOD that is too small. None of us can comprehend His infinite glory and beauty.
- But we can begin. We can begin the splendid and all fulfilling journey of carrying a seashell from His self-revelation (His Word) to our minds.

The higher our theology, the greater our doxology.

The greater our view of GOD, the more genuine and perpetual our worship will be.

- High views of GOD lead to exalted, transcendent worship.
- High views of GOD lead to high and holy living.
- But low views of GOD lead to low and base living.
- The higher your view of GOD, the more humble you'll become having been confronted by His awesome majesty.
- The lower your view of GOD, the more selfish you'll become being blind to His majesty.

How we live our lives as Christians begins with how we view our Creator.

Our knowledge of GOD determines how we think, what we believe, how we act, how we perceive ourselves, and what our purpose is in life.

A.W. Tozer – "What comes into our minds when we think of GOD is the most important thing about us."

We can't grow to know GOD more fully if we have misrepresentations of who GOD is in our minds. Our thinking must be correct in our heads for our hearts to fully enjoy who He is. There is no more important knowledge for you to have than a right view of GOD. If we are to be right anywhere it MUST be here. If we are wrong about who GOD is, we will be wrong about everything else.

The knowledge of His attributes is the lens through which we process every other aspect of our lives. You will be forced to wrestle with your current understanding of life during this series. Perhaps, instead of giving you a different filter through which you see life, this study of GOD will remove filters you didn't realize you had.

I hope as we discuss them, even the ones that are hard to accept will have the ring of truth which you can't quickly ignore.

**Attributes Defined:** The qualities that belong to a person. A characteristic, a feature that uniquely defines them. The attributes of God are His character, His perfections, and His nature. We are looking at the very essence of GOD.

How can we study a GOD who is SO above what we can understand? His being is so transcendent and His attributes so foreign that He could be intricately involved with us and we'd lack the receptors, the spiritual senses, to recognize Him.

- Self-revelation – Scripture, the life of Christ, and the work of Christ.
  - **2 Timothy 3:16-17** - *All Scripture is breathed out by God . . .*
  - **Colossians 1:15** - *He is the image of the invisible God . . .*
- With these 3 forms of self-revelation, He made it possible for us to know Him.

### **We will study the:**

1. Aseity of God (His self-existence)
2. Immutability of God (He is unchanging)
3. Sovereignty of God (He is in control)
4. Omnipresence of God (He is everywhere)
5. Omnipotence of God (He is all powerful)
6. Omniscience of God (He is all knowing)
7. Wisdom of God
8. Truthfulness of God
9. Goodness of God
10. Love of God
11. Grace of God
12. Holiness of God
13. Justice of God
14. Wrath of God

Each attribute is inseparably connected with all the other attributes. They are woven together to work in perfect unity with each other. None of them are in conflict with another.

We won't understand any of these fully. At best, our minds are like the hole in the sand, and we are spooning in one cup of ocean at a time.

- Augustine - "If you can comprehend it, it cannot be GOD."

**Surgeon General's Warning:** The bigger your view of GOD becomes the smaller your view of yourself will be.

## The Aseity of GOD (The Self-Existence)

GOD has all life in Himself. He's not dependent upon anyone or anything. We as His creatures are entirely dependent on Him. The life we have both physically and spiritually has been derived from Him. But GOD does not derive life from anyone or anything else. He is completely self-sufficient.

### BOOK

**Genesis 1:1** – *"In the beginning, GOD created the heavens and the earth."*

- Before creation, GOD was already in existence.

**Revelation 4:8** – *"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"* - He always was and always will be.

### LOOK

We all had a beginning. (See birth certificate)

- We can't fully imagine anything that always was and always will be.
- There was never a time when GOD did not exist.
- **Psalm 93:2** – *Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.*
- This is impossible to wrap our minds around.
- **Micah 5:2** – of Christ the Messiah – *...whose coming forth is from of old, from the days of eternity.* - Jesus stepped out of eternity and into time!

**R.C. Sproul** – "If anything exists, then something has always existed. If there was ever absolutely nothing, then nothing could possibly be now. Because you cannot get something out of nothing. Conversely, if there is something now, then that, in-and-of itself, demonstrates that there was always something. And that which always is exists in-and-of itself. That is the one who has the power of being within Himself, the Living GOD."

**Gen. 1:1** – *In the beginning, GOD...*

- GOD is uncreated. Uncaused. The uncreated creator. Self-existent.

**A.W. Pink** – “There was a time, if “time” it could be called, when GOD, in the unity of His nature (though subsisting equally in three divine persons), dwelt all alone. “In the beginning GOD.” There was no heaven, where His glory is now particularly manifested. There was no earth to engage His attention. There were no angels to hymn His praises; no universe to be upheld by the word of His power. There was nothing, no one, but GOD; and that, not for a day, a year, or an age, but “from everlasting.” During eternity past, GOD was alone: self-contained, self-sufficient, self-satisfied; in need of nothing.

“GOD was under no constrain, no obligation, no necessity to create. That He chose to do so was purely a sovereign act on His part. Caused by nothing outside of Himself, determined by nothing but His own mere good pleasure. For He works all things after the counsel of His will. That He did create was simply for His manifested glory.”

- He didn’t create us because He was lonely or had a need of anything.
- Nothing was ever given to Him compelling Him to owe something back.

### He Is The Source of All Things

**Colossians 1:17** – *And He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

**Rom 11:36** – *...from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever.*

- He’s the source of everything
- He is the means of all things
- He is the goal of all things.

**Overwhelmed?** Good. May it bring a humility as you recognize the distance between GOD and yourself.

Because He’s self-existent – not dependent on anyone or any source for His existence – all life comes of Himself. The basis of our life is derived from GOD.

- **John 1:4** – *In him was life, and the life was the light of men.*
- **John 11:25** – *I am the resurrection and the life*
- **Act 17:28** – *...in Him we live, move, and have our being...*
  - Therefore, to have Him is to have life.
  - Our most joyful and peaceful moments will be when we meditate, worship and take pleasure in our GOD. That’s what we’re created to do.

**1 Corinthians 8:6** – *...there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and **for whom** we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and **through whom** we exist.*

Everything He created was for His pleasure and His glory. **Have you been living what you were created for?** If not, you may feel an emptiness or a purposelessness. It's because you're not doing what you were created to do - like a telescope being used as a hammer. You were created to look up, to stand in awe, to study and worship what is greater than you, but you spend your days self-centeredly looking down driving nails. The repeated blows have cracked your lenses, misaligned your mirrors, and when you look through the viewer and only see blackness, you assume you must be a hammer.

What do we have which we owe Him? What of ours belongs to Him?

We owe Him everything. All we have is from Him, through Him, and for Him. All we are is created by Him and therefore created for the purpose of His glory. To depart from that purpose is to be a telescope acting as hammer.

## RECAP

- “What comes into our minds when we think of GOD is the most important thing about us.”
- The greater our view of GOD, the more genuine and perpetual our worship will be.
- Out of His grace and for His glory, He has revealed Himself to us.
- God is self-sufficient, eternally exists, and has all life in Himself.
- He created out of His sovereign will for His pleasure.
- All He creates is created for His glory.
- We are created for nothing less than to give Him glory.

## TOOK

Challenge: Plan a bible study this week with a friend and ask the question, “What does this teach us about God.”