

 Bible Study Fellowship®

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a vast, rolling desert landscape under a bright orange and yellow sky, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The terrain is composed of numerous small, rounded hills and valleys, creating a textured, undulating surface. The lighting is dramatic, with the sun low on the horizon, casting long, soft shadows and highlighting the contours of the land.

**KINGDOM DIVIDED**

# **EXPLORING GOD'S CHARACTER**

6 DEVOTIONALS THROUGH  
KINGDOM DIVIDED

## **Division. Dissension. A Kingdom Divided.**

In this devotional inspired by the BSF study People of the Promise: Kingdom Divided, we enter Israel's history in a long, dark, and desolate season. But it is not a season without hope.

After the creation in Genesis and miracles of Exodus, God settled His people in the land of Israel. But after their rise to prosperity in the reign of King David, the people of Israel abandoned their God. The kingdom divided after the reign of King Solomon and spiraled out of control.

But amid the chaos, God was faithful. Amid the people's sin and struggle, God's presence remained.

In this devotional, we will see God's character is unchanging – both then and today. Even in our darkest moments, God's redemptive plan is secure.

Through these devotions, we will focus on God's attributes, highlighting one characteristic each day. The selected scriptures and corresponding devotionals follow the narrative of God's chosen people, the nation of Israel, from the time of King Solomon through the time when the kingdom divided.

Separated into the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah, this time in Israel's history was dominated by kings that failed and kingdoms that fell. But through it all, we see time and time again that our God is faithful and faultless. In a crumbling culture, God prevailed.

Through these ancient Scriptures, we learn that when our world feels out of control, we can cling to our faithful God. Even when we fail, He remains faithful.

We hope this devotional will draw you near to the God who is the same yesterday, today, tomorrow, and forever.



## EXPLORING GOD'S CHARACTER

# Day One: God is Faithful

“But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend, I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, ‘You are my servant’; I have chosen you and have not rejected you.”

**Isaiah 41:8-9**

## Read

When you read the word “chosen,” what comes to mind?

In everyday life, we make calculated choices. We weigh the pros and cons and assess the benefits. We try to make the best choices with the most favorable outcomes.

So, when God said to the nation of Israel, “I have chosen you,” how did He choose? Did He list their accomplishments and honor their achievements? Absolutely not. God took a wandering people and built a powerful nation. He faithfully redeemed the weak and powerless, displaying His enduring love and faithfulness.

God’s choice is always rooted in His love and character, not ours. When we read Israel’s story in the Old Testament, we see some moments of Israel’s faith, but we see many more moments of their painful failure. Yet God remained faithful when His people were faithless. Though God’s chosen people repeatedly struggled with sin, He continued to draw them near and present opportunities for repentance. God was, and is, faithful.

When we read the words of Isaiah, “I have chosen you and have not rejected you,” these words tell us much more about God than they do about God’s people. Isaiah’s words declare that God is faithful. From Genesis to Revelation, God keeps His promises. He never wavers. His love knows no bounds.



## EXPLORING GOD'S CHARACTER

### Reflect

Consider this description of God's faithfulness from BSF's list of God's attributes:

*This entire list is included at the end of the devotional.*

God knows and loves each of His own. He will do all He has promised: care for and make strong; forgive and make new; protect and purify. From the beginning, He has had a plan to restore the world that sin broke, and God is faithful to His own plan. We know God is faithful because He sent His Son to the cross to keep His promise. Now nothing can separate God's people from His love. He is faithful to Himself and His Word. We can trust Him to keep all of His promises.

How have you experienced God's faithfulness and love in the past? Where do you need that reminder today?



## Day Two: God is Accessible

"The Spirit of God came on Azariah son of Oded. He went out to meet Asa and said to him, 'Listen to me, Asa and all Judah and Benjamin. The Lord is with you when you are with Him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.'"

**2 Chronicles 15:1-2**

### Read

2 Chronicles 1 begins with the reign of King Solomon. In verse 1:1 we read, "Solomon son of David established himself firmly over his kingdom, for the Lord his God was with him and made him exceedingly great." Under Solomon, the people prospered. But the more they prospered, the further they drifted from the Lord. Toward the end of Solomon's reign, he began to worship other gods. In 1 Kings 11:10-13, God warned of coming destruction and division as the people's hearts turned from the Lord. Finally, in 2 Chronicles 10, the kingdom split into two nations: the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.

During this time of division, we read about Asa, a king of Judah whose heart was "fully committed to the Lord." Unlike those before him, "Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God..." (1 Kings 15:11)

Asa was faithful in times of peace. But how would he respond in a crisis? The kings before him were quick to abandon the God of Judah. But in 2 Chronicles 14, when faced with "an army of thousands upon thousands," Asa prayed. In a beautiful and desperate plea, Asa called upon God.

"Lord, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, Lord our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this vast army. Lord, you are our God; do not let mere mortals prevail against you." (2 Chronicles 14:11)



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Judah's enemies were "crushed before the Lord," and again, God gave the people peace under King Asa.

From the very beginning, God has been accessible to His people. In Genesis, He met Adam and Eve in the garden. In Exodus, He dwelled with the Israelites. And in 2 Chronicles, He responded to the faithful prayers of desperate kings. Later in life, Asa faced another enemy army. In 2 Chronicles 16, he relied on his own strength rather than calling upon the Lord. Like Asa, we often forget just how accessible our God really is. We are tempted to rely on our own strength, only to discover our weakness. And in our weakest moments, God remains accessible. His character is not dependent on our performance. God consistently draws near to His people out of His love and eternal grace.

### **Reflect**

Consider this description of God's accessibility from BSF's list of God's attributes:

From the beginning when God made Adam and Eve, He was accessible, or near. In the covenants God made with the patriarchs, He promised to be in relationship with them always. Later God commanded the people to build the tabernacle so He could live among them. God made Himself even nearer to people when He became a man, the Lord Jesus Christ, the true tabernacle. Now He is accessible in the most intimate way possible. His Spirit lives in every believer. Whenever you pray, He hears you.

Reflect on your current circumstances. Whether you find yourself in a season of abundance or crisis, transition or stability, plenty or pain, how might God's accessibility encourage you to pray differently?



## Day Three: God is All Powerful

“Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

**1 Kings 18:37**

### Read

As Asa ruled in Judah, a series of disobedient kings led the Northern Kingdom of Israel through years of sin, violence, and hostile regime changes. Israel's leaders consistently ignored God's prophets, bringing judgment and despair. In the midst of this chaos, God spoke through the prophet Elijah.

Armed with God's Word, Elijah walked through an unbelieving world, relying on Almighty God to provide everything he needed. Elijah was a consistent voice, proclaiming God's truth in a culture that had abandoned the Lord. Hunted by kings and opposed by men, Elijah maintained his focus.

In 1 Kings 18, Elijah stood alone, proclaiming God's power as the people of Israel stood silent. Challenged by 450 prophets of Baal, Elijah boldly prayed, “Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.” In a miraculous show of strength, God sent fire from Heaven, establishing Himself as the One True God.

Too often, we are tempted to hide our faith. When the world around us feels oppressive, we can forget that God is bigger than any challenge we face. But God demonstrated His ultimate power and authority over sin and death by the resurrection of His Son, Jesus. Just as Elijah clung to God's Old Testament promises, we hold fast to the gospel today.

Elijah's faith encourages us to remember that our God is all powerful. He is mightier than our adversaries, stronger than our sicknesses, and



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sovereign over our rulers. He is our Creator, the Maker of Heaven and Earth. He is the Deliverer and Redeemer. Through Elijah's story, we are reminded that we are never alone in our struggles. The same God who sent fire from Heaven in 1 Kings 18 is the God who stands with His people today.

### **Reflect**

Consider this description of God's power from BSF's list of God's attributes:

God has unlimited power, authority and influence. He does all He wants and intends to do. God's powerful Word spoke creation into being from nothing. God is the source of all power whether atoms, energy, life or human strength and authority. Without God's power, everything would fall apart. His power holds the stars in the sky and sustains human lives. Nothing can stop God. Evil and death will not win. God has promised a day He will raise all His children to life that does not end, and God has the power to keep His promise.

What are your greatest concerns today? Do you believe that God is more powerful than your circumstances? Reflect on the ways God has shown His power to you in the past. Then ask God for faith like Elijah today.



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# Day Four: God is Provider

“The Lord said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.’ Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.”

**1 Kings 19:11-12**

## Read

When Elijah prayed in 1 Kings 18, God sent fire from Heaven. The people humbled themselves in worship, but Israel’s leaders refused to honor God. Instead, they sought to silence Elijah. With his life in danger, “Elijah was afraid and ran for his life...” (1 Kings 19:3)

Desperate and alone, Elijah prayed, “I have had enough, Lord. Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” (1 Kings 19:4) In response, God met Elijah’s physical needs through an angel, providing food and rest. Afterwards, God met Elijah’s spiritual needs. If 1 Kings 18 displayed God’s power, 1 Kings 19 shows His tenderness as Provider. By speaking in a “gentle whisper,” God revealed yet another aspect of His perfect character.

Many of us can relate to Elijah’s exhausted cry. In our desperation, we pray, “Lord, I have had enough!” But just as God provided for Elijah, God is gracious to us today.

He uses the calamities of life to reveal our desperate need for Him. He reminds us He is strong, but we are not; we have no control, but He is sovereignly in control.



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During our most difficult hours, God is present, providing everything He knows we need. He hears our cries of exhaustion and patiently receives our prayers.

And when we listen, we hear Him speak. Because God understands our human limitations and weaknesses, He doesn't condemn or speak harshly to His hurting children. Like Elijah, when we stand in the presence of the Lord, we are assured that He is near.

### **Reflect**

Consider this description of God as Provider from BSF's list of God's Attributes:

God provides for every creature He has made. He feeds the birds and gives us our daily bread. We do not have strength or goodness of our own but God gives it to us generously. He provides a way out of temptation and protects us from evil. God's greatest gift is His Son. Because He gave us His Son, we can trust Him to give us everything else we need.

Elijah's story reminds us that God graciously invites us to pour our hearts and hurts out to Him. It reminds us to look for how He's providing and listen to what He's whispering in our pain. Like Elijah, when has God faithfully provided for you? In what current circumstance do you need to hear His gentle voice?

## Day Five: God is Savior

“Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

2 Chronicles 20:12

### Read

What do we do when we face a crisis?

In 2 Chronicles 20:2, Judah’s king, Jehoshaphat, received a warning that “A vast army is coming against you...” Instead of relying on his own strength or allies, verse 3 says, “Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord...”

In his prayer, Jehoshaphat recounted God’s mighty salvation of the past and asked for God to preserve Judah in the present. He admitted his weakness before the Lord and set his eyes on the One who saves.

The life of Jehoshaphat teaches us that when crisis comes, we must fight with prayer. We must not get busy trying to fix things in our own strength or give up. Instead, we must fall to our knees and cry out to God. Instead of thinking we can save ourselves, we must recognize we are weak and our mighty Savior is the only One who can truly save us.

Anytime we are alarmed or anxious, we can pray 2 Chronicles 20:12, “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.” Safe in the confidence that God hears our prayers, we can rest in God’s response to Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20:15, “Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.”



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### Reflect

Consider this description of God as Savior from BSF's list of God's attributes:

God reaches down and rescues sinners from the penalty of death and hell that our sin deserves. We have no power to save ourselves from sin because we are dead in our sin. God has planned from eternity past to save His children fully from sin – from its penalty, power and presence. He sent His Son to live the perfect life we cannot live and die in our place for our sin. On the cross, Jesus satisfied God's full wrath against our sin. Therefore, Jesus saves completely from the penalty of sin. God has no punishment left for His children. Jesus saves His children from sin's power. He gives us new desires and a new ability to fight sin through the power of the Holy Spirit. One day, our Savior will free us from the presence of sin when we see Him face to face.

Take a moment to review Jehoshaphat's prayer in 2 Chronicles 20:6-12. With this in mind, reflect on who God is and how He has saved you in the past. How can this help you set your eyes on God today? Respond to God in prayer, praising Him as Savior and presenting your requests before Him.

## Day Six: God is Gracious

“All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations.”

Isaiah 65:2

### Read

Imagine standing in a burning building, and you were the one who lit the match. With nowhere to turn, you cry out for help. When first responders arrive, how would you react? Would you sit among the flames, choosing destruction, or would you run for rescue into the arms of a savior?

After the Kingdom of Israel divided, chaos dominated Israel's history. Through the prophets, God warned of coming judgment, but the people refused to repent. Yet, in His grace, God drew near to His people. His arms were outstretched, offering a way of escape. The solution was simple. God urged, “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.” (Isaiah 30:15)

Instead of seeking refuge in repentance, the people “would have none of it.” Eventually, both the Northern Kingdom of Israel and Southern Kingdom of Judah fell to foreign armies. The Israelites were left in exile, surrounded by the ashes of their former glory.

This period in Israel's history can be painful to read. But it serves as a helpful reminder for us today. Romans 15:4 tells us, “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.”

So, where is the hope in Israel's exile? God did not abandon His people; their history did not end in hopelessness, but with the coming of a Savior. The failed kings and fallen kingdoms paved the way for the certainty of an eternal King and His perfect kingdom. We hope in a God who is eternally



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gracious. Even today, He continues to extend mercy to those who call upon Him for rescue. In Jesus, we find eternal salvation. In the Holy Spirit, we find comfort and guidance. And in the Father, we cling to the One whose grace knows no bounds.

Yet, even after we are fully saved by grace, at times we find ourselves trapped by our own sin and shame. We want to seek the Lord fully but continue to obstinately “pursue our own imaginations.” What can we do when the world around us seems to be burning? We abandon our pride, confess our sins, and run into the arms of our Gracious Father.

Like the Israelites, we can never earn God’s grace, but we can accept it. Through Isaiah, God’s beautiful words of hope bring comfort, “to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes...” (Isaiah 61:3a) The words of the prophets reveal God’s true character. And through Israel’s history, we discover God’s endless grace and promise of restoration.

### **Reflect**

Consider this description of God as gracious from BSF’s list of God’s attributes:

Grace is God’s kindness to those who do not deserve it. God is slow to anger and longs to forgive people. God’s grace in salvation reaches out powerfully to sinful people and makes them alive in Christ when they were dead in sin. God shows grace to all people. He gives life, families, sunshine, rain, music, talents, etc., as good gifts even to people who do not love Him.

When have you experienced God’s endless grace? Where are you currently struggling to surrender your pride or sin? When we repent before a gracious God, we discover a deeply rooted joy in His forgiveness. Repentance draws us into the arms of our Heavenly Father. To end, reflect on God’s grace and run to Him in repentance. Experience the gift of a gracious God who is holding His hands out to you today.



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As we close our devotional, use the list of attributes included as inspiration for future study. Whether you are reading Genesis, the Minor Prophets, or the Epistles, you can continue to explore God's unchanging character. The more we know about God, the more we want to seek Him. And the more we seek Him, the more we love Him. Through God's attributes, we can draw near to the God who remains the same yesterday, today, tomorrow, and forever.

# Attributes of God

## Accessible

From the beginning when God made Adam and Eve, He was accessible, or near. In the covenants God made with the patriarchs, He promised to be in relationship with them always. Later God commanded the people to build the tabernacle so He could live among them. God made Himself even nearer to people when He became a man, the Lord Jesus Christ, the true tabernacle. Now He is accessible in the most intimate way possible. His Spirit lives in every believer. Whenever you pray, He hears you.

## Creator

There was never a time when God did not exist. Before there was anything at all, even time, God existed. No one made God. God made everything, from the tiniest subatomic particle to the farthest galaxy in the universe. Everything came from God, what we can see and what we cannot see – heaven, angels and the whole spiritual realm. He spoke and all these things came into existence. God alone is able to bring something out of nothing.

## Eternal

God exists outside of time. He is not measured by anything. We measure time by the movement of the planets and stars, which God created. God has always been and always will be. No one is like Him. Because God is eternal, He can give us eternal life.



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### **Faithful**

God knows and loves each of His own. He will do all He has promised: care for and make strong; forgive and make new; protect and purify. From the beginning, He has had a plan to restore the world that sin broke, and God is faithful to His own plan. We know God is faithful because He sent His Son to the cross to keep His promise. Now nothing can separate God's people from His love. He is faithful to Himself and His Word. We can trust Him to keep all of His promises.

### **Father**

As the Creator, God sustains and provides for all He has made, but He is the Father only of those who believe in His Son Jesus Christ. He gives us His Spirit, adopts us into His family and makes us His children. He has a loving relationship that lasts forever with every believer. He speaks to us personally through His Word the Bible, and we speak to Him in prayer. Even the best human father has flaws but God is always good, wise and loving. God loves, protects, cares for, trains and disciplines His children.

### **Glory**

God's glory is the total of all His attributes. God displayed His glory in the beauty and wisdom of His creation. Throughout history, God has revealed His glory to His people through His power, mercy, grace, judgment, holiness, love and every other attribute. In the Old Testament God was symbolically present with His people in the glory cloud. This cloud, known as the Shekinah glory, guided His people in the wilderness and filled the tabernacle and later the temple. The Lord Jesus Christ reveals God's glory completely.

### **Good**

We see God's goodness in His love and faithfulness. All of God's ways are righteous. He is good to all people. God's blessing is His goodness to us personally. God is compassionate. He satisfies those in need. He offers hope, refuge and care to all who come to Him. God's children experience His goodness even when bad things happen. God promises to make all things work together for our good.



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### **Gracious**

Grace is God's kindness to those who do not deserve it. God is slow to anger and longs to forgive people. God's grace in salvation reaches out powerfully to sinful people and makes them alive in Christ when they were dead in sin. God shows grace to all people. He gives life, families, sunshine, rain, music, talents, etc., as good gifts even to people who do not love Him.

### **Guide**

God leads us in the way we should go. His Word teaches us how we are to live and think. Because God gives His children the Holy Spirit, they recognize His voice and follow Him. We can trust God to lead us in the right way. Without God's guidance, we stumble and fall like people in the dark.

### **Holy**

God is high and lifted up. He is set apart from His creation. Our English word "holy" is from the same root word as "whole." God is whole – perfect in goodness and righteousness. No one is like God. Even God's holy angels tremble in reverent worship before Him. God sets apart His children for Himself and commands us to be holy as He is holy. Being holy makes you whole, what God intended you to be.

### **Immutable**

God does not change. We can count on Him always to be holy, always to be good, always to be faithful, always to love us, always to hate sin. God's Word is like Him; it does not change. We can count on His promises. Because God never changes, we can trust Him always.

### **Impartial**

God saves people regardless of what they have done or will do. He saves people who have families in church and people who do not. He saves people who are rich and those who are poor. He saves people who are smart and those who are not smart. He is always fair. There is nothing



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anyone can do to force God's hand, or put God in their debt. God will always do right by every person, in every situation. No one will be able to blame God for His judgments.

### **Incomprehensible**

We cannot understand God's thoughts and ways. God is infinite and eternal; He knows all things. God made human beings in His image, but we are finite and flawed by sin. In heaven, we will be perfect. However, we will still not know all there is to know about God because we will always be finite. We can understand all we need to know about God because He has given us His Word and His Spirit.

### **Infinite**

God has no beginning and no end; He has always existed and He always will. This is why God declared His name to be "I AM." God IS. God also has no 'size.' There is no place that can contain God because God has no limits of any kind. There is no way to measure God, for everything that God is, is limitless. God's power has no limits. God's knowledge has no limits. God's love has no limits. God the Father, Son and Spirit are all the same: infinite.

### **Invisible**

God is Spirit, and we cannot see spirit. We cannot see Him or feel Him physically, just as we cannot see or feel sound waves, light waves, energy and atoms. However, God has made Himself visible through the Person of Jesus Christ. We can experience Jesus' presence with us now, and we will see Him when He returns.

### **Jealous**

God's jealousy is one of protective love. The Lord seals every believer to Himself through the Holy Spirit. Unlike human beings, God does not experience feelings of insecurity, fear and anxiety about His relationship with people. He is righteously angry when His children choose to devote their time and attention to lesser things. When God's children turn their backs on Him, He pursues them.



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### **Just**

God's justice is perfect. His decisions are always based on His righteous character. God cannot ignore sin because He is holy. It would be unjust to ignore wickedness, rebellion and sin. God is just and does not show favoritism. Every penalty will be fair and right. God does not treat His children as their sins deserve because Jesus suffered the full punishment for our sins. Because God is just, He will never punish His children for the sin for which Jesus paid on the cross.

### **Love**

God has always been love. Before He created the world the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit loved one another. God's love never fails. God loves the world. He showed His love by sending His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as Savior. When we receive His Son as our Savior, we can love God.

### **Merciful**

God in His mercy does not give us what our sins deserve. He limits the extent of pain. He restrains evil and holds back sin. He makes His gospel known in places where people have turned their backs on Him. God seeks those who are lost, alone, hurting and in need. He forgives and restores those who repent and turn to Him in faith.

### **Omnipotent (all-powerful)**

God has unlimited power, authority and influence. He does all He wants and intends to do. God's powerful Word spoke creation into being from nothing. God is the source of all power whether atoms, energy, life or human strength and authority. Without God's power, everything would fall apart. His power holds the stars in the sky and sustains human lives. Nothing can stop God. Evil and death will not win. God has promised a day He will raise all His children to life that does not end, and God has the power to keep His promise.

### **Omnipresent (everywhere)**

God is present everywhere. There is nowhere in the physical universe where God is not. There is nowhere in the spiritual world where God is



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not. God is with His children no matter where they are. Satan can only be in one place at a time, but God is present everywhere at all times.

### **Omniscient (all-knowing)**

God is never surprised. He knows all there is to know. Nothing is hidden from God. God knows the past and the future; He knows every person even before we are born. He knows the number of our days and all the plans He has for us. He knows what every person thinks, feels, says and does. Only God knows the choices people would make if their circumstances were different. Therefore, we can trust God to judge perfectly. Only God knows all things.

### **Patient**

God is patient. He could put an end to human rebellion immediately, but God has pity on people whose lives are broken by sin. He loves His creation. His plan is to restore creation and reconcile repentant sinners to Himself. Today is the day of salvation, but one day God will come to judge all people.

### **Perfect**

Everything God is, does and says, all His attributes, His revelation, and His works, are completely free of fault or defect. Because God is unchanging and faithful, the measure of perfection begins with God. What God wills is good and perfect; His ways are flawless; His judgments are upright; His Word is without error. Therefore, everything God is, does or says is right, including His Word in Scripture.

### **Person**

God is a person. God is not an idea or an impersonal force. Like us, He has identity and personality. He is one being in three persons. God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and all work together to accomplish our salvation. As a person, God has a mind and a will, and He communicates. God made people in His image with a mind and a will and the ability to communicate. He speaks to us through His Word, the Bible, and we speak to Him through prayer.



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### **Preserver**

When we trust Christ, we can know that God will continue the good work He started in us. God preserves our lives for His purpose, and He preserves our salvation. Jesus promised that no one can take you out of God's hand. No temptation, no failure, no person, not even Satan can cause God's children to lose their salvation. God preserves us so He will accomplish His purpose for us because He is our preserver.

### **Provider**

God provides for every creature He has made. He feeds the birds and gives us our daily bread. We do not have strength or goodness of our own but God gives it to us generously. He provides a way out of temptation and protects us from evil. God's greatest gift is His Son. Because He gave us His Son, we can trust Him to give us everything else we need.

### **Righteous**

God is right in all He does. He has always been right and always will be right. All of His words and actions are right. All of His plans are right. God has no sin and is positively perfect. God never lies. He is fair, just and faithful in all He does. We never need to wonder whether God is right, so we can trust God when we do not understand. We do not always see God's righteousness in the world today, but He has promised that His righteousness will prevail. Because God is righteous, He expects us to be righteous. Even the best person cannot be perfectly righteous. But God sees His children as clothed with Christ's righteousness!

### **Savior**

God reaches down and rescues sinners from the penalty of death and hell that our sin deserves. We have no power to save ourselves from sin because we are dead in our sin. God has planned from eternity past to save His children fully from sin – from its penalty, power and presence. He sent His Son to live the perfect life we cannot live and die in our place for our sin. On the cross, Jesus satisfied God's full wrath against our sin. Therefore, Jesus saves completely from the penalty of sin. God has no punishment left for His children. Jesus saves His children from sin's



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power. He gives us new desires and a new ability to fight sin through the power of the Holy Spirit. One day, our Savior will free us from the presence of sin when we see Him face to face.

### **Sovereign**

God controls all things. There is nothing that is outside of God's wise control, even the exact time and place for each person to live. No one tells God what to do. What God plans, happens. No event, no natural disaster, no person, not even Satan, can stop God's plans. When God permits evil, we can trust He has planned to use it for His people's good and His glory. God planned the time for His Son to come the first time and a time for His Son to return. God will accomplish His plan because He alone has power to do it.

### **Wise**

God is not simply all knowing. He always uses His knowledge to do exactly what is right. God's Word is full of His wisdom. Both His plan of redemption and His creation are perfectly wise. Science is still discovering the riches of God's wisdom. The order of an atom displays God's wisdom. Mathematics and music are possible because they were first in God's mind. God is wise in how He put people in families and families in communities and communities in nations. God is wise in the plan He has for each of His children individually. All wisdom comes from God. To be wise we must seek Him.



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