

FOUNDATION OF FAITH!
GOD THE FATHER
PART 2

This morning we will continue our study of God the Father in our series on Foundation of Faith! In our last study we looked at the existence of God the Father and our focus this morning will be on the attributes of God. Now I realize that some of you may be wondering why we even need to know this, but I do feel it is very important. Let me share this story with you and then I will explain why it is important that we understand who God the Father is. We are told:

One day, while my son Zac and I were out in the country, climbing around in some cliffs, I heard a voice from above me yell, “Hey Dad! Catch me!” I turned around to see Zac joyfully jumping off a rock straight at me. He had jumped and then yelled “Hey Dad!” I became an instant circus act, catching him. We both fell to the ground. For a moment after I caught him I could hardly talk.

When I found my voice again I gasped in exasperation: “Zac! Can you give me one good reason why you did that”?

He responded with remarkable calmness: “Sure . . . because you’re my Dad.” His whole assurance was based in the fact that his father was trustworthy. He could live life to the hilt because I could be trusted. Isn’t this even more true for a Christian?

- Holy Sweat, Tim Hansel, 1987, Word Books Publisher, pp. 46-47

You see, the more you know God the Father, the more you understand who He is and what His attributes are, the more you will be able to trust Him. It is hard to trust someone that you don't know. A. W. Tozer, in his classic book, *The Knowledge of the Holy* deals with the attributes of God and why they are important for us to know. Please listen to what he has to say because if we don't have a correct understanding of God then it will affect everything we do. Tozer wrote:

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

The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man's spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God. Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God.

For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous [arrogant] fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God. This is true not only of the individual Christian, but of the company of Christians that composes the Church. Always the most revealing thing about the Church is her idea of God, just as her most significant message is what she says about Him or leaves unsaid, for her silence is often more eloquent than her speech. She can never escape the self-disclosure of her witness concerning God.

Were we able to extract from any man a complete answer to the question, “What comes into your mind when you think about God?” we might predict with certainty the spiritual future of that man. Were we able to know exactly what our most influential religious leaders think of God today, we might be able with some precision to foretell where the Church will stand tomorrow.

Without a doubt, the mightiest thought the mind can entertain is the thought of God, and the weightiest word in any language is its word for God. Thought and speech are God’s gifts to creatures made in His image; these are intimately associated with Him and impossible apart from Him. . . .

Before the Christian Church goes into eclipse anywhere there must first be a corrupting of her simple basic theology. She simply gets a wrong answer to the question, “What is God like?” and goes on from there. Though she may continue to cling to a sound nominal creed, her practical working creed has become false. The masses of her adherents come to believe that God is different from what He actually is; and that is heresy of the most insidious and deadly kind.

The heaviest obligation lying upon the Christian Church today is to purify and elevate her concept of God until it is once more worthy of Him – and of her. In all her prayers and labors this should have first place. We do the greatest service to the next generation of Christians by passing on to them undimmed and undiminished that noble concept of God which we received from our Hebrew and Christian fathers of past generations. This will prove of greater value to them than anything that art or science can devise.

- A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, pp. 1-2, 4

I know that was a little long, but it is very important that we understand this because the concept of God has changed over the years and that is not a good thing. I realize again that some of you might not agree with me, but take a look at the September 2010 issue of the magazine, “Christianity Today” and on the cover is Jesus with sun glasses on and the article is called “Hipster Faith.” The interesting thing to me is that Jesus is on the outside of the church knocking to get in. Now I think what they are saying is that churches like ours are out of date and Jesus is knocking to get in and make us hip! Really?

Brett McCracken is the author of a book called *Hipster Christianity: When Church and Cool Collide* and he works at Biola University in Los Angeles. And if you don’t believe that this article is bad, just look at the cover picture, I will have it on the web page because it is so misleading about the picture they paint about the God we serve and tragically, many are following down this path. It is a path that denies the holiness of God, His attributes, who He is and thus, it is reflected in the way people live out their so-called faith. And make no mistake about it, this article and book are nothing more than Emerging Church propaganda but again, listen to what they focus on and thus, their concept of God is askew because of it. He wrote in this article in *Christianity Today*:

Hipster Christianity also expresses itself theologically, through preaching that often emphasizes covenantal and “new creation” ideas and attempts to construct a more ecclesiological or community-centric view of salvation. Things like soul-winning and going to heaven are downplayed in favor of the notion that heaven will come down to earth and renew the broken creation. Thus, the world matters. It’s not a piece of rotting kindling that we will abandon for heaven one day. It’s the site of a renewed kingdom. All of this informs hipster Christianity’s attention to things like social justice, environmentalism, and the arts, because if God is building his kingdom on earth, then it all matters.

- Brett McCracken, *Hipster Christianity: When Church and Cool Collide*, Baker, 2010



Keep in mind that what A. W. Tozer wrote about losing the concept of who God is almost 50 years ago and since the warning was not heeded, we have Jesus walking around with a pair of sunglasses and a cane being hip and not holy! Thus, as I have said, I believe it is very important that we understand who God the Father is, what His attributes are. You see, if we just make up what God is like in our own minds what we have done is created an idol. When people speak of God today, there are many different ideas of who God is, what He is like and to tell you the truth, I don't care what they have to say. And for that matter, it doesn't matter what I have to say about God if it is coming from the imagination of my heart. The only source of truth we have about God is found in the Word of God, the Bible! And I think God knows exactly who He is and He is telling us so we can have that deeper relationship with Him, we can learn to trust Him no matter what we are going through!

Now as we look at the attributes of God we are going to start out by looking at the *Natural Attributes of God* and then we will focus on the *Moral Attributes of God*. And as you will see, by the time we conclude this section, you will know who God the Father is and He is not what some are calling a "Hipster" but He is **HOLY!**

1. NATURAL ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

A. OMNISCIENCE (ALL-KNOWLEDGE)

The first attribute of God that we are going to look at is His Omniscience or that God is all knowing! The idea here is that God cannot learn anything because He already has total knowledge of everything! Thus, you can't hide anything from God because He already knows what you will do before you even do it!

Let's look at a few Scriptures to show you what I mean. In Job 37:16 we are told, **“Do you know how the clouds are balanced, Those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge?”** God is perfect in knowledge and again, He does not have to learn anything because He knows all!

Not only is God perfect in knowledge, but also He knows all things, all events that will come to pass, He knows them before they even happen. In Isaiah 42:9 we are told, **“Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them.”** Only God can do this in spite of what those that say they can predict the future. The reality is, they do get it right once in a while, but for the most part their predictions are so vague that they can fit anything or they don't come to pass. And think about it, even a blind squirrel finds a nut once in a while!

Now we see in Isaiah 44:6-7 God give them a challenge to speak forth what is going to happen before it happens and when God does it, He is 100% accurate and He is not vague but very specific. I will explain that in a minute but listen to what the Lord said here in Isaiah, **“Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them.’”**

I want to give you one example to show you how specific God is when He tells us what is going to happen, what the future holds and this is only one out of several hundred predictions in the Bible. In Micah 5:2 we are told, **“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”** This is speaking of the coming Messiah and where He is to be born, the eternal God becoming flesh and born in Bethlehem. How do I know that this is speaking of the eternal God? Because it says that He is **“from everlasting”** or beyond the vanishing point! And what I really want you to notice is His birthplace because God is very specific here.

You see, the Messiah, the eternal God, was going to become flesh and blood, born in the city of Bethlehem and specifically Bethlehem Ephrathah! God specifically pointed out which Bethlehem the Messiah was to be born in – not the one in Zebulun (Joshua 19:15) but the one in Judah, Bethlehem Ephrathah, some 6 miles from Jerusalem! Do you see how specific God is when He tells us what will take place in the future, down to the smallest detail because He knows all things and nothing is a surprise to Him! He doesn't say, “On a hill that has trees, overlooking a land, by the road that travels north and south, the sun will rise from the east and set in the west, there someone will be born!” No, when God tells us something that is going to happen in the future, He is very specific!

God also knows what is in our heart. We are told in I Samuel 16:7 as Samuel is going to anoint the next king in Israel from the sons of Jesse and Samuel was looking at the sons of Jesse that were tall, dark and handsome, someone who looked like a king, **“But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’”** The Lord looks at the heart because He knows what is in each of us, there are no surprises for God as I have said!

We are also told in Psalm 139:1-4, **“O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.”** God knows everything about us and yet, He still loves us, and what a comfort that is to me and it should be to you!

In the New Testament Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:7-8, **“And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.”** Again, that makes sense if God knows everything He will know what we need before we even ask Him. Then why should we pray? Because as we pray and God answers those prayers, He will get the glory and we won't think like some, that it was just good luck or whatever!

And lastly, in Matthew 10:29-30 Jesus said, “**Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.**” How many of you know how many hairs you have on your head, and if you are bald, that does not count? None of us do but God does and for some of you, God has to do some very quick calculations as your hair is going south! But He knows that insignificant detail because God is aware of everything that is happening and He knows these things before it even happens because God is Omniscient or He knows everything! ***THE ALL-KNOWING GOD – HE IS OMNISCIENT!***

B. OMNIPRESENCE (HE IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE)

The next attribute of God that we are going to look at is that He is Omnipresent or that God transcends all space and spatial limitations, thus He is present everywhere, not diffused through the universe, but present everywhere! Another hard concept for us to understand but it is what the Bible teaches and thus, we must believe it by faith!

First of all the Scriptures teach us that the universe cannot contain God. We are told in I Kings 8:27 as Solomon was dedicating the temple, “**But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!**”

Now in saying this don't think that I am teaching a pantheistic viewpoint here. What is Pantheism? Pantheism is the view that God is everything and everyone and that everyone and everything is God. Pantheism is similar to polytheism (the belief in many gods), but goes beyond polytheism to teach that everything is God. A tree is God, a rock is God, an animal is God, the sky is God, the sun is God, you are God, etc. Pantheism is the supposition or belief behind many cults and false religions (e.g., Hinduism and Buddhism to an extent, the various unity and unification cults, and "mother nature" worshippers). That is not at all what I am saying or what the Scriptures are teaching. You see, His presence fills the universe and it cannot contain God!

We are told in 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?'"** God fills all things, His presence is everywhere and that does not mean He is divided up!

In Psalm 139:7-10 David tells us, **"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."**

David is saying that no matter where he goes, no matter how good his hiding place is, even in the pitch darkness, God is there and he sees him. Folk's, like David, there is no place you can go to get away from God because His presence fills the universe! In fact, you can't hide anything from Him. Hebrews 4:13 expounds on this idea, as Paul tells us, **“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”**

And let me give you one more. In Acts 7:47-50, as Stephen is giving a defense for his faith in Christ we are told, **“But Solomon built Him a house. ‘However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: “Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the Lord, Or what is the place of My rest? Has My hand not made all these things?”’”**

Stephen's point is that God is bigger than any temple. Yes, the temple was a symbol of God's presence, but like back then, we make it a prison for Him to dwell in. We need to keep that perspective of God in our lives, that He is always with us, for without that perspective, we resort to idols to try and obtain it and that is always destructive, idols don't draw us to the true and living God, they drive us away!

And so, as we have seen, our God is Omnipresent or His presence fills the universe! ***THE EVER PRESENT GOD – HE IS OMNIPRESENT!***

C. OMNIPOTENT (HE IS ALL-POWERFUL)

The next attribute of God is that He is Omnipotent or that He is all-powerful. We are told in Jeremiah 32 that, **“Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You. . . . Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?”** Jeremiah 32:17, 27.

It is good to have a proper perspective of God. He created the heavens and the earth, He is the God of all flesh and thus, there is nothing that is too hard for God! Now in saying that there are those who claim that if there is anything that God cannot do, then God cannot be omnipotent and therefore, if that is true then God really does not exist. The atheist love to make this claim and they will use all kinds of things to try to prove their point.

Some of the things they will say to refute that God is omnipotent and thus there is no God are things like this: Can God create a rock that He cannot lift? Or can God create a spherical triangle? Maybe, can God think of a time when He was not omnipotent? Now from a surface look at those questions, it does sound convincing but when you really look at the questions, they are foolish.

It would be like me asking you this question, “Have you stopped beating your wife?” Now if you say “NO!” that would mean you are still beating your wife! But if you said “YES!” that would mean you were beating your wife!

Let me end this foolishness by telling you this. There are things that God cannot do and it does not make Him less than all-powerful, it does not diminish the fact that He is God. Now before you get upset at me, let me explain and you will see what I mean when I say there are things that God cannot do!

First of all it is impossible for God to lie! In Hebrews 6:17-18 Paul tells us, **“Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 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.”**

Here’s the thing. If we do take an oath we swear by that which is greater we don’t swear by something that is lesser. For example, in court we swear on the Bible not on our mother’s grave! And when God makes an oath He swears upon His own name because there is nothing higher for Him to swear by. Thus, when God takes an oath and swears by His name, He is going to do it, you can count on it.

Thus, we have this hope, the promises of God because God has made an oath and He can’t lie or go back on His Word as I have said. We can have this hope as we take refuge in God’s promises, they are that certain. And as you trust in God, as you trust in His promises it will dispel fear, discouragement as our life is anchored in the promises of God. That is why Satan loves to twist the Word of God; he loves to see us fearful, discouraged, to doubt God’s promises to us. Don’t let him! We can trust in what God has said because ***GOD CANNOT LIE!*** That is one thing that God cannot do!

Another thing that God cannot do is God cannot change. And we will deal with this more in a few minutes but just a few verses to show you what I mean. We are told in Malachi 3:6, “**For I am the Lord, I do not change . . .**” And in Hebrews 13:8 we are told, “**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**” Now many will believe that God cannot change and if you do, then the next thing that God cannot do should not surprise you but I will tell you that many will not like it.

God cannot let sinners into heaven! I know, that is hard for many to accept and the reality is, one sin will keep you out of heaven and thus, all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God! If you don’t believe me on this one, listen to what Jesus said to Nicodemus in John chapter 3, “**. . . ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. . . . Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’**” John 3:3, 5.

Now, as bad as that is, and it is, Jesus also tells us the way to heaven, “**. . . ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’**” John 14:6. You see, the forgiveness of sin is only found in Christ and thus, unless a person comes to Him, repenting of his sin and asking Jesus to be his Lord and Savior, he will die in his sins and not enter into heaven because God cannot let sinners into heaven!

And we can go on but I think you get the picture. God cannot do things that go contrary to His nature, who He is. That does not make Him a lesser God or negate Him from being God. Thus, when we speak of God being omnipotent it doesn't mean that God can do all things because God cannot do anything that is contrary to His holy character! So the argument that some atheists make is foolish in regards to God not being able to do some things, He can't and it doesn't negate Him from being God!

Let's look at a few more examples at God being Omnipotent or all-powerful. If you think about it, Genesis 1:1 illustrates to us that God is Omnipotent as we are told, **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”**

Now when we read the word **“created”** in the English, we miss what the Hebrew is really saying. You see, this is very important for us to understand here. The Hebrew word that is used here in Genesis 1:1 is BARA and it means to bring into existence something out of nothing and only God can do that. Man can “make” things or ASAH in Hebrew, or “form” things or YATSAR in Hebrew but he can't make the materials out of nothing and bring them together to form something, only God can do that. Man can take and form existing materials into more complex things but that is as far as it can go. So, in the beginning God created out of nothing all the material for the heavens and the earth and He will then assemble them together as you read on in Genesis chapter 1. That tells me God is all-powerful if He can created out of nothing, everything!

And notice what we are told in Psalm 115:3 about God, **“But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.”** Now for those that reject God, this is a hard one for them to swallow, but just because they don’t agree with it doesn’t negate the fact that God does what He pleases, He is not under the control of anyone! Now that can be scary if we didn’t know the moral attributes of our God, that He is holy, that He is good, that He is righteous and-so-on. Thus, because of that, and we will look at those moral attributes next time, we can rest assured that whatever God does it will be what is perfect. We don’t have to worry, be afraid, fret, because only what is good comes from the Father of lights and that never changes, there is no variation to it James 1:17 tells us!

Now we also need to keep in mind that when God does something, He is not like us. Let me give you an example. When I go and do yard work, say cut the grass, I am expending energy, I get tired. When God created the heavens and earth He did not expend or lose any energy, He does not get tired at all. We are told in Isaiah 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.”** Again, that is something that we need to understand about our God, nothing is too difficult for Him to do nor does He get tired when He does something, even creating the heavens and the earth!

A good perspective of this is given to us in Psalm 33:6-11 where the Psalmist tells us, **“By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.”**

As we look at creation and what God has done, it should cause us to fear the Lord. For those that know the Lord, there should be that reverential fear, respectful of who He is, reverent of Him. On the other hand, for those that don't know Him, they should fear Him because they will face His judgment, they will stand before the creator of heaven and earth and have to explain why they rejected the free gift of life that is found in Christ and are standing in their own righteousness before a holy and righteous God!

Just a few examples now in the New Testament to show you that God is all-powerful. In Matthew 19:26 we are told, **“With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”** Specifically here Jesus is speaking of salvation and that apart from Him it is impossible. By human efforts no one can be saved. I don't care how much you work and strive and do this and do that, by our own efforts it is impossible! But God can and has provided us a way, and that is through Jesus.

Peter tells us, **“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”** I Peter 3:18. You see, with God it is not only possible, it can be a reality if you receive Him. It is possible that God can save even you because He has saved me!

Also, in Colossians 1:16-17 we are told, **“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.”**

Yes, this is speaking of Jesus here and not specifically of the Father but you will see as we move on in our studies that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are working together and as Jesus said, if we have seen Jesus then we have seen the Father. Thus, God created *ALL* things and by Him all things **“consist”** or are held together by Him. There is Coulomb’s Law of Electricity that states that like charges repel each other. The atom is made up of protons in its nucleus and they are like charges.

Thus, they should repel each other, blow the atom apart, but they don’t, why is that? Scientists don’t know the answer, they have made many speculations and they do know that something is holding them together, like “atomic glue” but they are not sure what that is. I know the answer! Maybe they will give to me the Nobel Prize for science for this, what do you think? I doubt it because the answer is that God is holding them together and they don’t accept God, they don’t believe in God and thus, it is atomic glue for now that is holding everything together!

Do you know what is going to happen when Jesus lets go? We don't have to guess because Peter tells us in II Peter 3:10-13, **“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”** An atomic explosion!

And so, I think we can clearly see that God is all-powerful, He can do anything He wants that does not go against His nature, who He is, but that does not make Him less than God or take away the fact that He is God! **THE ALL-POWERFUL GOD – HE IS OMNIPOTENT!**

D. ETERNAL (NO BEGINNING AND NO END)

Then next natural attribute of God that we are going to look at is that He is eternal or that God has no beginning and He has no end! Now that is difficult for us to understand because everything has a beginning and everything has an end. Thus, how can this be? Folk's, there are many things that I don't understand that I believe by faith, and I am not speaking about God here. I don't understand a lot about electricity except that at times, it can be shocking! But even though I may not understand all the details about electricity, I still believe in it and I use electricity every day by faith!

The same is true about God. How can we with our finite or limited minds understand completely an infinite God? We can't and thus, what we can do is look at what the Scriptures say and believe it by faith even though we might not fully understand it. And what the Scriptures tell us about God is that He is eternal, He transcends or goes beyond all time, He has no temporal limitations and thus, He is infinite with respect to time. Let's look at a few Scriptures so you will see what I mean.

Here are a few Psalms that show us that God is eternal, that He has always been and will always be. In Psalm 90:2 we are told, **"Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."** In the Hebrew it speaks of God being in existence, "From the vanishing point to the vanishing point." A difficult concept to understand, and yet God is saying that as far back as you go, He has existed. On the other side, as far forwards you go, He exists. He is eternal; He is not in the time/space domain, for God is spirit. And to be in the time/space domain, you must have a physical property.

In Psalm 93:2 we are told, **"Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting."** Again, the thought here is that as far back in time you go, God existed, He has no beginning and no end. In other words, He is eternal!

One more Psalm and that is Psalm 102, where we are told, **“But You, O Lord, shall endure forever, And the remembrance of Your name to all generations. . . . I said, ‘O my God, Do not take me away in the midst of my days; Your years are throughout all generations. Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will have no end.’”** Psalm 102:12, 24-27.

Thus, God’s beginning transcends time and He has no end. A hard concept for us to understand and I don’t think we can fully understand it with our finite minds. To us, everything has a beginning and everything has an ending, except for God. I must accept that by faith because that is what the Scriptures are teaching us. **THE ETERNAL GOD – HE IS ETERNAL!**

E. IMMUTABILITY (GOD IS UNCHANGING)

Now this is important for us to understand, that God is immutable or He is unchanging! God’s character will always be the same, His nature will always be the same, His love will always be the same, His forgiveness will be forever, His salvation and promises are forever and-so-on. That is a good thing, that God is unchanging because if He did change, we would not know if we were saved or not, we would not know if He loved us or not, we would not be sure of anything. But God is unchanging and thus, we can rest on what He has said, it will stand the test of time, we can take that to the bank!

James tells us in 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.”** The Living Bible puts this verse like this, **“But whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God, the Creator of all light, and he shines forever without change or shadow.”**

You see, the bottom line is this. God is perfect in that He never changes nor can He change. In Malachi 3:6 we are told, **“For I am the Lord, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.”** That is pretty straight forward, you can’t read that verse and come to any other conclusion than God does not change!

In Numbers 23:19 we are told, **“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?”** If God said it, then He will do it, He does not change His mind about something because He knows all things. God cannot change His nature, character or dependability! **THE UNCHANGING GOD – HE IS IMMUTABLE!**

In knowing what we know so far about God the Father, as we have looked at His Natural Attributes; that He is omniscient or all knowing, He is omnipresence or His presence fills the universe, He is omnipotent or He is all powerful, He is eternal or He has no beginning or end, He is immutable or God never changes, you would think people would trust Him, but the majority don’t. Back in 1981, in the September issue of Ladies Home Journal, not that I was reading it, but they asked their readers “In whom do you trust?” Listen to their responses.

- Walter Cronkite received 40% of the vote. (For those of you who are young, he was a newscaster.)
- Pope John Paul received 26% of the vote.
- Billy Graham received 6% of the vote.
- God received only 3% of the vote!

That is a sad statistic because people would rather put their trust in man, than Almighty God! Why do so many people feel this way? The reason may be as simple as this. We want, in fact, not so much a father in heaven as a grandfather in heaven: a senile benevolence who, as they say, “liked to see young people enjoying themselves” and whose plan for the universe was simply that it might be truly said at the end of each day, “a good time was had by all.” That is not at all what our heavenly Father is like, as we have seen this morning and will continue to see in our study of God the Father.

We will look at next time God’s moral attributes and again, these are important. If you don’t understand this, then you will get messed up when things don’t go like you think they should, when the storms of life come crashing down. When that happens, and you don’t understand God’s moral attributes, you will come to some faulty conclusions!

Thus, as I close this morning, let me leave you with this to think about. Nothing less than the true God can bring ultimate satisfaction or complete godliness in one's life. Hence, the study of the true God and His attributes is the most important endeavor a finite mind can entertain. That is what we are looking at, God the Father and it is that important! You see, once we know God, once we understand who He is and what He is like, then we will be able to trust Him in every area of our life. Here's the thing, our whole assurance is based in the fact that our heavenly Father is trustworthy. Thus, we can live life to the hilt because He can be trusted. May we as Christians never forget that!