

**SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL  
BIBLE SCHOOL  
SESSION 4  
UNDERSTANDING THE BEING OF GOD PART 1**

**INTRODUCTION**

**THE EXISTENCE OF GOD AND THE NATURE OF GOD**

The bible reveals the nature of God as the only Infinite and Eternal Being, having no beginning and no ending. He is creator and sustainer of all things. He is the Supreme Personal intelligence, and Righteous ruler of the universe. He is life, and therefore, the only source of life (*John 5:26*) Man is natural and cannot know God by wisdom. **“Canst thou by searching find out God?”** (*Job 11:7*). God is a person and can be known only by revelation. In the Old Testament He revealed Himself to and through His Prophets. In the New Testament He reveals Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ (*Hebrews 1:1-3*). It reveals him as spirit, unity, and trinity. He is a spirit – a personal, infinite being (*John 4:24*); He is one – one in substance or nature and incapable of being divided into separate parts (*Deut. 6:4*); and He is three – eternally existing in three coequal persons (*Matt. 28:19; 1 John 5:7 ; Matthew 3:16-17*). While great mystery surrounds God’s nature, it is reassuring to know that our God is above us.

God’s attributes are merely words that we use to describe how God is and how He acts toward us. Among these attributes are love, holiness, constancy, justice, truth, eternity, omniscience (all knowing), omnipresence (all present), and omnipotence (all powerful). The fact that we can grasp and understand this much about God is evidence of God’s desire that all people may know Him.

The word **Father** is variously applied in the Bible. When God is spoken of as the Father of all men, it is as Creator; as the Father of Christ, it expresses an eternal, unique relationship; as the Father of believers, it denotes a relationship established by grace; and as Father of Israel, it means a bond established by covenant. However Father is used, it is a deliberately chosen word to communicate to men one of the primary ways God wants us to conceive of Him.

The Title **Son of God** is one which Jesus never directly applied to Himself, but when others applied it to Him, Jesus willingly accepted it as a claim to his own deity. (*John 10: 24-38*). Jesus often referred to Himself as “the son,” which was certainly an abbreviation for the son of God. How significant is this term to the Christian? It is very important, because it helps establish some major truths without which we would be left with little evidence that the words of Jesus Christ were actually true. It can be said that as our relationship with the Son of God determines whether we will become Christians, our relationship with the Spirit of God determines what kind of believers we will be.

## THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

Hebrews 11:5-6 *“5) By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him; for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6) But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

The Bible nowhere attempts to prove or argue the existence of God. *“For he that cometh to God must believe that he is.”* (Hebrews 11:6<sup>b</sup>) The existence of God is a fact taken for granted by the writers of both the Old and New Testaments. *“In the beginning God”* (Genesis 1:1) and *“In the beginning was the Word”* (John 1:1). The Bible opens in Genesis by announcing the sublime fact of God and His existence. Then in John it reiterates this fact. There are arguments for the existence of God; they are not conclusive but are food for thought.

1. Universal belief in God comes from within man. It is innate in man and comes from rational intuition.
2. The argument from “cause and effect.” Everything that began owes its existence to a cause. We have a watch – we must have a watchmaker. We have a building-- we must have a builder. We have a creation—we must have a creator. This creation could not have come into existence without an intelligent, personal creator, any more than the alphabet could produce a book itself without an author.
3. The argument from anthropology. Man’s moral and intellectual nature argues for a moral and intellectual creator.
4. The Bible and the Christ that it reveals:
  - His virgin birth,
  - His sinless life,
  - His vicarious death (substitute)
  - his bodily resurrection – all of this and much, much more – argue for the existence of God.

## THE NATURE OF GOD

1 John 4:8-- *“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”*

There are four definitions of God in the Bible. Since God cannot be defined, they are incomplete. However, they do throw light upon the nature of God. They are:

1. **God is love.** **1 John 4:7-8.**

This is the nature of God in His divine compassion.

2. **God is light.** **1 John 1:5.**

This is the nature of God in His divine character; in Him there is no darkness.

3. **God is a consuming fire.** **Hebrews 12:29.**

This is the nature of God in His divine holiness.

4. **God is a Spirit.** **John 4:24.**

This is the nature of God in His divine essence.

The attributes of God reveal His nature. Do not think of his attributes as abstract, but as vital mediums through which His holy nature is unveiled – attributes ascribed to Him, such as:

A. Life is ascribed to God **(John 5:26)**

B. All knowledge is ascribed to God **(Psalm 147:5)**

C. All power is ascribed to God **(Rev. 19:6)**

D. Filling the universe with His presence is ascribed to God **(Psalm 139:7-10)**

God is everywhere present, but He is not in everything. If God were in everything, man could worship any object and he would be worshipping God. God is a spirit being. They that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth. **(John 4:24)**

### **THE PERSONALITY OF GOD**

The Bible reveals God as a personality. He is called “the living and true God” – One possessing self-consciousness and self-determination. His personality is shown in what He does, such as:

1. God loves. **John 3:16**

2. God hates. **Proverbs 6:16**

3. God cares. **1 Peter 5:7**

4. God grieves. *Genesis 6:6*
5. He has wisdom. *Romans 11:33*
6. He is faithful. *1 Corinthians 10:13*
7. He is patient. *2 Peter 3:9*
8. He gives gifts. *James 1:17*
9. He is compassionate. *Psalms 116:5*
10. He bears our burdens. *Psalms 68:19-20 (Amplified or NIV version)*
11. He forgives. *1 John 1:9*
12. He is jealous. *Deuteronomy 4:24*

Only a personality can love, hate, care and grieve; therefore, God must be a living, eternal, personal being.