

What the Bible Says About ... God

Taken from "Foundations: A Purpose Driven Discipleship Resource" by Tom Holladay & Kay Warren

"If you can understand it, it's not God."

~Augustine

As we look at God's existence, we need to remember three key truths:

1. God is real
2. God is revealed
3. God is relational

God is real. How do we know God exists?

*We see God's creativity in what He has made. (Genesis 1:1; Romans 1:19-20; Acts 14:16-17, Psalm 19:1-2)

*We see God's thumbprint on human history. (Acts 17:26-27)

*We see God's actions in our lives.

God is revealed. God is not discovered by us, He reveals himself to us.

*God reveals himself to us through His creation (Romans 1:20)

*God reveals himself to us through His Word. (2 Peter 1:20-21)

*God reveals himself to us through His Son. (John 1:18)

God is relational. The truth about God:

*The popular idea is: God is distant.

*The truth is: God is near. (Psalm 139:7-12; James 4:8)

*The popular idea is: God watches our actions from afar.

*The truth is: God is intimately involved in every detail of our lives. (Matthew 6:25-30; Luke 12:6-7)

*The popular idea is: God is anxiously waiting to judge those who do wrong.

*The truth is: God is waiting to forgive all who ask. (John 3:17)

*The popular idea is: God is either powerless against or doesn't care about much of the evil in the world.

*The truth is: God allows an evil world to continue to exist so that more people might be saved out of it. (2 Peter 3:8-9)

Four theological words provide background for the statements we've covered about the real person of God:

1. God's immanence: God is awesomely near to all of us. God is not beyond the farthest star; he is as near as our next heart beat. He does not just watch us; he is with us.
2. God's omnipresence: God is everywhere. His presence fills the universe. He is everywhere at once.
3. God's omniscience: God knows everything. He knows everything that has happened, is happening and will happen. He knows what I will think before I think it.
4. God's omnipotence: God is all mighty. He has the power to do anything – anything – he wants. Immediately.

A closer look: what does God look like?

*The Bible tells us that no one has actually seen God (John 1:18). God is spirit (Psalm 139:7-12; John 4:24); God is invisible (John 1:18; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 11:27). The natural assumption, when hearing the phrase that we are all "made in his image," is to think that God must look something like us: with two arms and two legs.

What a scary thought! God, who fills the universe, obviously couldn't look like a man. When the Bible speaks of God having "strong arms" or "sheltering wings," these are not literal descriptions but pictures of how God relates to us.