

## **Bible Doctrine**

*Learning & Contending*

### **God Is A Spirit**

John 4:24; 2 Corinthians 4:18; Hebrews 11:27

#### **John 4:24**

*"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."*

#### **2 Corinthians 4:18**

*"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."*

#### **Hebrews 11:27**

*"But faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible."*

**Review from our last lesson which was given in three parts:**

**(1) There is Only One True & Living God.**

**(2) The One True & Living God is a Triune God.**

**(3) God Has Worked on Behalf of Man as The Father, The Son, and The Holy Ghost.**

**(4) God is A Person Who Has Made Himself Known to Man.**

## I. God Is Life

*"God is..."*

**John 4:24** declare that *"God is."* The Bible doesn't tell us *"God was."* The very essence of God is life. As we come to God by faith, we must believe that *"HE IS."*

**Hebrews 11:6**, *"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."*

Our Lord Jesus Christ made a clear declaration in **John 8:58**, *"...before Abraham was, I am."* This was a reference back to **Exodus 3:13-14**,

*"And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they say to me, What is his name? What shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I am hath sent me unto you."*

Mankind was given life by the breath of Almighty God. Life is part of the essence of God. Life is found in God.

**Genesis 2:7**, *"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became living soul."*

**Numbers 16:22**, *“And they fell upon their faces, and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?”*

**Numbers 27:16**, *“Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation.”*

**Zechariah 12:1**, *“The burden of the word of the Lord for Israel, saith the Lord, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.”*

**Jeremiah 38:16**, *“So Zedekiah the king sheweth unto Jeremiah, saying, As the Lord liveth, that made us this soul, I will not put thee to death, neither will I give thee into the hand of these men that seek thy life.”*

**Ecclesiastes 12:7**, *“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”*

Life comes from God Himself.

**John 5:26**, *“For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.”*

**Jeremiah 10:10**, *“But the Lord is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king...”*

**Acts 14:15**, *“And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein.”*

God is often put in contrast with false gods. Read **Jeremiah 10:10-16** & **Habakkuk 2:18-20**.

## II. God Is A Spirit

*"God is a Spirit..."*

As we consider the context of **John 4:24**, we find that the woman of Samaria was asking Jesus where God was to be found. Was God found at Jerusalem or at Gerizim? The answer of Christ was "God is a Spirit."

It is disturbing to see the article "a" omitted in many of the modern translations of the Bible. Those other perversions read, "God is Spirit." This indefinite article distinguishes and identified what follows. God is A SPIRIT, in distinction to all other spirits.

"Spirit" stands in contrast to "matter."

### A. This Means That God is Immaterial

**Luke 24:39**, *"Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have."*

### B. This Means That God is Invisible

**Colossians 1:15**, *"Who is the image of the invisible God..."*

**1 Timothy 1:17**, *"Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen."*

Read **Romans 1:20** and **1 Timothy 6:16**.

### C. This Means That God is Immeasurable

**Psalm 139:7**, *"Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?"*

**1 Kings 8:27**, *"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?"*

God was not to be represented by any image or anything that is material and seen with the eye.

Read **Deuteronomy 4:15-20, 23**.

Jesus Christ continue in **John 4:24** and said, *"...and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."*

### **Worship in Spirit**

God is not to be worship limited to a physical place or form.

**Acts 7:48**, *"Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands..."*

**Acts 17:24-25**, *"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;"*

### **Worship in Truth**

God is not be worshipped based upon false conceptions which result from corrupt or imperfect knowledge.

QUESTIONS:

**What about the seeming material reference of God?**

The Bible talks about God having feet (Hebrews 1:10), fingers (Psalm 8:3), eyes (2 Chronicles 16:9; Isaiah 59:1), hands (Numbers 11:23), arms (Deuteronomy 33:27), etc.

These descriptions of God are anthropomorphic. What does that mean? It means that God represents Himself in human terms for our benefit. This is the only way we as finite human being can think of God.

### **What about the contradictions to John 1:18?**

*"No man hath seen God at any time..."*

Some would say that the Spirit was seen at the Baptism of Jesus Christ. Jacob declared that he had seen God face to face. Isaiah said "I saw the Lord." Men can see God when He has chosen to temporarily reveal Himself in some recognizable form, figure, or image. However, It is the essence of God we cannot see.

## **III. God Is A Person**

*"God is a Spirit...they that worship Him..."*

God is not an "it." Personality means that there is "self-consciousness" and "self-determination."

### **A. The Power to Think - INTELLECT**

**Exodus 3:7**, *"...for I know their sorrows;"*

This is in contrast to all other gods. Consider what the scene in **1 Kings 18:25-29**.

Read **Romans 11:34** & **1 Corinthians 2:16**.

## **B. The Power to Feel - EMOTION**

**Exodus 2:24-25**, *"And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them."*

God feels **Grief** - **Genesis 6:6**

God feels **Anger** - **1 Kings 11:9**

God feels **Jealousy** - **Deuteronomy 6:15**

God feels **Love** - **Revelation 3:19**

God feel **Hatred** - **Proverbs 6:16**

## **C. The Power to Will - WILL**

**Exodus 3:17**, *"...I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt..."*

**John 3:16**, *"For God so loved the world...that he gave..."*