

God is Spirit

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study
Various Scripture

I. God is Spirit

- A. Jesus said, “*God is spirit.*” (**John 4:24**). He does not possess form made up of a tangible substance. Jesus said, “*A spirit does not have flesh and bones.*” (**Luke 24:39**)
- B. Yet, the Bible describes god as possessing humanlike body parts. **Exodus 24:10**, *There was under his feet as it were a pavement.* **Exodus 24:11**, “*And he did not lay his hand on the chief men.*” Hanani says, **2 Chronicles 16:9**, *For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth,*” Isaiah proclaims, **Isaiah 40:5**, “*For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.*” The prophet Hosea, **Hosea 11:8**, “*My heart recoils within me;* Paul in Romans, **Romans 11:34**, “*For who has known the mind of the Lord,*”
- C. To reconcile this apparent contradiction between A & B, we must recognize the verses which speak of God having body parts are known as a figure of speech known as a anthropomorphism. Conveys God in a way we can understand Him. God condescends to our level so that we might comprehend Him.
 - 1. **Eyes** – God is all seeing. 2. **Hand** – God is a judge. 3. **Mouth** – God speaks with authority 4. **Heart** – God has emotion. 5. **Mind** – God is all-wise.

II. God is Invisible

- A. He cannot be seen
 - 1. **John 1:18** *No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*
 - 2. **John 6:46**, *Not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father.*
 - 3. **Colossians 1:15**, *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.*
 - 4. **1 Timothy 1:17**, *To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*
- B. The only manifestation of God in human form is revealed in His son, Jesus Christ. (**John 14:8–9**, *Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?*)
 - 1. **Colossians 1:15**, *He [Jesus, Son of God] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn [preceding all others, including all rights & privileges of the physically first born] of all creation.*
 - 2. **Hebrews 1:3**, *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

III. God is Immanent

- A. Because God is without physical body, He is immanent (always near).
- B. He is everywhere fully present and always near.
 - 1. **Deuteronomy 4:7**, *For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?*
 - 2. **Psalm 23:4**, *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*
 - 3. **Psalm 34:18**, *The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.*
 - 4. **Psalm 145:18**, *The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.*
- C. Other passages – Our feelings or perception does not determine God’s location...
 - 1. **Isaiah 50:8**, *He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me.*
 - 2. **Isaiah 55:6**, “*Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;*
 - 3. **Matthew 28:20**, *Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

IV. God is Personal

- A. God is intensely personal, though He is of no material substance (body).
- B. God feels, knows, and acts.

1. **God** loves righteousness and hates sin (unrighteousness). **2. God** is angered by sin. **3. God** rejoices in all who are conformed to His character.
- C. This personal God is spirit and must be worshiped by those made in His image (**John 4:24**, *God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*)
- D. **Hebrews 11:6**, *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*
- E. There must be no man-made representation of what God looks like to enhance worship. (**Exodus 20:4**, “*You shall not make for yourself a carved image.*”)

V. God is Indivisible

- A. God is a Spirit, without parts. Therefore, He is indivisible. This is also known as the “simplicity of God.” (**Deuteronomy 6:4**, *Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.*)
- B. There is not a part of God that is holy, and another part that is love, and another part that is wrath. He is not partly holy, partly love, partly wrath. God is “simple” or without parts.
- C. God’s attributes are indivisible and intertwined as the whole of His divine nature. His love is holy love, holy wrath.
- D. **The application:**
 1. We cannot pick and choose “parts” of God we agree with and discard those we disagree with.
 2. Rejecting one attribute is rejecting God.
 3. The indivisibility of God is on display in the Trinity with no one person being more of one attribute.

VI. God is United

- A. God is indivisible but, as a Trinity, He is united in all aspects
 1. United in redemption’s plan (**John 10:30**, *I and the Father are one.*)
- B. The Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) is operating according to the same eternal decree.
 1. Those whom the Father chose before time (**Ephesians 1:4**, *Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*)
 2. Are those whom He gave to the Son to be His bride
 - a) **John 6:37**, *All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.*
 - b) **John 6:39**, *And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.* **John 10:29**, *My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.*
 - c) **John 17:2**, *Since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.* **John 17:24**, *Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.*
 3. It is these same sinners that the Spirit is sent into the world to convict, call, and regenerate (**John 3:8**, *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.*)

VII. God is Infinite

- A. He transcends all limitations of His creation, including time and space. No finite boundary restricts Him.
- B. God knows no constraint except those consistent with His perfect character and will.
- C. **Psalm 147:5**, *Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.*
 1. “*Beyond measure*” – the extent of His understanding cannot be limited by anyone or anything.
 2. The vastness of His knowledge cannot be restricted or hindered.
 3. His power and intellect surpass any imposed boundaries.

VIII. God is Incomprehensible

- A. Because God is infinite, He is incomprehensible to the human mind.
 1. Eliphaz rightly states in **Job 5:8-9** “*...God...who does great things and unsearchable, marvelous things without number:* **2. Job** agrees with Eliphaz (**Job 9:10**, *who [God] does great things beyond searching out, and marvelous things beyond number.* **3. Later**, Zophar challenges Job, **Job 11:7** “*Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty?*”
- B. David declares that the fullness of God is incomprehensible to finite minds.
 1. **Psalm 145:3**, *Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.*
 2. **Isaiah 40:28**, *Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.*
 3. **Ephesians 3:19**, *And to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*
- C. **Romans 11:33**, *Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!*
- D. Because God has chosen not to reveal all there is to know about Himself (**Deuteronomy 29:29**, “*The secret things belong to the Lord our God.*”