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## An Introduction to God's Nature and Attributes

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## AN INTRODUCTION TO GOD'S NATURE AND ATTRIBUTES

Who is God? What is He like? Where is He? What is He doing? Where can we find answers to these questions? The answers to these questions read like a divine profile page! No doubt you are familiar with or have one or more personal profile pages yourself with a social forum or shopping forum. A typical profile page features user information, user names, an "about me" section, what I'm working on, my shared projects, who is following me, and so on. The Bible similarly offers information about God.

The **nature** of God refers theologically to who and what He is in His personal being. Thus it can be said that God is spirit, a person, He is one, and He is a trinity or triunity. God is further described or explained by His additional **attributes**. While it is difficult to separately describe God according to His nature and His attributes, we could consider them in their entirety as attributes of God.

- The definition:

Reduced to its simplest definition, an attribute of God is whatever God has in any way revealed as being true of Himself. Some theologians prefer the word perfection to that of attribute. A. W. Tozer has written:

In the awful abyss of the Divine Being may be attributes of which we know nothing and which can have no meaning for us, just as the attributes of mercy and grace can have no personal meaning for seraphim or cherubim. These holy beings may know of these qualities of God but be unable to feel them sympathetically for the reason that they have not sinned and so do not call forth God's mercy and grace. So there may be, and I believe there surely are, other aspects of God's essential being which He has not revealed even to His ransomed and Spirit-illuminated children. (*The Knowledge of the Holy*, Harper Collins Publishers, Grand Rapids, MI, p. 52)

Thus, it must be concluded that there are hidden facts of God's nature wholly unknown (and perhaps unknowable) by any created being, even angels. They are known only by Jehovah God Himself. Here now are some 30 attributes, or perfections, of God.

- The listings:

- A. The foundational four

1. God is Spirit
2. God is a Person
3. God is One
4. God is a Triune Being

- B. The following twenty-six

5. God is self-existent
6. God is self-sufficient

7. God is eternal
8. God is infinite
9. God is perfect
10. God is omnipresent
11. God is omnipotent
12. God is omniscient
13. God is wise
14. God is immutable
15. God is sovereign
16. God is incomprehensible
17. God is inscrutable
18. God is holy
19. God is righteous and just
20. God is true
21. God is faithful
22. God is light
23. God is good
24. God is patient and longsuffering
25. God is merciful
26. God is gracious
27. God is love
28. God is glorious
29. God is unique
30. God is a hater of sin

- The majestic hymn of Walter Chalmers Smith, titled, “*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise,*” probably refers to more of God’s attributes than any other ever written:

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, thy great Name we praise.*

*Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.*

*To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,  
Then wither and perish; but nought changeth thee.*

*Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
All laud we would render: O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.*