

## The Attributes of God: Part Two

by Bryce William Klassen

So on Wednesday we began to explore the attributes of God. Obviously we are limited by time and space (something that separates us from God by the way) and can only say so much. We explored the idea of *communicable* attributes which are those characteristics which are found in God, perfectly, but also in us, imperfectly. Such as, for example: Love, intelligence, kindness, and truthfulness. The list goes on. You can probably think of several more. However, today I want to briefly mention some of those attributes which we refer to as *incommunicable*. That is, pertaining only to God. as they are what make Him wholly unique from His creation.

Theologians will usually begin with what they call the *aseity* of God. What a weird word right? What's it mean? Well, it refers to God's self-existence. In other words, you and I are totally dependent upon external factors for our existence whereas God draws life from Himself. He is in need of nothing and no one but His own being.

We also have what's called the *transcendence* of God. God transcends the physical limitations placed on us by this world. He is not restricted in any sense by space and time. He is a spirit, and there is nothing that prevents Him from doing His holy will. In the same vein, God is *immutable*. That means, God is unchanging. We are what you would call mutable, meaning that we can experience change. God, on the other hand, is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. This is a great hope for us because we know that the God of the Bible is God we have today and will have forever.

God is also *omniscient* (all-knowing) and *omnipotent* (all-powerful). He is sovereign and in control of all things. He is the God who rules from the throne of heaven filling the temple with His robe, before whom Isaiah falls to the ground and exclaims, "Woe is me, I have come undone!" (Is. 6:5). Why does Isaiah react this way? Because God is HOLY. "Holy" means to be set apart. Some have said this is the attribute of attributes. What makes God, God.

Of course, any of these claims must be tested by Scripture, and theologians have been careful to make sure they align. It would do no good to conjure up a

being and apply to him all sorts of attributes if they weren't demonstrated by His self-attesting revelation (i.e. the Bible). So when you read the Scriptures, see if you can pinpoint these attributes. Pay attention and see if you can spot those moments when God reveals any one or more of these attributes. Until next week!

In Love,  
Bryce