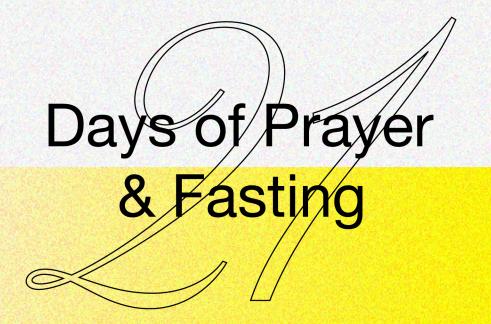
A Twenty-One Day Devotional







Introduction

ightarrow ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

One of the greatest truths the Bible presents to us is that God can be known. Because of Jesus, we have the opportunity to know God, the Creator of the whole universe. Can we know all of Him on this side of heaven? Certainly not, but we can know Him deeply because of the Bible and the Holy Spirit. God has not hidden himself from us, and for that reason, we can know Him and who He made us to be in light of who He is.

Your journey through the 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting devotional will assist you in your personal journey of knowing God and knowing yourself. Each day will provide the opportunity to study God's incommunicable attributes (traits true only of God) and communicable attributes (traits that can also be true of us).

Incommunicable Attributes: Alpha & Omega Omnipresent Sovereign Transcendent Omniscient Immutable Omnipotent Self-sufficient Savior Incomprehensible Communicable Attributes: Good Long-suffering Faithful Holy Just Jealous (for His glory) Powerful Communal Generous

Each of these attributes is infinitely true of our God. As you dive into each day, you'll see these attributes come to life and learn to see our Heavenly Father for who He truly is. And here's the good news: As you grow in obedience and love, the communicable traits will also start to be true of yourself.

Take a moment to pray, reflect, and ask God to open your heart to what He has for you over the next twenty-one days.

ightarrow GOD ALWAYS HAS BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. [...] The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." **John 1:1-5, 14**

It is so easy to lose sight of the bigger picture and the true meaning of our existence. However, when we accept Jesus as the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, everything changes. Suddenly, our identity, purpose, and perspective are transformed as we come to understand that our lives are part of something much greater—God's eternal plan for humanity.

As believers, we are no longer just wanderers searching for temporary pleasures or success, but instead, we are part of a divine story that spans time and space. Jesus gives us a new way of seeing the world--through His eyes--and invites us to join Him in his work of transforming lives, healing brokenness, and spreading the good news of God's love.

When embracing Jesus, each of us can discover a more profound sense of identity and purpose as a part of God's plan. There's nothing more comforting than knowing that we serve a God who reigns above all things and through all things. The Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, embodies this truth. It's such a blessing to know that in Him, we have a God who is unchanging, ever-present, and always in control. As we face the ups and downs of life, let us take solace in the fact that Jesus, the Preeminent One, has already been and always will be. May we hold firmly to Him and receive the peace that comes with knowing that He holds our past, present, and future in the palm of His hands.

\rightarrow REFLECT

1. Because God is the Alpha and Omega, I am _____.

2. What discipline can you incorporate into your life to remind you that God reigns above all things?

3. Ask God, what is He inviting you to be a part of that is bigger than yourself?

\rightarrow GOD IS RIGHTEOUS.

"The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." **Psalm 103:8-13**

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." **Luke 6:32-36**

God's goodness is not dependent on our obedience. Whether or not we obey what He asks us to do, God will still be good. But our ability to experience His goodness is determined by our willingness to say yes to Him. God's goodness is like this: He does what is right, even when it doesn't make sense. More than that—He showers us with mercy even though we have done nothing to deserve it. Instead of treating us according to our sins, He has shown us a love that doesn't make any sense on paper.

Jesus demonstrates a type of goodness that goes beyond what is expected in culture, and He is our primary example of how to live out goodness in our own lives. Jesus was radical with His message. He asks us to love and be good to those who don't "deserve" it. Jesus wants us to mirror Him in the ways that He lives. That is our call as disciples.

So, as followers of Jesus, we should be compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and abound in love because this is how God treated us even when we didn't deserve it. We are now responsible for sharing this same goodness with those around us.

ightarrow reflect

1. Because God is good, I am _____.

2. How would your faith look different if God wasn't good?

3. How can you share God's radical goodness with others today?

ightarrow GOD IS ALL AROUND.

"'Can a man hide himself in hiding places, so I do not see him?' declares the Lord. 'Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?' declares the Lord." Jeremiah 23:24

"For thus says the high and exalted One, who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit. In order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite." **Isaiah 57:15**

There are moments in our relationship with God when it may be challenging to understand all of who He is. When there is no earthly example to look to, we must let God teach us to look beyond what we know in order to see Him. The same is true when we begin to think about God's omnipresence.

Omnipresent means that God, unbound by time and space, is everywhere all at once all of the time and has been since the very beginning. As the Creator of time and space, He is not bound by either. Instead, they bow to His will and authority. That means He is fully present in everything, in our past, present, and future. He's not existing through moments on a timeline like us. He is there—everywhere, always.

Take a moment to imagine what it would mean to be unbound by time and space.

You might be thinking about all that you could accomplish, all the places you could visit, or the moments you could relive. But what does God do? He meets every one of us exactly where we are at. There is never a moment when He is too stretched or overwhelmed to be fully present for every person at all times.

God chose to enter our physical time and space when He came to earth in human form as Jesus Christ. Setting aside His omnipresence, He took on our limitations to be exactly what we needed as the ultimate act of love. In everything God does, He is loving, especially in His omnipresence.

\rightarrow reflect

1. Because God is omnipresent, I am _____.

2. What feelings are stirred in you when you read about God being omnipresent?

3. How would it impact your day-to-day if you believed that God was always with you?

\rightarrow GOD IS LONG-TEMPERED, SHOWING SELF-RESTRAINT AND PATIENCE WITH US.

"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him." **2 Peter: 3:8-9,15**

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." **Ephesians 4:30-32**

Take comfort in knowing that God is patient. Evidence of His patience can be found throughout the stories of scripture. He clothes Adam and Eve after their disobedience, He withholds wrath from Nineveh after their dramatic repentance, and He walks intimately with Joseph as he matures from a man of pride to a man of humility. All of these are examples of His long-suffering nature.

If you've spent any time with a toddler, you know how even the simplest tasks can turn into enormous feats. Patience and perspective are essential to make it through those moments. This is a picture of God's heart with us as we walk out our salvation. He knows what it takes for us to grow up in our faith: time. However, God is patient, and more than anything, He wants to give us the opportunity to know Him and the goodness of walking with Him.

God's long-suffering nature affords us the opportunity to be refined in our faith over time without fear of rejection. If you are in a season of struggling with your faith or are praying for an unbelieving friend or family member to find Jesus, may you find comfort in this attribute of our loving God. Sometimes, it can be frustrating to wait on God's timing when you're praying for a breakthrough or for God to show up in the middle of trying circumstances. In every moment, there is purpose behind His patience. As we read in 2 Peter, God is patient with us today, not wanting anyone to perish in sin but allowing each of us time to seek repentance. We can find comfort in this truth today, knowing that our Father is patient.

\rightarrow REFLECT

1. Because God is long-suffering, I am ______.

2. Has there been a situation where you've questioned God's slowness to judge or punish?

3. In what circumstance do you need to be slower to react and be long-suffering with someone?

\rightarrow GOD REIGNS OVER EVERYTHING.

"Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all" **1 Chronicles 29:1**

"Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him" Psalm 115:3

You may know the famous song, "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah. This powerful chorus is traditionally accompanied by the rising of anyone in attendance during the piece's performance. This tradition is said to have begun because of King George II in 1743. The king was so moved by the music that he stood up from his seat. Not wanting to offend the king, all others in attendance also rose to their feet. Everyone stood in reverence to their king...who was standing in complete awe of the One, Sovereign King!

A lyric from the song that wonderfully declares God's Sovereignty—"King of Kings and Lord of Lords!" Just as we can see in the example of King George II, we serve the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Throughout Scripture, we can see the Lord expressing His sovereignty as he overpowers pharaohs, kings, and all other rulers who believe they are all more powerful and in control than He is.

The second part of this lyric says, "He shall reign forever and ever!" It is crucial to understand this aspect of God's sovereignty. In fact, you can see its importance in the word itself. The word "reign" hides within the word Sovereign. Our Lord has reigned, is reigning, and will forever reign over everything for all eternity. Paul tells us in Philippians 2:10, "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth." When we recognize the Lord's complete sovereignty, physical action is the only proper and natural response. When King George II realized it through music, he stood. When all realize it through hearing the name of Jesus, they will bow. Disciple, what is your natural response?

\rightarrow REFLECT

1. Because God is sovereign, I am ______.

2. What areas of your life have you not fully surrendered to your King?

3. In what ways can you worship our sovereign God?

ightarrow GOD IS RELIABLE. HIS WORD CAN BE TRUSTED.

"This is a trustworthy saying: If we die with him, we will also live with him. If we endure hardship, we will reign with him. If we deny him, he will deny us. If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny who he is." **2 Timothy 2:11-13**

"Let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting Him...Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise." **Hebrews 10:22-23**

When was the last time you remember feeling like someone let you down? The more times a person fails to live up to their promises, the harder it is to believe they will do what they say the next time. If we're honest with ourselves, we have all been the person who has let others down.

As humans, we sometimes fail to keep commitments and stay true to our word. But we serve a God who never fails and is always faithful to His word. When God promises us something in Scripture, we can believe it. His promises never have to be questioned because He always lives up to what He has promised.

Even when we fail, God never leaves us or forsakes us. He is faithful to walk with us even when we don't deserve it. Our God is a promise-keeper; we never have to wonder if He will come through in the end because He always does and always will.

As disciples, because we serve a faithful God, we also must be faithful, persevering in hope and holding tightly to God's promises. Life will bring uncertainties and heartaches, and people will let us down. We will be faced with choices that will either pull us deeper into faith or away from God's plan. In these situations, we can "hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm." We know that God will keep His promises so we can remain faithful to Him.

\rightarrow REFLECT

1. Because God is faithful, I am ______.

2. Where have you seen God's faithfulness in your own life?

3. How can you share the hope you have in God with others?

DAY 07: WEEKLY REFLECTION

\rightarrow Notes

Incommunicable Attributes: Alpha & Omega Omnipresent Sovereign

Communicable Attributes: Good Long-suffering Faithful

Our God is all of these things and more. Read through the list again, but this time, pause for ten seconds on each word to think about how God has personally been each of these things to you.

1. Which attribute from this week is the hardest to accept?

2. Which attribute brings you the most comfort?

3. Why is it important to think of God as each of these things?

4. Choose one of the attributes and pray to God, knowing He is limitlessly that.

(Ex: To my God who is long-suffering, you have been infinitely patient with me as I wrestle with ______. Thank you for always showing up and never changing, even as my emotions fluctuate daily. Please help me to appreciate that you are long-suffering and not take advantage of that or take it for granted. Amen.)

5. Reflect on your fasting this week. What was the most challenging part of your fast? How did God show up through your fasting?

Week 1 Reflection

ightarrow GOD DOES NOT NEED US, BUT WE NEED GOD.

"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! 'Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?' 'Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?' For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen." **Romans 11:33-36**

"'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the Lord. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.'" **Isaiah 55:8-9**

We are living at a point in time when God's presence is available to all who repent and profess the name of Jesus, but God hasn't always been available in this way. For thousands of years, God's presence was deeply revered and feared - for a good reason. Those who looked upon His glory or touched a sacred object that held His presence would instantly die. Today, this isn't how we know God. We know Him as a close and personal friend. It is a gift to know God like this, but sometimes we forget to revere and honor Him for who He is, transcendent: above us in every way.

When He first came in human form, and then again through the Holy Spirit, He made a way for us to be near Him like never before. It can be challenging for us to understand just how dramatic it was for God's glory to move from something unseen and terrifying to a human we could know as a friend. But don't let this shift in His availability make you think His glory has lessened. In every stage, God is still transcendent. As time has passed, He has made Himself more and more available to us. He's not becoming less glorious as He opens Himself up to us. He's just making a way for us to know Him.

The best news is He wants us to know Him. God created us to be dependent creatures; He wants us to draw near to Him. But there is a very glaring reality that our understanding is limited. We don't have the ability to comprehend a

God who is transcendent entirely. The very definition of transcendence puts Him above us in every way. This is both mysterious and exciting. There's always more to seek and know about Him.

\rightarrow reflect

1. Because God is transcendent, I am ______.

2. Why is God's transcendence important?

3. Knowing God is transcendent, how does this impact your understanding of the incarnate (God in human form) Jesus?

\rightarrow GOD IS DIFFERENT FROM EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE ELSE.

"They brought [a colt] to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!' 'Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!' Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples!' 'I tell you,' he replied, 'if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.'" **Luke 19:35-40**

"Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; For it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'" **1 Peter 1: 13-16**

To be holy is to be set apart. It means that the holy thing or person is different from everything else. God is holy because He is different from our world, and He is to be greatly honored and revered for this difference. He is perfect and without sin, setting Him apart from the rest of the world.

God is so holy that if we do not praise Him, the Bible says that the rocks will cry out to fill the silence. No one else deserves this type of worship for just existing. On the other hand, we are not unique in our sinful nature. Holiness only comes to those who are redeemed through the Holy One. God is the only one without sin and, therefore, the only one who doesn't need to be made holy. He is our example of what it means to be holy.

Paul teaches us that we, too, are to be holy, just as Jesus is. This means we need to follow Jesus' example in how we live. We must be set apart from the rest of the world, continually choosing to avoid sin and look more like Jesus

through spiritual disciplines. Does this sound overwhelming to you? Don't stress! God did not leave us to figure holiness out on our own. He has given us the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us as we work to live lives that are holy and pleasing to God. So, we have no excuse for ignoring God's command: be Holy just as He is Holy.

\rightarrow REFLECT

1. Because God is holy, I am ______.

2. Knowing that God is perfectly holy by Himself, and we need Him in order to be made holy, how does this change or affirm your view of God?

3. What does it look like to pursue holiness? (I.e., how would you treat others? What would you do with your free time? What would your conversations be like?)

\rightarrow GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING.

"O Lord, you have searched me and known me...you discern my thoughts from afar...even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether." **Psalm 139:1-4**

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who had been his counselor?" **Romans 11:33-34**

When you think about it, the amount of knowledge we live without daily is quite astonishing. We have access to more information than ever before. Yet, there are countless languages we'll never understand, billions of people we'll never meet, and millions of books that will remain unread. How much there is to know and understand in our world is wild.

However, we serve a God whose mind and ways are described as unsearchable. Our God does not need a counselor or advisor because He already knows everything (and more) than either could ever tell Him. God is never uninformed, never mistaken, and never confused. He is infinitely wiser than you, not because He has worked to be so, but because all knowledge and wisdom come from Him.

God's understanding goes deeper than we as humans are capable of imagining. He knows hearts and minds, motivations and thoughts. He sees every part of our story from beginning to end. He knows every decision we'll make, every direction we'll go, every friendship we'll have, every win, every loss, and so on. But He doesn't just know the details about our lives. He knows us.

When God answers our prayers with a 'no,' it's not because He is unaware of our needs. He just knows more than we know and perceives what we cannot. Because God is omniscient, we must trust that what He says and commands is perfectly chosen for our good and His glory.

\rightarrow REFLECT

2. Why is it important that God is omniscient?

3. How easy is it for you to trust God when you don't feel your needs are being met?

 \rightarrow NOTES

22

\rightarrow GOD DOES WHAT IS RIGHT.

"Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?' 'Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?'" Isaiah 58: 4-7

""For the Lord your God is the God of gods and Lord of lords. He is the great God, the mighty and awesome God, who shows no partiality and cannot be bribed. He ensures that orphans and widows receive justice. He shows love to the foreigners living among you and gives them food and clothing. So, you, too, must show love to foreigners, for you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt." **Deuteronomy 10:17-18**

God is the creator of all that is right. In the beginning, He was the one who decided the difference between right and wrong. When we look at God's example, we see His justice displayed through Jesus. He healed the sick, dined with sinners, and welcomed outcasts. There are countless examples in Scripture of God standing up for the oppressed and caring for the marginalized in society.

The cross is our primary example of God's just nature. He intervened on humanity's behalf to restore humankind to a place of righteousness. Jesus' death on the cross tore the veil between God and man, allowing those who were once far away because of their sin to be bought into the family of God. Because God is just, the price had to be paid. Because He is full of love, He paid the price Himself. We, as Christians, are called to be like God in how he treats His people. God goes beyond what we view as "fair" and cares for those in need. Notice that God does not tell us to retaliate against the unjust—this is not our place. Instead, we are to live by His example. He is radical in His justice. He shelters the poor, shows love to the foreigner, gives food to the hungry, and cares for the orphans and widows. Each of us must do the same.

\rightarrow reflect

1. Because God is just, I am ______.

2. When you think of God's justice, what examples come to mind?

3. Knowing that God is both just and compassionate, how should you treat others?

\rightarrow GOD IS UNCHANGING.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

"'All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.'" **Isaiah 40:6-8**

God does not change. In other words, He is unchanging or immutable. This trait ultimately sets God apart from our world. Our world is filled with change. Every day, the world is growing, developing, and moving, so we're constantly changing and shifting. But this is not the case with God. He is constant, consistent, and immutable. As we continue to dive into the many attributes of our God, we can know for sure that His character is forever true. God always has, and always will be, good and faithful. While humans will continue to change, God's character remains the same.

If God does not change, that means that His Words don't either. Making scripture forever cemented truth. It cannot be altered, added to, or subtracted from. Because of this, we can trust what God's Word tells us. Every promise made to believers back when scripture was written remains true today.

Looking through the pages of scripture, we see story after story of God providing for, fighting for, and rescuing His people. Those same characteristics are true of God today because He is immutable. God, who is powerful enough to create the universe, is fighting on your behalf. The same God who rescued His people from slavery in Egypt and who rescued Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego is ready to rescue you. The same God that provided a ram for Abraham to sacrifice instead of his son eventually sacrificed His one and only Son for you on the cross.

\rightarrow REFLECT

1. Because God is the immutable, I am ______.

2. Who is one of your most consistent friends or family members? What do you love about them?

3. Is there something about God in Scripture that you have a hard time seeing Him still as today?

 \rightarrow NOTES

27

ightarrow GOD WANTS YOU TO PUT HIM FIRST.

"-for you shall not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God-" **Exodus 34:14**

"How long, O Lord? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealousy burn like fire?" **Psalm 79:5**

"He is jealous for me" is the first line of the song "How He Loves Us." It's easy to sing this phrase and never pause to reflect on it. It's clear that the statement is powerful, but when you take time to think about it, it becomes incredible. The righteous ruler of all that exists, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, is jealous for you! Read that one more time: God is jealous for you.

We see an example of God's jealousy in the Bible throughout Exodus. At the time, God's people were enslaved to Pharaoh in Egypt and were unable to worship Him freely. God ended up sending many different plagues against Egypt until Pharaoh eventually let God's people go. Although the people of Israel were now free, they did not consistently worship God alone. Over and over again, He continually has to remind the people that He is theirs and they are His. Often, this is still true of us today.

Let this be a reminder today that you have a God who is jealous for you! He longs to know and care for you if you'll let Him. He is not satisfied with just part of you; He wants all of you.

\rightarrow REFLECT

2. What periods of your day do you think God may be most jealous for your attention?

3. How can you make more time to give God all of the glory He deserves?

Jealous (For His Glory)

DAY 14: WEEKLY REFLECTION

Incommunicable Attributes:	Communicable Attributes:
Transcendent	Holy
Omniscient	Just
Immutable	Jealous (for His glory)

This week, we covered attributes that are equal parts overwhelming and astonishing. And yet, they are what define our God. Be encouraged that your hard work and dedication to this process is not in vain! You are growing in wisdom, knowledge, and understanding; because of this, your relationship with God is growing!

In the space below, write each of these words out again and consider why it matters that God is each of these.

1. Which attribute from this week is most challenging to understand?

2. Which attribute do you want to learn more about?

3. Why is it important to think of God as each of these things?

4. Choose one of the attributes and pray to God knowing He is limitlessly that.

(Ex: To my God who is transcendent, you are so much higher than me. It's difficult for me to understand that you are entirely different, but I can grow in Christ-likeness as I walk with you. Forgive me for all the times I have projected my humanness or the humanness of others onto you. When I do this, remind me that you are different than me and those around me. Amen.)

5. Reflect on your fasting this week. What was the most challenging part of your fast? How did God show up through your fasting?

ightarrow action step

If you would like to continue your Discipleship journey, you can join a Discipleship Group at your Campus. These groups are a yearlong journey through the Bible with a group of Disciples. You will experience unique, one-on-one Discipleship within a group setting. Scan the QR code below and search 'discipleship group' to explore your options.



\rightarrow GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL.

"The Lord of Heaven's Armies has sworn this oath: 'It will happen as I have planned. It will be as I have decided.'...Who can change his plans? When his hand is raised, who can stop him?" **Isaiah 14:24, 27**

"From eternity to eternity I am God. No one can snatch anyone out of my hand. No one can undo what I have done." **Isaiah 43:13**

Don't you just love the verses in the Bible that use the imagery of God's hand or arm when describing His might? The metaphor of His hand defeating armies and holding up the skies paints an incredible picture and gives us an important reality check. God is omnipotent, meaning He is all-powerful. When we take time to truly consider the implications of His power, humility and fear are the appropriate responses. Nothing can come against our God and win.

This truth ought to raise a deep sense of humility in each of us. We are not God (and thank goodness for that!) To put it simply, we are not stronger than Him. Have you ever had a friend or family member who's a bit strong-willed say something like, "God's will is no match for my will"? Maybe they say it out of arrogance or even ignorance, but the reality is the comparison cannot be made. Oceans are no match for Him. Armies are no match for Him. Even death is no match for Him.

We can find deep comfort in this truth because it means that nothing can come against the unfolding of God's promises. We are not wishful thinkers, blind to reality and living in a fantasy land. The mighty hand of God is unstoppable in all He has promised, so we don't need to fear life's unknowns. We don't need to fear those who could hurt us. We don't even need to fear death. Our God is stronger than all of them and has the final say. There is nothing that can come against our God and win, period.

\rightarrow REFLECT

1. Because God is omnipotent, I am ______.

2. When was a time you experienced or witnessed a move of God?

3. What situation in your life do you need to ask God to move in?

\rightarrow NOTES

21 Days of Prayer & Fasting

\rightarrow GOD IS POWERFUL AND HAS EMPOWERED US FOR A PURPOSE.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." **Acts 1:8**

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to anyone who believes..." **Romans 1:16**

"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God." **2 Timothy 1:7-8**

Our God is powerful. Open the pages of your Bible, and you'll find story after story of times when God revealed His power to His people. But God's power didn't end with the book of Revelation. God's power is still alive and active today, and it's at work in each of our lives, even at this very moment.

Did you know that when God gave us His Holy Spirit, He entrusted us to be His image-bearers? That means that we are gifted the opportunity every day to show who He is to the people around us. So not only has God made a way for us to experience His power in our lives, but He's also entrusted us to display His power for others.

Look at the verses above. What has God given us His power for? To be a witness for Jesus in the world, to share the Gospel boldly, and to endure suffering because of the Gospel.

Our commission as disciples is to be as Jesus was in our world. To love like He loved, serve like He served, sacrifice like He sacrificed. All of that, He did by the power of the Holy Spirit in Him, and all of that we will also only accomplish by the power of the Holy Spirit in us. Perhaps you have misused the name of Jesus to accomplish your will. God is calling us to lay down the worldly means by which we gain power and to trust that His way and His means are better. God has empowered us to live a life of faith in our world. Take heart, disciple! God is for you and has given you the spirit of power!

\rightarrow REFLECT

1. Because God is powerful, I am ______.

2. When was the last time you relied on God's power to be a witness, share the Gospel, and endure persecution?

3. How often do you ask God to empower you?

ightarrow GOD DOES NOT NEED US, HE WANTS US.

"God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM'; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" **Exodus 3:14**

"Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God." **Psalm 90:1-2**

We live in a culture constantly striving to be independent and autonomous. Many people don't want to be known by their attachment to things, work, or even their beliefs but rather by who they are as individuals. While the culture we live in might not value God, it does value independence and autonomy. Ironically, God is the most independent Being in existence. One truth that most believers will discover is that the more time they spend in God's Word is that God does not need us. He wants us and wants to have a relationship with us, but He does not need us. God did not create the world and Adam and Eve because He needed them but because He wanted them.

The fact that God is self-sufficient is precisely why we can rely on Him so much. One of the things that makes humans unreliable is that we are needy beings. We may want to focus solely on helping others, but our needs can make this impossible. God is the only one who is entirely self-sufficient and, therefore, the only one who can always provide for us.

Even though He doesn't need us, God still wants us to come to Him with our needs. This is one of the things that sets the God of Christianity apart from other "gods." We serve a God who cares about us and desires a genuine relationship with us no matter how much we need Him.

Take a moment to pause and meditate on the idea that God wants you. The God of the universe, who speaks creation into existence, wants you! God could have anything, yet He chooses to pursue the hearts of broken people like us. This should leave us feeling overwhelmed, and so loved. Sometimes, we feel like we have to carry life's burdens and the burdens of others alone. Find peace today knowing that our God is self-sufficient and doesn't need you to carry anything for Him. All He wants is you.

\rightarrow REFLECT

1. Because God is self-sufficient, I am _____.

2. How does understanding that God wants a relationship with you but doesn't need it change how you approach prayer?

3. What is one major need you have that you need to surrender?

\rightarrow GOD IS FOR EVERYONE.

"For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus." **Galatians 3:26-28**

"Later, Levi held a banquet in his home with Jesus as the guest of honor. Many of Levi's fellow tax collectors and other guests also ate with them. But the Pharisees and their teachers of religious law complained bitterly to Jesus' disciples, 'Why do you eat and drink with such scum?' Jesus answered them, 'Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent.'" **Luke 5:29-32**

We serve a God who is three-in-one. God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each part of God is simultaneously distinct from the others but unified as one. Each aspect of God works together to bring Glory to another aspect (i.e., the Holy Spirit glorifies the Son, the Son glorifies the Father). The point is this: community is an essential aspect of who God is, and if community is essential to who God is, then it should be essential to who we are, too.

When we get to heaven one day, there will be people of all ages from different cultures across the world. This is because our God is for everyone; everyone is welcomed into His Church, regardless of background. Scripture tells us that anyone who has accepted Christ becomes a child of God. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we are adopted into a new family.

Our Church should mirror heaven in this way. A family is not perfect, but everyone works and grows together. We are all brothers and sisters in this family. We may not always get along, but we are asked to love and welcome each other. Just as every aspect of God is unified, we should aim to be unified as a family, continually lifting up and encouraging our brothers and sisters.

\rightarrow reflect

1. Because God is communal, I am ______.

2. Think of a time when someone showed up for you when you needed them. How did they reflect God's communicable attribute?

3. Who should you be inviting into the family?

ightarrow GOD CHOSE TO DIE FOR YOU.

"Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world...By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead...God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it." **Ephesians 2:1, 3b-5, 8-9**

Something dead does not have the ability, by itself, to come back to life. A wilted plant cannot revive itself; it needs something outside of itself to be restored. In the same way, we cannot pay for the cost of our sins by ourselves. Only God is powerful enough to pay off our debts and restore us. He is the only one who is pure, blameless, and capable of making our dead hearts alive again.

Think of it this way: God never had to bring us back to life. We were dead in our sin and could have stayed dead. But God is so merciful and loving that He chose to give us life again. He chose to save us, and we can choose whether or not to accept that salvation.

God sent His son to die so that we would have life again – and not just life here in a broken world, but eternal life in community with Him forever. Jesus came and lived perfectly sinless among sinners. He was blameless in His actions and was the only person genuinely unworthy of death. But He chose to sacrifice Himself, the perfect and sinless man, so that we would not have to suffer death ourselves. God chose us, and now, each of us has the opportunity to choose the salvation He offers in return. What a gift! God, in his infinite love and mercy, offers salvation to all who trust in Him.

If you have accepted Jesus as the Lord and Savior of your life, take a moment to praise Him for the salvation you've been given!

If you've never accepted Jesus, we want you to know that the door is wide open for you! God sent His perfect and blameless Son to save you, and He longs for you to accept His free gift of salvation. There's no magic prayer that saves you, just Jesus – and if you put your faith and trust in Him today, you will be saved.

Pray: God, I admit that I'm a sinner, and you're the only One who can save me. I believe that you sent your Son, Jesus, to give me salvation and there's nothing I could do to earn or deserve it. God, today, I want to put my faith and trust in you and surrender my life and my desires to you. Thank you for the free gift of salvation you've given to me! Amen.

\rightarrow REFLECT

1. Because God is my Savior, I am ______.

2. Do you believe you are dead in your sin apart from Christ?

3. How does your life reflect that belief?

4. Who in your life needs to be saved?

ightarrow notes

ightarrow GOD ABUNDANTLY GIVES OF HIMSELF.

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life." **1 Timothy 6:17-19**

From the very beginning, God has put His generosity on full display. You can see it in creation by the way he placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful and abundant garden full of everything they could ever want or need. You can even see His generosity in His response to the fall of man. As is true of all good things, generosity comes from God. We are generous because He is generous with us.

If we fail to recognize this, we will fail to embrace gratitude. Anyone can give, but to be generous requires an awareness of what you've received. You must realize all the ways God has lavished grace, provisions, and good things on you without you earning it. When we see how much we've been given, we can start to live generously from a place of gratitude.

God has created us to reflect His generosity in three primary ways: with our time, our talents, and our treasures. And here's the thing—disciples are called to live generously in all three areas. Some seasons will give you more freedom to be generous in one area more than another, but we should never neglect an area of generosity entirely.

Has someone ever been radically generous to you? Maybe they gave you an incredible gift, or perhaps they gave their time to help you move. When you've been on the receiving end of generosity, it's hard not to want to share that same generosity with others. What you'll find in this life is that when we're generous with what we have – our time, talents, and treasures – an attitude of gratitude follows. Because God is generous, we can also live generously.

\rightarrow REFLECT

1. Because God is generous with me, I am ______.

2. List ten things that you are grateful for.

3. What about your lifestyle is preventing you from living generously?

DAY 21: WEEKLY REFLECTION

Incommunicable Attributes: Omnipotent Self-sufficient Savior

Communicable Attributes: Powerful Communal Generous

Can we add another? Incomprehensible.

This is only the beginning, friends! There is much to learn and much to love about our God. And what makes this all so fun is that there will always be more to know and love! That is the reality of Him being incomprehensible. There will always be more to discover about His character, righteousness, and magnificence.

Our God is more significant than we could ever imagine. More beautiful than we could ever perceive. Stronger than we could ever fathom. He is a big deal.

We pray this journey through the attributes of God has expanded your mind and your heart to see and receive Him better than before.

1. Which attribute has grown your love for God the most?

2. Which attribute have you found most puzzling or mysterious?

3. Reflect on your fasting throughout these 21 days. What was the most challenging part of your fast? How did God show up through your fasting? What are you going to do with what you learned?

ightarrow Action Step

Join others on a yearlong journey through the Bible in a Discipleship Group. You will experience unique, one-on-one discipleship within a group setting. Scan the QR code below and search "discipleship group" to explore your options. While there, check out the other group options that Northview offers.



\rightarrow NOTES

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