

**King's Online Bible School**  
**Doctrine 101: Learning about God**

**The Self-Existence of God** (from R. C. Sproul, *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith*)

When the Bible declares that God is the Creator of the universe it indicates that God Himself is not created. There is a crucial distinction between the Creator and the creation. The creation bears the stamp of the Creator and witnesses to His glory. But the creation is never to be worshipped. It is not Supreme.

It is impossible for something to create itself. The concept of self-creation is a contradiction in terms, a nonsense statement. Nothing can be self-created. Not even God can make Himself. For God to create Himself He would have to be before He is.

Every *effect* must have a *cause*. But God is not an effect. He has no beginning and therefore no cause. He is eternal. He always was and is. He has, within Himself, the power of being. He requires no assistance from outside sources to continue to exist. This is what is meant by the idea of *self-existent*.

Just because it is impossible that a creature be self-existent does not mean it is impossible for the Creator to be self-existent. God can be self-existent. Indeed, this is the very essence of the difference between the Creator and creation. This is what makes Him the Supreme Being and the *Source* of all other beings.

The notion of something being self-existent is not only rationally *possible*, it is rationally *necessary*. Reason demands that if anything is, then something must have, within itself, the power of being. Otherwise there would be nothing. Unless something existed in itself, nothing could possibly exist at all.

Perhaps the oldest and deepest question of all is, "Why is there something rather than nothing?" A necessary answer to at least part of the question is because God exists. God exists in Himself eternally. He is the source and fountainhead of all being. He alone has, within Himself, the power of being. Paul declares our dependence upon the power of God's being for our own existence when he says: "In Him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

**Summary**

1. Every effect must have a cause.
2. God is not an effect; He has no cause.
3. Self-creation is an irrational concept.
4. Self-existence is a rational concept.
5. Self-existence is not only rationally possible, but rationally necessary.

**Biblical passages for reflection:**

Psalm 90:2   John 1:1-5   Acts 17:22-31   Colossians 1:15-20   Revelation 1:8