

**King's Online Bible School**

**Doctrine 101: Learning about God** — Spotlight Studies

(adapted from Wayne Grudem's *Bible Doctrines* & R. C. Sproul, *Essential Truths*)

**God is Self-existing** (Lesson 2)

**1. "I Am!"**

God always was and is and will be!

"Before mountains were brought forth  
Or You had given birth to earth and world  
Even from everlasting to everlasting You are God" (Ps 90:2).

"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'" (Exod 3:14)

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty" (Rev 1:8).

His being has always been and will always be exactly what it is.

"Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, Who was and Who is and Who is to come" (Rev 4:8).

**2. Uncreated - the Uncaused Cause**

Science recognizes that in the natural world every effect must have a **cause**. There is always some explanation how each effect came about. There is always something that preceded each occurrence and that caused it.

Only God is not an effect. He is not created. He never came into being. There is nothing that existed before Him that explains His existence. He always is.

God possesses the ground of His existence in Himself. He exists by the necessity of His own being. it is His nature to be.

Only God exists by virtue of His very nature. The ground of our existence and of all creation is outside of ourselves — in Him. He is the ultimate Cause of all that there is.

### 3. Explaining existence

Why is there something rather than nothing?

Reason demands that if anything is, there must be some source. Otherwise there would be nothing. Unless something (someone) has always existed in itself (himself), nothing could possibly exist at all.

God exists in Himself eternally. Only because He is the Self-existent is all other existence apart from Him possible.

“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on the earth, visible and invisible, . . . all things have been created through Him (the Son) and for Him. **He is before all things**, and in Him all things hold together” (Col 1:16-17).

Question: Why must reason demand that “someone” like this exists, and not just that “something” like this exists?

### 4. The power of being

He alone has within Himself the power of being.

“In Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28).

“He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together” (Col 1:16-17).

“He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things” (Acts 17:25).

He is the **source and sustaining necessity** for all other existence.

“Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created” (Rev 4:11).

All creation, animate and inanimate, is dependent on the Eternal God and on the unlimited capacity for being and life He possesses within Himself. There is an eternal and infinite “fulness” in God. The universe is only a faint expression of His life.

## 5. Self-sufficient

"I AM WHO I AM" (Exod 3:14).

"God's existence and character are determined by Himself alone and are not dependent on anyone or anything else."

God does not need any part of creation in order to exist; but neither does He need any part of creation for any other reason. He is absolutely independent and self-sufficient.

Not only this, but God *could* not need the creation for anything.

"The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things" (Acts 17:24-25).

All else that exists is entirely and constantly dependent on His existence.

## 6. "Who has given to Me?"

God cannot be changed by anything outside Himself.

Nothing God creates alters anything about Him. Who He is is not influenced by it.

The will of God is absolutely independent of all His creatures and all their actions.

"I am God, and there is none like Me,  
Declaring the end from the beginning  
And from ancient times things not yet done,  
Saying, "My counsel shall stand,  
And I will accomplish all My purpose" (Isa 46:9-10).

God is unaffected by all that is outside of Him, except by that which He has willed to receive from His creatures and what He has willed His creatures to be in relationship to Him.

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## 7. "I do not change."

God does not and will not change within Himself.  
He is unchanging in His being, perfections, purposes, and promises.

"For I the Lord do not change" (Mal 3:6).

We are continually becoming. Only He Is pure Being with no becoming.  
God's unchanging nature (immutability) is our security.

"My soul waits in silence for God only;  
From Him is my salvation.  
He only is my Rock and my Salvation,  
My stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken" (Ps 62:1-2).

"Ascribe greatness to our God!  
The Rock! His work is perfect,  
For all His ways are just;  
A God of faithfulness . . ." (Deut 32:3-4).

". . . the Father of Lights, with Whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" (Jms 1:17).

"The counsel of the Lord stands firm forever,  
The thoughts of His heart to all generations" (Ps 33:11).

"Has He said, and will He not do it?  
Or has he spoken, and will He not fulfil it? (1 Sam 15:29).

Our faith, hope, and knowing depend on God not changing.  
Because He is absolutely and eternally unchanging, He is *infinitely worthy of trust*.

"It fortifies my soul to know,  
That, though I perish, Truth is so;  
That, howsoe'er I stray and range,  
Whate'er I do, Thou dost not change.  
I steadier step when I recall  
That, if I slip, Thou dost not fall." (Arthur Hugh Clough)

God's "immediate" acts — His interaction with His creation and His creatures — are expressions of and means toward the realization of His eternal unchanging will. His immutability is consistent with His constant activity and perfect freedom.

"He is in one mind, and who can turn Him? . . .  
For He performs that which is appointed for me;  
And many such things are with Him" (Job 23:13-14).

"I Yahweh, change not;  
Therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed" (Mal 3:6).

## **8. "Who is like You?"**

His Self-existence and Self-sufficiency sets Him apart from all His creation.

God's self-existence is at the very core of the difference between the Creator and creation.

His being is a fundamentally different kind of being to ours.

It is not just that He has existed for longer (a quantitative difference in being);  
He exists with an entirely different being (a qualitative difference).

He is the Creator, existing before and apart from creation;

Everything else exists as His creation, entirely dependent on His will that it should be and that it should continue existing.

O LORD, how many are Your works!  
In wisdom You have made them all;  
The earth is full of Your possessions.

They all wait for You . . . You give to them.

You hide Your face, they are dismayed;  
You take away their spirit, they expire.

You send forth Your Spirit,  
They are created;  
And You renew the face of the ground.

Let the glory of the Lord endure forever;  
Let the Lord be glad in His works. (Ps 104:24-31)