

What is God really like?

God is a personal being. He wants us to know Him in a personal way. We can enter a relationship with Him and know Him intimately, although we will never comprehend Him completely. He has created each of us and is intimately involved in our lives. He is spirit and yet He has revealed Himself to us as a man.

As you read the Bible, look for a portrait of God:

Who is He?

What's on His heart?

What is He passionate about?

What are His values, His interests,
His goals, His roles, His works?

What emotions does God feel?
What triggers these emotions?

What gives Him joy?
What makes Him sad?
What makes Him angry?

What does He love?
What does He hate?

What will He reward?
What will He punish?

What kind of power does He have?
What does He do?

It will take a reading of the whole Bible many times to get a glimpse of who He really is. You will always find Scripture that speaks to your heart in a new way, if you are open to God revealing more to you.

God loves to find a tender hearted person who recognizes their own need, receives His love and welcomes His Presence. When you surrender to Him as Lord of your life, and begin to develop your relationship with Him through prayer, living His Word and observing what He does, your understanding will increase, and your intimacy with Him will grow.

God's Character, Roles, and Names

God is personal, powerful, and present;
the ultimate Designer, Scientist,
Judge and Loving Savior

... our Wonderful Counselor,
the Mighty God,
the Everlasting Father
and the Prince of Peace.

He is Omnipotent,
Omniscient, Omnipresent,
Eternal and Immutable.

His Name is Jesus – Yeshua – our Savior,
Messiah – the Anointed One,
Jehovah Jireh – our Provider,
Jehovah Rophe – our Healer,
Jehovah Nissi – our Deliverer,
Jehovah M'Kaddesh – our Sanctifier,
Jehovah Tsedkenu – our Righteousness,
Jehovah Rohi – our Shepherd.

Jesus is the Alpha & Omega

Revelation 1:8 – “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Revelation 1:17,18 – “... Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

Revelation 2:8 – “These are the words of Him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.”

Revelation 22:13 – “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the end.”

Jesus Reigns

Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords, far above all principalities and powers in heaven and on earth. In Him all things hold together. His Name is Jesus. There is no other name by which we can be saved.

In fact Jesus says of Himself that He is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. All authority in heaven and on earth belongs to Jesus.

One day every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Colossians 1:13-20; Matthew 28:18;
Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 17:14; 19:11-16

Jesus Redeems

Jesus chose to die so that we could live. And He lives again, praying for us, providing for us, and preparing a place for us to be with Him forever. When we come to Him in repentance, humility and faith, we receive His mercy and enter into an eternal relationship with Him. Jesus redeems us from the penalty of sin and from the power of sin – our own sins and the sins of others which affect us. Our scars fade as we focus on Him. The light heals. Our response determines our freedom, our fruitfulness, and our future.

Isaiah 53; John 1:29; 3:15-17

Jesus Rewards

God rewards those who diligently seek Him and follow Him. Jesus said He is returning soon, and He will reward us for the way we lived our lives. We will either see Him return to the earth while we are alive, or we will see Him when we pass from this life to the next.

Matthew 25:21,34-36; Hebrews 11:6; Revelation 22:12

And So...?

How shall we then live, knowing that this same Jesus whom the disciples saw go up into the sky will come again in like manner? This time He will return to the same Mount of Olives in Israel with great power and glory. He will judge the world and reward each of us for the way we have lived. We will be found to be in relationship with Him or separated from Him.

The apostle Peter says we are to live holy and godly lives as we look forward to God's return, continuing to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior (2 Peter 3:10-18).

We have no guarantee of tomorrow. Today we can renew our dedication to Him, receive His power for abundant living, and prepare for a glorious eternity. Today we can shine in this dark world by coming alongside others and sharing the Word of life (Daniel 12:3; Philippians 2:14-16).

God Is ...	How We Know ...
Abounding in love	Psalms 103:8
Almighty	Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 28:18
Compassionate	Exodus 34:6,7
Faithful	1 Corinthians 10:13
Good	Psalms 34:8
Gracious	Psalms 103:8
Holy	Exodus 15:11; 1 Peter 1:15,16
Jealous	Exodus 20:4-6; 34:14
Just	Revelation 16:7
Kind	Jeremiah 31:3
Loving	John 3:16
Majestic	Psalms 93:1; 104:1
Merciful	Titus 3:4-7
Orderly	1 Corinthians 14:33
Patient	2 Peter 3:9
Peace Loving	Romans 15:33
Perfect	2 Samuel 22:31
Personal	Hebrews 4:13-16
Present in Trouble	Psalms 46:1
Three Persons in One	Isaiah 48:16; Matthew 28:19; Titus 3:4-7
Truthful	John 8:31,32; 14:6

God Also ...	How We Know ...
Cares about the fatherless and widows	Psalms 68:5
Cares about the poor	Isaiah 58:6,7; Matthew 25
Comforts the hurting	Isaiah 40:1; 2 Corinthians 1:3,4
Frees souls from captivity	Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18
Gets angry	Colossians 3:6
Grieves	Ephesians 4:30
Hates evil	Psalms 5:4-6
Heals the brokenhearted	Psalms 147:3
Hears and answers prayer	Exodus 3:7
Judges justly	Genesis 18:25
Punishes those who do evil	Jeremiah 8:12
Refines His people	Jeremiah 9:7
Rejoices	Luke 10:21; 15:7
Saves those who repent	Acts 3:19,20

God is Seeking ...	How We Know ...
Loving relationship with you	John 14:21,23; Revelation 3:20
An intercessor	Ezekiel 22:30
His sheep	Ezekiel 34:11-15
People who continue to love Him and obey Him	John 15:10
People with humble and contrite hearts	Isaiah 57:15
People who are merciful	Micah 6:8
Seekers of truth and executors of justice	Jeremiah 5:1; Micah 6:8
The faithful, the blameless	Psalms 101:6
The lost, the scattered, the broken, the sick	Ezekiel 34:16; Luke 19:10; Matthew 9:12,13
The praise of His people	Isaiah 43:21; Psalm 102:18
The righteous who do good	Psalms 34:15

God is Seeking ...	How We Know ...
Those who are suffering in prison	Psalms 102:19-20
Those who continue to depend on Him, spend time with Him and bear fruit	John 15:5
Those who continue to love His Word and live in obedience to it	John 8:31
Those who understand and seek Him	Psalms 14:2
Those whose hope is in His unfailing love	Psalms 33:18
True 'fast-ers' – those who are kind and just, helping the poor and needy, caring for their own family	Isaiah 58:6,7
True lovers who care for and feed His sheep	John 21:15-17
True 'religion' – helping the poor and needy; pure lifestyle	Jeremiah 22:16; James 1:27
True worshipers	John 4:23

Godly Goals for Us:

God wants us to seek ...	His Promise or Command
approval from Him	Isaiah 51:7; John 5:44; 12:42,43
building up of one another	Romans 14:19; 1 Corinthians 14:12,26; Ephesians 4:11-16
comfort from Him	Isaiah 51:12; 2 Corinthians 1:3-5
good deeds	1 Timothy 6:18,19; Titus 3:8,14
Him	Deuteronomy 4:29; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 34:4,5; 105:4; 119:45; Isaiah 55:6; 65:10; Acts 17:27; Hebrews 11:6
His commands	Psalm 119:94
His glory	Matthew 5:16; Ephesians 1:11,12
His kingdom	Matthew 6:33; Luke 12:31
His pleasure	John 5:30
His strength	1 Chronicles 16:11; Psalm 105:4

God wants us to seek ...	His Promise or Command
His will	2 Samuel 2:1; Matthew 26:42
holiness, purity	2 Peter 3:11
humility & righteousness	Zephaniah 2:3
peace	Jeremiah 29:7; Ephesians 4:3
safety in Him	Psalm 118:6-9
the greater gifts	1 Corinthians 12:31
the lost	Ezekiel 34:16; Matthew: 18:11; Luke 5:32; 19:10
the well-being of others	Romans 15:1,2; 1 Corinthians 10:24
true love	1 Peter 1:22,23
wisdom and understanding	Proverbs 2:1-5; 9:10; 18:15; Colossians 2:3