

# What Every Christian Should Know



Core Beliefs to Help You  
Stand Strong in a Shifting World

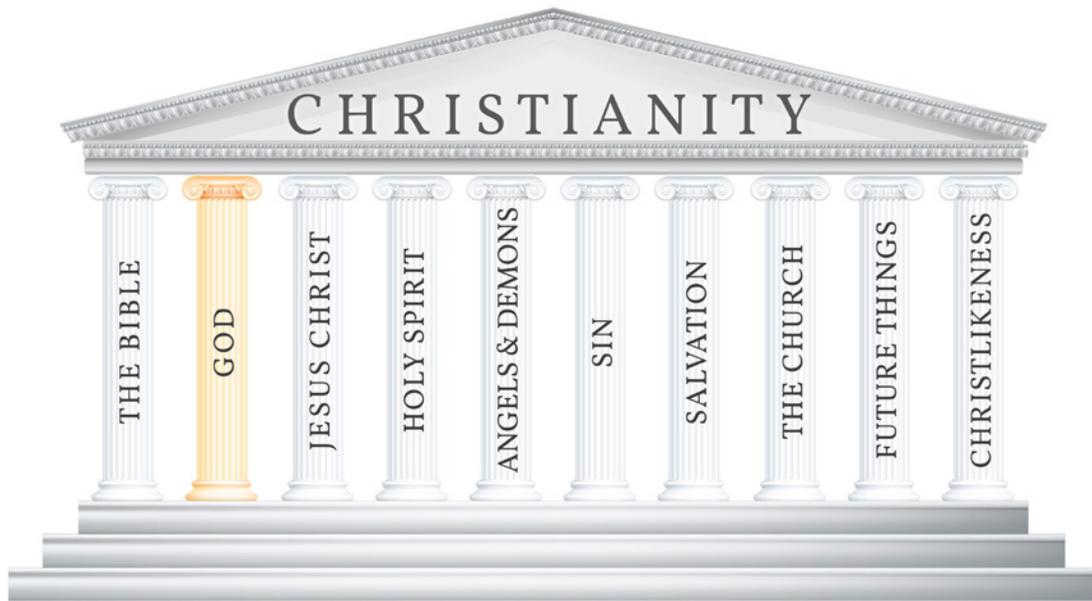
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## “What Every Christian Should Know About God”

PSALM 8:1-6

**Introduction:** A.W. Tozer wrote, “What comes into our mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” What should come into our minds when we think about God are things that are true about God. Today, we are going to look at what the Bible reveals to us about God the Father.

### 10 PILLARS OF HISTORIC CHRISTIANITY



#### I. How God Reveals Himself To Us

##### A. God Reveals Himself Through Nature (Psalm 8:3-4; Luke 12:27; Romans 1:20)

Psalm 8:3-4 <sup>3</sup> “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your finger, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; <sup>4</sup> what is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him?”

Luke 12:27 “Consider the lilies, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.”

Romans 1:20 “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”



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### B. God Reveals Himself Through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:1-2; John 14:9)

Hebrews 1:1-2 <sup>1</sup>“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, <sup>2</sup> in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”

John 14:9 “Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been so long with you and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, “Show us the Father?” ’”

### C. God Reveals Himself Through His Word (2 Timothy 3:16)

2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”

### D. God Reveals Himself Through His Spirit (Romans 8:16; 8:14; John 16:8)

Romans 8:16 “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.”

Romans 8:14 “For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”

John 16:8 “And He [the Holy Spirit], when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.”

## II. What God Reveals To Us

### A. God Reveals His Attributes

#### God’s Perfections

We use words like *traits* and *characteristics* to refer to God’s attributes. But *perfections* is a more accurate term. Human traits and characteristics are limited and often in conflict with one another. For example, one person may be intelligent in certain areas but average at best in others. Another may be friendly at times but vengeful when crossed.

On the other hand, every one of God’s attributes is perfect and complete. He’s not just loving; His love is perfect and complete. He’s not simply just; His justice is perfect and complete. His justice never negates His love, and vice versa. His attributes exist in perfect harmony with one another.



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1. God Is Holy
2. God Is Just
3. God Is Loving
4. God Is Eternal
5. God Is Omnipotent

### Can and Can't

When we discuss God's power, the question inevitably arises: “Can God do *anything*?” Strictly speaking, the answer is no. God can't do anything contrary to His perfect, holy nature. For example, He can't lie (Titus 1:2), be tempted by evil (James 1:13), or be faithless (2 Tim. 2:13), to name just a few things. These are called natural limitations—things God can't do because they go against His nature. These limitations don't make God any less powerful; they just make Him true to His nature.

6. God Is Omniscient
  7. God Is Immanent
  8. God Is Transcendent
  9. God Is Sovereign
  10. God Is Unchanging
- B. God Reveals His Names



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### The Names of God

*Elohim* is the first name of God used in the Bible—in Genesis 1:1, to be precise. It is the general name for God, and it means “supreme one” or “mighty one.”

*Yahweh* is the name God used to identify Himself to Moses in the burning bush (Exod. 3:13-15). It means “I AM WHO I AM”—or “I AM.” *Yahweh* is the covenant name that refers to God’s special relationship with the nation of Israel.

*El Elyon* means “God Most High” (Ps. 57:2). This is the universal name for God. The name is used to refer to His role as the God of the entire universe.

*El Shaddai*, or “God Almighty,” is the name God used to make Himself known to Abram in Genesis 17:1.

*El Roi* is the name Hagar used in Genesis 16 when God found her in the wilderness. It means “the God who sees me.”

*Adonai* is a name for God that means “Lord,” derived from the Hebrew word for “sovereign.”

*Abba* is an Aramaic word for “father,” used in a familiar but respectful sense, much like our English word “Daddy” (Rom. 8:15).

### The Names of Jehovah

*Jehovah* is a variation of the name *Yahweh*. The Old Testament includes seven names for God that begin with *Jehovah*:

*Jehovah Jireh* means “the Lord our Provider.” This is the name Abraham used when God provided a ram for him to sacrifice in Isaac’s place (Gen. 22:14).

*Jehovah Rapha* means “the Lord our Healer.” He heals not just our bodies but also our souls by forgiving our sins (Exod. 15:26).

*Jehovah Nissi* means “the Lord our Banner.” *Banner*, in this context, refers to a rallying site, such as where the Israelites gathered in their victory over the Amalekites (Exod. 17:15).

*Jehovah Shalom* means “the Lord our Peace.” This is the name Gideon used when he saw the angel of the Lord (Judg. 6:24).

*Jehovah Rohi* means “the Lord our Shepherd.” In his most famous psalm, David compared God’s relationship with His people to a shepherd’s relationship with his sheep (Ps. 23:1).

*Jehovah Tsidkenu* means “the Lord our Righteousness.” This name looked forward to God’s providing righteousness through the sacrifice of His Son (Jer. 23:6).

*Jehovah Shammah* means “the Lord is Here” This name celebrated the glory of the Lord returning to Jerusalem after a long absence (Ezek. 48:35).



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### C. God Reveals His Plan

#### 1. God’s providential plan (Ephesians 1:11)

Ephesians 1:11 “Also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will.”

#### 2. God’s preceptive plan (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4)

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 <sup>3</sup> “For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor.”

#### 3. God’s personal plan (Ephesians 5:15-17)

Ephesians 5:15-17 <sup>15</sup> “Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of your time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

### III. Our Response To God’s Revelation

#### A. We Should Respond to His Invitation (James 4:8)

James 4:8 “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

#### B. We Should Tap into His Resources (2 Peter 1:2-3)

2 Peter 1:2-3 <sup>2</sup> “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; <sup>3</sup> seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.”

#### C. We Should Submit to His Authority Over Our Lives (Psalm 100:3)

Psalm 100:3 “Know that the LORD Himself is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.”

Conclusion