

What is God?

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Belief in the **existence of God** is prerequisite to all other knowledge of God (Hb11:6b). The **Plan of God** is based on the offer to human beings of joining the **God Family** (Ps8:4). Only through the **Holy Spirit** is knowledge of God attainable (Jh6:12-13a). **God is spirit; God is light; God has life in himself** (Jh4:24a, 1Jh1:5bα, Jh5:26). **True worship of God** must be done “in spirit and in truth” (Jh4:24b).

Does God Exist? Human beings have a built-in **yearning for a relationship with God** (Hb11:6, Ecc3:11a, Ps14:1a,2). God created human beings to become members of the God Family (Is45:18a, 1Jh3:1a,2). Through “**General Revelation**” all human beings should acknowledge the existence of a Creator (Ps19:1-4a, 8:3-4, Rm1:18-22,28a). “**Special Revelation**”, direct teaching from God, is recorded in the Bible and is only comprehensible through the Holy Spirit (Jr33:1-3, Is6:1,8-9a, Eph3:1-7a,8b-9a).

The Agency of the Holy Spirit: The words recorded in the Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit (Lk1:67-68, 2Pt1:21, 2Chr24:20). Jesus is explicit that the **indwelling of the Holy Spirit** is required to understand the Truth of God (Jh14:25-26, 15:26, 16:7-8a,12-13). A relationship with God must be based on faith, which is a gift of the Holy Spirit (Hb11:6, 12:2a, Gl5:22, Rm12:3b, Jm2:1).

God is Spirit: Jesus used the “**metaphor of wind**” to help Nicodemus understand “spirit” (Jh4:24, 3:1-8). The Greek word, πνεῦμα – pneuma, and the Hebrew word, רוּחַ - ruah, both mean “wind”, “breath”, “spirt” (Gn6:31a, 7:15, 8:1b). To be “**born of the Spirit**” is the transformation from mortal to immortal, from a physical body to a spiritual body (1Cr15:35-37a,38a,42-44,50-55).

God is Light: the “**metaphor of light**” is used extensively in the Bible to describe the **Nature of God** (Ps27:1a, Jh1:1,4-5, 8:12, Mt4:16,1Jh1:5-7). The metaphor is evident on several levels: light is contrasted with “darkness”; “God is light” and he is “in the light”; light illuminates the way, “walk in the light”; light brings life, “the light of life”; Jesus is the manifestation, “the light of the world”, “on them a light has dawned”. Both light and wind are physical things, explainable by science, but they are NOT directly observable to human perception. The effect of both wind and light is observable, but the cause is NOT. As human beings **we cannot** through any physical means **observe or discover God**. **God reveals himself to human beings as he sees fit**.

God is Life: This is the most important characteristic of what God is: **God is self-sustaining, indestructible, eternal life** (1Jh1:1-3a, Hb7:11a,11bα, 14aα,16, Jh5:26, Nm14:21-22a,23a,28-29a, Dt5:26a, Jsh3:10a, 1Sm17:36, Ps42:2a, 84:2).

Worship in Spirit and Truth: The most important aspect of “worship” is to understand **true reverence** for God. The basis of reverence is understanding “**What is God**”: **the vast gulf that exists between human beings and God** (Jh4:24, Job 42:2-6). Each person is different: we all have a unique set of problems to work out. Each of us has to stand alone before God and come to the point of deep reverence (Pp2:12-13). **The second part of “worship” is serving God** (Jh4:31-34, Rm12:1). To **worship in spirit** requires the **indwelling of the Holy Spirit** (Rm8:9-11,14-17a,26). To **worship in truth** is to understand the teaching of the Bible (Jh17:17, 8:31-32, Eph1:16-18a, 1Cr2:9-10,12-13). The most fundamental knowledge from God, upon which all reverence for God is based, and the foundation for repentance to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit is to know “**What is God**”.

The beginning of **reverence** for God is to know that God exists. God has given us “**Special Revelation**”, the Bible, which fully reveals God. God has made available the **indwelling of the Holy Spirit**, which is the only way a human being can comprehend the things of God. The Bible reveals God as “**spirit**” which Jesus explained is like “**wind**”. The metaphor of “**light**” is use extensively to explain “**What is God**”. Most importantly, **God is self-existent, indestructible, eternal life**. **True worship of God** is based on “reverence” and “service”. To worship “**in spirit**” requires the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Understanding the “**truth of God**” is only possible by the Holy Spirit. Knowing “**What is God**” is the **basis of a relationship with God**.