

GOD IS: SELF-EXISTENT

Children often ask, *who made God? Or, when is God's birthday?* The simple answer is, *God has always existed.* Only God has always been, without beginning or end. You had a beginning, the moment of your conception, then your birth nine months later. But God always exists, outside of our space and time.

1- God is INDEPENDENT. God simply is. Theologians coined the term *aseity* from the Latin to describe how God has life in and of Himself. He draws unending energy from His own being, so that He has absolutely no needs of any kind. Theologian W.A. Grudem says God does not need us or the rest of creation for anything, yet we can glorify Him and bring Him joy. Isaiah 40 asks, *"to whom will you compare Me? The LORD is the everlasting God, the creator, His understanding is unsearchable."* LORD in all caps is revealed in Exodus 3:14 as the personal name of God, Yahweh, Jehovah, "I AM who I am." God is. He will be. He has always been. God is unique, self-sufficient. Divine independent One.

R.C. Sproul says God's name in all its forms proclaims His eternal, self-sustaining, self-determining and sovereign reality. His supernatural existence is signified by the burning bush that was not consumed. God is inexhaustible. God is described, but not defined nor determined by anything but His own divine self. Acts 17:24 affirms, *"The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. In Him we live and move and have our being, for we are His offspring."* Only God has such attributes. God is infinite. All that is finite owes its very existence to Him who has the power of existence, in and of Himself.

2- You are DERIVED. Your very existence depends on God, who has always existed. God is divine, the uncreated creator, the infinite one who gives rise to the finite. Everything else that exists derives from Him. Psalm 90 declares, *"before You had formed the world, from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."* Romans 11:36 proclaims, *"from Him and through Him and to Him are all things"* (echoed in 1 Corinthians 8:6). From Him, by the sovereign will of God, the source of all things. Through Him, the sovereign activity of God, the means of all things. For Him, the sovereign glory of God, the goal and purpose of all things.

A.W. Pink says, "God was under no constraint, no obligation, no necessity to create. That He chose to do so was purely a sovereign act on His part, caused by nothing but His own mere good pleasure." Isaiah 40 says God created the heavenly host *"by the greatness of His might, because He is strong in power, not one is missing."* This sovereign power extends to all that He creates and sustains. Including you.

3- You are DEPENDENT. You, like everything else, are created, derived from God, and designed to be dependent upon Him. And God has a particular purpose for human beings, created *imago deo* in His own image, for relationship with Him. The independent One created beings dependent upon Him, to represent Him on earth. But in Adam we sinned, declaring independence, wrecking our purpose and identity in relation to God. Sin gives rise to all the evil in the world and in you. But God promised a Savior to redeem you from sin, reconcile you to Himself, and restore right relationship with Him. And your purpose.

Jesus Christ, express image of God, Himself Creator God, came in the flesh to save mankind. In Adam, you seek to be "like God" which results in sin, disobeying, independence from Him. In Christ, He restores you to live in dependence upon Him. Reborn by the Holy Spirit, you are re-created "in Christ." His eternal spiritual life restores your relationship with God, and ultimately, for eternal existence with Him in heaven. But here in earth-time, the sovereign Lord God isn't finished with YOU yet. He knows and cares.

Faced with the overpowering reality of God as self-existent sovereign, Isaiah 40 asks, *"Why do you say, 'my way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God'?"* And answers, *"Have you not known? The LORD is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth, He does not grow weary, His understanding is unsearchable."* By His self-existence, He redeems your existence. *"He gives power; they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, run, walk, and not faint."* Declare your dependence on the Lord today. Live by His self-existent power!