

## **GOD IS: SPIRIT**

What image does the word *invisible* conjure up in your mind? It's an oxymoron! You can't see anything that is invisible. But this doesn't mean invisible things do not exist. God certainly exists. Understand more of the "spirituality" of God, and you will see Him as never before.

**1- God is IMMATERIAL.** Jesus told the woman at the well in John 4, "*God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.*" Depending on context, the Greek word *pneuma* is translated spirit, wind, breath, and often refers to the Holy Spirit. But in John 4:24 it describes the nature of God Himself, rather than distinguishing between the three persons of the one Godhead. It means that God has no physical form, so our worship of Him should not be in purely material terms, but in spiritual terms. God has no spatial limits. He cannot be seen or touched, contained or constrained.

Charles Hodge says, "Everywhere in the Old and in the New Testament, God is represented as a spiritual Being, without form, invisible, whom no man hath seen nor can see; dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto, and full of glory, as not only the creator, and preserver, but as the governor of all things; as everywhere present, and everywhere imparting life, and securing order." God is spirit. He is super-natural. That's how He is omnipresent, so that He can be with us at all times. People often pray, "God be with us," but that's His promise already. We really want to experience His presence.

**2- God is INVISIBLE.** 1 Timothy 1:16 says "*God is immortal, invisible, the only God*" and 6:16 says "*who alone has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see.*" Job 9:11 says, "*behold He passes me by, and I see Him not, He moves on but I perceive Him not.*" Moses reminds the people in Deuteronomy 4:12, "*the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice.*" We know He is real, but invisible. For some 10 years I was part of a church which supported a certain missionary. I heard a lot about him, but never saw him. When we finally met, he was all the good things I had heard about.

Christ reveals God. John 1:18 says "*no one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known.*" John 14:9 says "*whoever has seen Me has seen the Father.*" Jesus is "*the image of the invisible God*" (Colossians 1:5) and "*the exact imprint of His nature*" (Hebrews 1:3). God is immaterial and invisible. But Jesus, God in human form, has revealed Him, that is, His nature and character. The physical appearances of God in the Old Testament are what theologians call "theophanies," the manifestation of God the Son in human form, as a prelude to His New Testament incarnation.

**3- God is INFINITE.** God has no ontological limits, since the nature of His spiritual being is infinite. Solomon prayed in 1 Kings 8:27, "*will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You.*" Jeremiah 23:23 declares "*Do I not fill heaven and earth?*" Isaiah 66:1 echoes, "*Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool, what is this house that you would build for Me?*" Acts 7:48 also applies the infinitude of God against the finiteness of man. Yet God made us in His own image so that we can know Him and worship Him. As Solomon prayed, "*that Your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which You have said, My name shall be there.*"

This longing of our human hearts is our finite plea to the infinite personal God. We want to see Him! Wayne Grudem says, "God is infinite, not subject to any of the limitations of humanity or of creation. He is far greater than anything that He has made. But He is also personal: He interacts with us as a person. We can pray to Him, worship Him, obey Him, and love Him. He can speak to us, rejoice in us, and love us."

**4- God is IN YOU.** This longing to see God is answered only as you trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, when the regenerating Holy Spirit gives you spiritual life and dwells within you. 1 John 4:14 says, "*whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in Him and he in God.*" And 1 John 3:2 says "*we will see Him as He is.*" Genesis opens with God walking in the garden. Revelation closes with "*His servants will worship Him, they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.*" To see the glorified Jesus, worship Him, know Him, serve Him forever - do YOU long for that day?