



BETHEL CHURCH
INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE



THE DOCTRINE *of* GOD

JAN 2026

INTRODUCTION

The doctrine of God is the central pillar of all theology. The term "doctrine" originates from the Latin term '*doctrina*,' meaning "teaching" or "instruction." "Theology" itself derives from the Latin word '*theologia*,' which combines the Greek words '*theos*' (God) and '*logia*' (study).

Our understanding of 'who God is' provides the framework within which our belief is shaped, life is lived, and ministry is carried out.

Many people carry distorted images of God that hinder genuine spiritual growth. Some view Him as an angry police officer, constantly seeking to catch people in wrongdoing. Others swing to the opposite extreme, imagining God as a distant grandfatherly figure who overlooks sin and prioritizes human happiness above holiness. For genuine spiritual growth to occur, these and other distorted images must be replaced with a biblically grounded understanding of God's nature. **So, "doctrines" can be defined as an organized study of foundational truths on which faith systems can be built.**

One must also be aware of the pitfalls of studying doctrines in this manner. On one hand, people talk about God like He's just an idea to study, breaking Him down into dry concepts and forgetting He's alive and real. Other times, they get so caught up in clever theories that they care more about ideas than actually knowing God personally. But the proper aim is different. **The study of God's nature should serve a clearer, truer knowledge of Him, leading to a deeper, more personal relationship.** In short, studying about God must ultimately draw us to communion with the living God.

CAN WE REALLY KNOW GOD?

The Bible doesn't waste time arguing if God exists—it dives right in with what He does: *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..."* (Genesis 1:1).

God is way bigger than the fancy debates you hear in classrooms or books, like ideas about His perfect nature, the amazing design we see in the world, or how everything must have a starting point. Philosophical proofs (like the *ontological argument*, the *teleological argument* and the *cosmological argument*) can point to a Creator, but they can also make God seem distant or complicated. Scripture shows us a God who makes Himself known in real, personal ways.

Three simple foundational truths about God

- **God is Real**

He is not an idea or a force. He truly exists and is active in our world and in our lives.

- **God is Revealed**

He doesn't hide. We don't have to guess what God is like. He has shown us who He is through the Bible and through Jesus.

- **God is Relational**

He invites us to know Him personally, not just know about Him.

GOD IS REAL

God is not a character in a fairy tale. He is as real as we are. Let's look at **three** reasons for His existence.

1. We see God's creativity in what He has made

The vast universe and the intricate beauty of nature constantly declare God's immense power and artistic glory. From the stars above to the smallest life form, creation itself speaks of its divine and powerful Maker.

Psalms 19:1-2, *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge."*

Romans 1:20, *"From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see his invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God."*

2. We see God's fingerprint on human history

God sovereignly orchestrates the rise and fall of nations and peoples across time, positioning them so they might seek and find Him in their appointed seasons and places.

Acts 17:26-27, *"From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us."*

3. We see God's actions in our lives

God's moral character is written on every human heart. Our innate sense of right and wrong, justice, and the universal pursuit of meaning testify to a moral Lawgiver.

Romans 2:14-15, *"Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. ¹⁵They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right."*

Also, God's providence works intimately for humans in their personal circumstances, revealing His character and care through specific events, relationships, and opportunities He brings their way.

Jeremiah 29:11, *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

God is Real - Why this truth matters!

When we embrace God's reality, we discover that our lives are far from meaningless accidents or random events. Instead, we find ourselves woven into something magnificent and everlasting. We are an intentional part of an eternal design woven into a greater story of redemption in this broken world.

GOD IS REVEALED

When we want to understand who God is, we can't approach Him like scientists studying something in a lab. **God is not discovered by us. He chooses to reveal Himself to us.** Human effort and ingenuity alone can't reach the truth about Him, because He is far greater than we are. Knowing God isn't about being smart enough or working hard enough. It's about being open to receive what He wants to reveal about Himself.

Two important ways He revealed Himself to us:

1. God reveals Himself to us through His Word

When we look at creation, we know that God is real—but that's all nature can tell us. It doesn't show us who God is or how we can know Him personally. We don't learn God's name from a sunset or discover His love from the stars. That's exactly why God chose to speak to us directly.



The whole Bible is God's message to us (2 Timothy 3:16), revealing His heart, His character, and His amazing plan to rescue humanity. Since we're completely helpless to save ourselves or earn God's acceptance, He provided the solution. Throughout history, God sent His truth through wise teachers, His warnings through prophets, His guidance through kings, and finally—His perfect love through His own

Son. By giving us the Bible, God moved from a general announcement to a personal invitation.

Jeremiah 9:23-24, *“Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows me that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I delight, says the LORD.”*

2. God reveals Himself to us through His Son

Throughout history, humanity has longed to understand who God truly is. Ancient civilizations created countless gods, philosophers developed complex theories, and religions emerged with various teachings about the divine. But in the person of Jesus Christ, God spoke His full and final revelation.

What is in a Name?

Divine names in the Bible are central to God's self-revelation, unveiling His character and relationship with humanity.

Key Hebrew names include **Yahweh** (YHWH), **Elohim**, and **Adonai**, often expanded into compound forms that highlight specific attributes: **Yahweh Jireh** (The Lord Provides), **Yahweh Rapha** (The Lord Heals), **El Shaddai** (God Almighty), and **El Elyon** (God Most High). Titles like Father, King, and Rock further illustrate God's multifaceted role as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

We must attentively observe how God progressively discloses His name. He first appears as El Shaddai to the patriarchs, then more fully as YHWH to Moses (Exodus 6:2-5), yet He remains the same unchanging God. YHWH affirms this continuity by declaring Himself the covenant God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exodus 3:15). In the New Testament, this revelation expands to encompass the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19-20), while still identifying as the God of the patriarchs (Matthew 22:32).

When He acts in **Christ**, it is the same Old Testament God at work, evident in the consistent use of names like *“the Lord.”* The Hebrew YHWH (*“Yahweh”*) becomes **Kyrios** (*“Lord”*) in Greek, creating seamless continuity. Thus, from El Shaddai to YHWH to Kyrios, God's names unfold a unified revelation of who He is.

Hebrews 1:1-3, *"Long ago in many ways and at many times God's prophets spoke his message to our ancestors. ²But now at last, God sent his Son to bring his message to us. God created the universe by his Son, and everything will someday belong to the Son. ³God's Son has all the brightness of God's own glory and is like him in every way. By his own mighty word, he holds the universe together."*

The Bible presents Jesus not as another religious teacher or prophet pointing toward God, but as God Himself made visible to humanity. This claim—that **Jesus is the complete and final revelation of God**—stands as the cornerstone of Christian faith. The Incarnation surpasses all other forms of revelation—God literally became human! Jesus wasn't just carrying God's message; He was God's message embodied.

John declares: *"No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known"* (John 1:18).

Jesus Himself explained that eternal life means personally knowing God: *"And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent"* (John 17:3).

God is Revealed – Why this truth matters!

The idea that God reveals Himself—most profoundly through Jesus—offers a powerful antidote to the chaos of our self-made spirituality. Without this divine revelation, people often craft gods in their own image, shaped by personal biases, cultural trends, or fleeting influences like social media and self-help gurus. This can lead to confusion and division. But embracing the revealed truth in Jesus brings clarity, purpose, and a stable foundation for our lives.

GOD IS RELATIONAL

In a world where many view God as distant or unapproachable, the truth is that God is deeply relational, inviting us into close, meaningful connections.

1. Jesus taught us to see God as *'Our Father'*

Many people think of God as distant or hard to reach, but the Bible shows us that God is all about relationships.

Jesus made it personal by encouraging us to pray to God as "*Our Father*" (Matthew 6:9), painting a picture of a loving parent who cares deeply for us. It's an invitation to approach God with trust and openness, like a caring father.

2. Stories Jesus spoke reveals the heart of God and nature of God as relational

Jesus often used everyday stories, or parables, to uncover God's true nature as someone who eagerly seeks connection with us. These tales show God not as judgmental or aloof, but as warm and invitational, always ready to welcome people into His love.

For example, in the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), where the Father runs to embrace the prodigal son or the story of Banquets (Matthew 22:1-14) where God is the generous host who invites everyone even the outcast and overlooked into a community of love. All these stories reveal a God who doesn't wait for us to be perfect but actively draws us in, fostering healing and belonging through His relentless love.

3. Trinity reveals the relational nature of God

At the heart, the doctrine of Trinity reveals a profound and beautiful truth: *relationship isn't just something God does; it's who God is.*

God is One and exists as three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who are completely equal and fully God, yet one in essence.

This means:

- **Relationship is eternal.** Before creation was, there was already perfect love, communication, and joy within the Godhead Himself. God is love (1 John 4:8)
- **We are made for community.** Being created *"in the image of God"* means we are wired for relationship, reflecting His communal nature. Jesus prayed that His followers *"may be one,*

God Manifest in Human Language

The Bible reveals God using human language—drawing from our experiences, emotions, and the created world to describe divine realities. This is called **anthropomorphic language**, where God is spoken of in human terms.

For instance, passages like Exodus 15:6 speak of God's **"right hand"** shattering the enemy, or Psalm 34:15 describes His **"eyes"** on the righteous and **"ears"** attentive to their cry. Since God is spirit and infinitely transcendent, how can we talk about His *"mighty hand," "eyes," "ears,"* or Him *"walking"* with us?

God's attributes—like eternity, omnipotence, and infinite wisdom—surpass our direct grasp, so He communicates them through relatable human concepts.

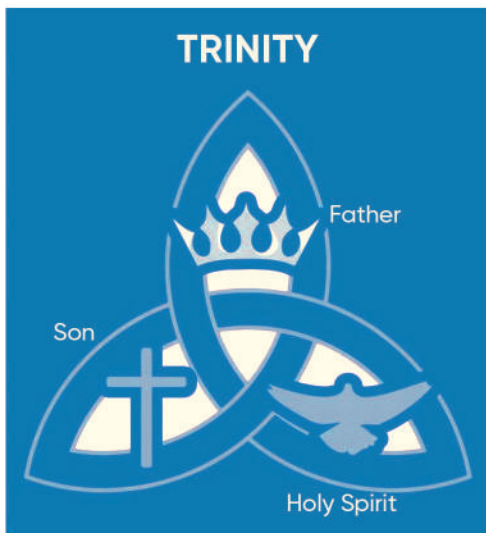
This isn't a simplistic or deceptive portrayal; it's God's intentional way to disclose Himself truly and accurately, accommodating our human limits to help us understand His character and will. Yet, it demands careful handling. We must never pull a single anthropomorphic description out of its context or the broader biblical narrative.

For example, focusing only on God's *"wrath"* without His *"mercy,"* or His *"transcendence"* without His *"nearness,"* creates a slanted view. Every attribute, whether framed in human or cosmic terms, should be interpreted alongside all others. Only then can we avoid distortions and truly know the God of the Bible.

as we are one” (John 17:22), mirroring the unity of the Trinity.

- **We are invited in.** The God who exists as a perfect community of love extends that love outward. Through Jesus, we are welcomed into this divine circle of fellowship, forgiveness, and life.

The Trinity is a mystery that surpasses our finite understanding. God's infinite nature exists beyond the limits of our time, space, and created matter. While we cannot fully grasp His being, we hold on to the revealed truth: **we worship one God in three distinct, co-equal persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**



God is Relational – Why this truth matters!

Knowing God is relational changes everything: my identity is secured, my prayers are meaningful, my faith is anchored, and my future is filled with hope. I don't have to live in fear or anxiety. Each day, I rise to walk with God and in relationship with others.

KEY QUALITIES OF GOD

To understand who God is, we can look at the different qualities of His character. Some are so magnificent they belong to God alone, while others give us a glimpse of what He is like and how we can reflect Him.

Think of it like this:

- **Qualities Only God Has:** These are the ways He is utterly unique and beyond us—like being completely independent, outside of time, and never changing.
- **Qualities We Can Share with God:** These are aspects of His character we are called to reflect in our own lives—like love, justice, and mercy.

To make it simpler, we can look at two beautiful pairs of truths that show us how to understand and relate to Him:

The Transcendence of God and the Nearness of God The Greatness of God and the Goodness of God

1. The Transcendence of God and Nearness of God.

God's Transcendence means that God is fundamentally separate from and greater than everything He has made. He is not just the highest being *within* creation; He exists outside of it, in a category of His own. God is not a force in nature or a superhuman person. His very being, His purity, His knowledge, and His power are infinite, perfect, and beyond

the limits of our human understanding.

In simpler terms: God is not like us. He is wholly another being. He is the Creator; we are the creation. This truth fills us with awe and frames how we relate to Him.



God's nearness means that God is not a distant, detached energy or force. Instead, He is actively present and personally involved in His creation and in human history. He works within the world He made, sustaining it, guiding it, and making Himself accessible to us in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life.

This means we can recognize God's hand not only in miracles and sacred moments but also in the steady rhythm of nature, in human skill and creativity, and even through people who may not acknowledge Him. His work extends through what we call "*sacred*" and "*secular*," showing that all of life is under His care and within His reach.

A Beautiful Balance of Transcendence and Nearness of God:

A beautiful balance of God's transcendence and God's nearness is paramount to have an overall view of God. One must know that God is close enough to understand your struggles and great enough to handle them. He's present in your daily grind and powerful beyond your biggest problems.

If we lean too far into God's nearness, we may mistake His presence for approval of our sins and the world's brokenness—yet His nearness comes with the power to redeem and transform our world.

But if we overemphasize transcendence, we might only look for miracles and miss how God works through our daily obedience and effort (Ecclesiastes 9:10), or even disrespect creation where He is present.

This balance shapes how we approach God: with both **intimacy and reverence**. We can come with genuine joy and confidence, yet never treat Him casually. He is always beyond our full comprehension, yet always near when we call. In the tension between His transcendent holiness and His immanent nearness, we find a God who is both **high and holy, close and caring**—worthy of all our worship, trust, and awe.

2. Greatness and Goodness of God

The Greatness of God answers the question, "*What is God?*" It refers to those unique qualities that belong to God alone—such as being an all-powerful, eternal, omnipresent Spirit, and unchanging. **Studying the greatness of God reveals His fundamental nature.**

The Goodness of God answers the question, "*What is God like?*" It encompasses the perfect moral and relational qualities—like love, holiness, and faithfulness—that God fully possesses and graciously shares in a limited way with His creation. **Studying the goodness of God reveals His character.**

Attributes of the Greatness of God

Here are key characteristics that flow from God's supreme nature:

- **Self-Existence (Aseity):** God has life in Himself (John 5:26). He doesn't need anything to survive like we do. He simply is the '*I AM*' – *the self-existent one*. (Exodus 3:14).
- **Omnipotence (All-Powerful):** God possesses all power. Nothing is too hard for Him, and He can do all that is consistent with His perfect nature (Jeremiah 32:17).
- **Omniscience (All-Knowing):** God's knowledge is infinite and perfect. He knows all things—past, present, and future—completely and simultaneously (Psalm 147:5).
- **Omnipresence:** God Is Everywhere. There is no place—whether in heights or depths, in light or darkness—where we are beyond His personal presence and care (Psalm 139:7-10)
- **Eternity:** God exists outside of and beyond time. He has no beginning and no end. He is not bound by moments, days, or years, but sees all time in one eternal present (Psalm 90:2).
- **Sovereignty:** God is the supreme ruler over all creation. He directs all things according to His perfect will and purpose, and His authority is absolute (Psalm 103:19).
- **Incomprehensibility:** While God has truly revealed Himself to us,

we can never fully grasp the infinite depths of His being. We can know Him truly, but we cannot know Him exhaustively (Psalm 145:3).

- **Constancy:** God is described as unchanging. *"I the LORD do not change"* (Mal. 3:6). The meaning of constancy is not the immovability of God but the dependability of God. His love, promises, and character are forever reliable (Lamentations 3:22–23; 1 John 1:9). Anyone who put their trust in Him will never be put to shame.
- **Majesty/Glory:** God's splendour, greatness, and beauty are supreme. All created glory, power, and honour are but a dim reflection of His own (1 Chronicles 29:11).

God's Response to evil

God is good, and His creation is good. He works in it to eliminate evil and restore its goodness. Here we focus on **seven** biblical "moments" of His providential assault on evil.

1. **God permits, but does not commit evil** (Job 1:12). God permits evil but He does not commit evil and He is not the author of suffering.

2. **God limits evil** (Job 2:6). God permits evil, but does not give it an entirely free hand. There are things Satan is not permitted to do, lines he is not able to cross.

3. **God weights the scales against evil** (Exodus 20:5-6). The choices of one generation make a difference to subsequent generations. But God has promised to give good choices a longer shelf life.

4. **God works against evil** (Exodus 14:14). He does not just lay ground rules for us to be good but He himself works against evil.

5. **God suffers from evil** (Hebrews 4:15). On the cross God chose to suffer evil in His love for us. He is the God who takes the full force of evil on Himself.

6. **God can bring good from evil** (Genesis 50:20). If God can make the cross of Christ the means of healing and restoring of all things, then He can turn any act to our good and to His glory.

7. **God will destroy evil** (Revelation 20:10). What God has been doing, often incognito, in the shadows of history, He will bring to completion and perfection, openly and transparently and for all to see.

Attributes of the Goodness of God

- **Moral Purity (God is Perfectly Good):** God is completely separate from anything evil or corrupt. This purity has **three** parts:
 - **Holiness:** God is the *"Most Holy One"* (Psalm 71:22), praised endlessly as *"Holy, holy, holy"* (Isaiah 6:3). He invites us to reflect this nature by living clean lives – striving for purity amid temptations – *"Be holy, because I am holy"* (Leviticus 19:2).
 - **Righteousness:** This is God's holiness in how He treats others—He always does what's right and follows His own perfect rules (Psalm 19:7-9; Deuteronomy 32:4). He invites us into a life of integrity in the way we treat one another.
 - **Justice:** As a perfect judge, God upholds His standards fairly. He calls us to *"maintain justice"* and reject favouritism in our own lives and community (James 2:9). God expects us to emulate the same justice: *"Hate evil, love good; maintain justice..."* (Amos 5:15, 24).
- **Integrity (God is Perfectly True):** He is the final source of all the truth (John 17:17). He is genuine, always truthful, and always faithful to His promises. In a world full of lies and empty words, we are called to imitate Him by being people of radical honesty and reliability (Colossians 3:9-10).

Integrity can be understood in **three** complementary angles in our relationship with God and others.

- **Genuineness:** Living as the same person in private and public—being authentically who you claim to be. This is the foundation of all truth.
- **Veracity:** Speaking truthfully and thoughtfully, valuing honesty and aligning your words with God's truth.
- **Faithfulness:** Keeping commitments over time, demonstrating consistency, loyalty, and reliability.



- **Love (God is unconditionally loving):** At His core, "God is love" (1 John 4:8), eternally sharing Himself to bless others. This self-giving, unselfish quality of the divine love is seen in what God has done. God's love in sending his Son to die for us was not motivated by our prior love for him (1 John 4:10).

We mirror this by loving God back and loving people—especially enemies (Matthew 5:43-48; 22:37-38). Jesus said our love to one

another shows that we are His followers (John 13:35; 1 John 4:11).

The love of God is multi-dimensional and can be categorised under **Grace, Mercy and Persistence**.

- **Grace:** It is God giving us the good we haven't earned and don't deserve. It's His generous, unmerited favour simply because He is good. The greatest gift of Grace is His Salvation to all mankind (Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 2:11)
- **Mercy:** God's mercy is his tender-hearted, loving compassion for his people. The psalmist said: "As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him" (Ps. 103:13).

Jesus showed it by healing and teaching crowds (Matthew 14:14; Mark 6:34)—inspiring us to show kindness and mercy to all - even to those who don't deserve it.

- **Persistence:** This is God's incredible, long-suffering love. He waits, holds back judgment, and relentlessly pursues us, giving every possible opportunity for people to turn to Him (2 Peter 3:9).

God's goodness isn't just a doctrine to study rather it's our blueprint for life. He is holy, so we pursue purity. He is just, so we fight for integrity. He is truth, so we speak with honesty. He shows grace and mercy, so we show compassion and give people second chances. In a world of

broken promises, we follow a God who is unfailingly good, and we are called to reflect that goodness in everything we do.

A Beautiful Balance of Greatness and Goodness of God:

God is both overwhelmingly great AND perfectly good. Many people struggle to balance these truths, but when you hold them together, they transform how you live.

When life is hard, it's easy to question God's goodness or doubt His power. Holding both truths means:

- He is great enough to handle anything you face—nothing is too big for Him.
- He is good enough to care deeply about what you face—nothing is too small for Him. This is the balance of Romans 8:28—His sovereign power (greatness) works all things for our good (goodness).



CONCLUSION

The ultimate purpose of studying God is not merely to accumulate knowledge, but to know Him more deeply—an encounter that compels a heartfelt response of joy, gratitude, and glory to His infinite worth.

True knowledge of God naturally leads to a life of worship. Genuine, Christ-exalting worship is shaped by truth, not by preference or sentiment. It must be doctrinally grounded, Scripture-guided, and centered on all that God has revealed of Himself as the Triune God.

As we grow in understanding God, we'll discover increasing joy in Him, inspiring us to worship more fully—even weaving it into the everyday activities we cherish. May our lives become living sacrifices of praise, reflecting His character in our relationships, decisions, and devotion—for this is our reasonable worship (Romans 12:1).

Chapel Service

Every Wednesday | 7pm
@ Temple of God



Teens Church

Every 2nd Saturday | 5.30pm
@ Temple of God



Bethel Marriage Bureau

Website : marriage.bethelag.in
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Special Event

Child Dedication

7th FEB | Saturday | 11.30am
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FEB
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CHURCH EVENTS





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