

# About God

## 2. God's Character

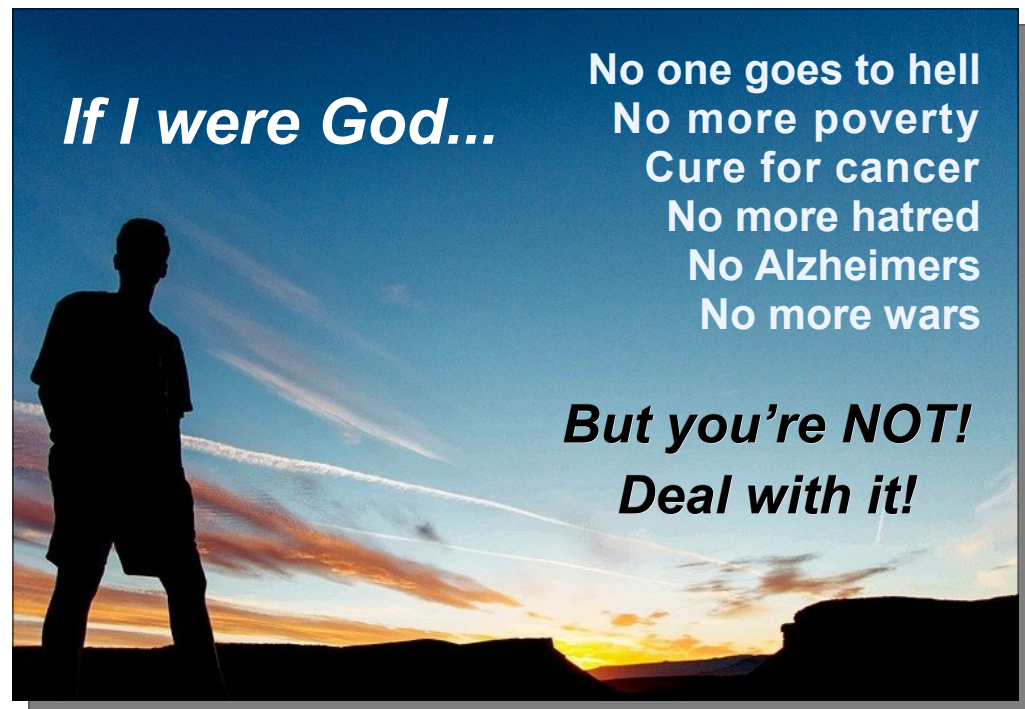
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### God is mighty and powerful - best to be on His good side as He cares for His people

All of what we call 'emotions' or 'character traits' are displayed in God in the ultimate form - perfection. Whether it be kindness, anger, love, hate, truth, justice. We always hear about God's love and mercy, but not so much about His anger and what He hates. Yet all these things are important solid truths about a creator God who we can trust and who does not change, and will care for all who come to Him.

"All we need is love" is a fanciful notion that has no place in a world full of sinful hearts, full of hate, violence and greed, and where Satan rules. So as we look at the expression of God's character here, we see all these various aspects play their role in God's dealing with mankind, and with us as individuals. We do suffer because of other peoples sin and this does affect our situation, freedom and lifestyle.

Yet in all God's 'government' of the world, He speaks to us as individuals showing us how to survive, endure, and even conquer in our life. He is our example, leader, protector, saviour. The one to be feared, yet is our loving heavenly father. Jesus is the judge, yet He is our brother. Our life in this world is a spiritual preparation for the next. It is how we live our life here that is important, not the worldly stuff.



**If I were God...**

No one goes to hell  
No more poverty  
Cure for cancer  
No more hatred  
No Alzheimers  
No more wars

**But you're NOT!  
Deal with it!**

**God shows us Love**  
Even in a complicated world, we see God's perfect love reaching into the hearts of those that trust Him, giving them strength for the day & hope for the future. Jesus suffered for our sin on the cross so that we could have His righteousness to enter heaven, & He gave the Holy Spirit as a 'seal'.

**God shows us Truth**  
There is only one truth in any situation or incident. Anything else is false or a lie. God will only reveal to us truth, which He does in the Bible, & will not accept from us anything else. We must be like Him in our dealings with our neighbours.

**God shows us Holiness**  
Only God is holy & separated from all sin. His character is one of flawless moral perfection. He always does what is right & honest. He is therefore bound by His holiness & can not allow sinners into His heaven. As followers of Christ, we are commanded to be holy also.

**God shows us Wisdom**  
Wisdom is the appropriate application of knowledge. The Bible urges us often to seek wisdom above all things. Godly wisdom is different from worldly wisdom & is only found in the right application of God's instructions in the Bible. We are told to ask God for the gift of wisdom.

**I DO  
what  
I DO**

**God shows us Justice**  
Without justice there is no love. All evil & sin must be punished by a holy God, & each person must suffer the consequences for their own actions. It is a loving God that upholds the oppressed, innocent & exploited against the greedy, wicked & ruthless, to bring them to judgement.

**God shows us Kindness**  
Kindness is a part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. When we exhibit the kindness of God, we are tender, benevolent, and useful to others. We are showing Jesus to people in being kind & sometimes it needs God's power to be kind in some of life's situations.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."  
Proverbs 9:10

"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!" 1 John 3:1

**God shows us Mercy**  
It is essential to understand that, before God, humans have no rights, claim or privileges to God's mercy. Mercy is given solely by the giver & is a one-off act. God's mercy was shown by sending His Son to die on the cross and pay the debt we owe because of our sin. We must show mercy to others also.

**God shows us Patience**  
God is patient with sinners, giving them time, encouragement & warning that will lead them to repentance. Patience is a part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. We are to be patient and not to complain as we wait for Jesus to return, & we also need to show patience to others as God has with us.

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.  
Ephesians 5:1-2

**God shows us Grace**  
Grace is the ongoing act of God who is willing to forgive us and bless us abundantly, in spite of the fact that we don't deserve it. Grace is a gift & is actively and continually working in the lives of God's people to bring them to maturity in Christ, and empower them to share the gospel.

**God shows us Anger**  
When you read the Old Testament you find that God does get angry, but He is slow to anger & gives people many warnings to change their evil ways. His is a controlled, calculated anger against persistent wickedness. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a righteous God.

**God shows us Hate**  
The LORD hates... a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren. Prov.6:6-19