

Attributes of God

(Incomprehensibility)

- “If God were small enough to be understood, He would not be big enough to be worshiped.” **Evelyn Underhill**
- “A God that can be understood is no God. Who can explain the Infinite in words? **W. Somerset Maugham**,
- “God’s plan and His ways of working out His plans are frequently beyond our ability to fathom and understand. We must learn to trust when we don’t understand.” **Jerry Bridges**.
- “God is truly knowable but not exhaustively comprehensible”- **John MacArthur**
- “The more I learn about God, the more aware I become of what I don’t know about Him.” **R.C Sproul**
- “As well might a gnat seek to drink in the ocean, as a finite creature to comprehend the Eternal God. A God whom we could understand would be no God. If we could grasp Him, He could not be infinite. If we could understand Him, He could not be divine.” **C.H Spurgeon**

Finitum non capax infinitum= The finite cannot fully grasp the infinite. God can be known, but not fully.

- Incomprehensibility does not mean that we know nothing about God, but rather our knowledge is limited, falling short of total and exhaustive knowledge. *We know what God has chosen to reveal about Himself to us.* However, we are to continue to grow in knowledge of God.

Colossians 1: 10 For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

2 Peter 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Biblical Texts on God’s Incomprehensibility:

Job 38:1-41:34 The comfort of not knowing.

Psalm 139:1-18

Isaiah 55:8-9 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.
⁹“For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Romans 11:33-36 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! ³⁴For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? ³⁵Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? ³⁶For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

Ecclesiastes 11:5 Just as you do not know ^[a]the path of the wind and how bones *are formed* in the womb of the pregnant woman, so you do not know the activity of God who makes all things.

Job 26:5-14 “The departed spirits tremble Under the waters and their inhabitants. ⁶ “Naked is Sheol before Him, And Abaddon has no covering. ⁷ “He stretches out the north over empty space And hangs the earth on nothing. ⁸ “He wraps up the waters in His clouds, And the cloud does not burst under them. ⁹ “He obscures the face of the full moon And spreads His cloud over it. ¹⁰ “He has inscribed a circle on the surface of the waters At the boundary of light and darkness. ¹¹ “The pillars of heaven tremble And are amazed at His rebuke. ¹² “He quieted the sea with His power, And by His understanding He shattered Rahab. ¹³ “By His breath the heavens are cleared; His hand has pierced the fleeing serpent. ¹⁴ “Behold, these are the fringes of His ways; And how faint a word we hear of Him! But His mighty thunder, who can understand?”

Deuteronomy 29:29 “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

Psalm 145:3 Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.

Psalm 147:5 Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite

Ephesians 3:16-21 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, ²¹ to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

- 1.) In the simplest truth of Christianity there resides a depth that no one can fully grasp.
 - 2.) Even in high level theology, we can never fully come close to the mystery and the depths of God’s knowledge and ways.
- There is comfort in the fact that God is God, and we are not and that we cannot even begin to understand or comprehend the depths, will, and decrees of God. For if we could understand all the things of God, then we would have no God at all!

There are numerous incomprehensible matters and mysteries that belong to God that our finite minds cannot grasp. The one thing that must be at the top of every Christian’s list of the most incomprehensible things is that God would love and save us as fallen rebel creatures by mercy and grace alone. When we understand the holiness of God and who He is and then understand who we are as a fallen, sinful, rebel creatures, the only word to describe His love, mercy, and grace for us isincomprehensible!