



attributes of *God*

WEEK 9 — GOD IS TRUTHFUL



1 JOHN 5 : 20

And we know that the Son of God
has come and has given us understanding,
so that we may know him who is true;
and we are in him who is true,
in his Son Jesus Christ.
He is the true God and eternal life.

A. W. PINK

“Far above all finite comprehension is the unchanging faithfulness of God.
Everything about God is great, vast, incomparable.
He never forgets, never fails, never falters, never forfeits his word.
To every declaration of promise or prophecy the Lord has exactly adhered,
every engagement of covenant or threatening he will make good.”

Review

COMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES

Attributes that God shares (“communicates”) with us *in part*

- 1) Omniscience
- 2) Wisdom

God Is Truthful

**God’s truthfulness is not something external to His character.
Truthfulness is His very nature and character.**

Out of His truthful character, His truthful words and faithful actions flow.

***J. I. Packer** – “Truth in the Bible is a quality of persons primarily, and of propositions only secondarily. It means stability, reliability, firmness, trustworthiness, the quality of a person who is entirely self-consistent, sincere, realistic, undeceived. God is such a person: truth, in this sense, is his nature, and he has not got it in him to be anything else. That is why he cannot lie. That is why his words to us are true, and cannot be other than true. They are the index of reality: they show us things as they really are, and as they will be for us in the future according to whether we heed God’s words to us or not.”*

***A. W. Tozer** – “God guarantees that he will never act inconsistent with himself... He will always be true to Himself, to His works and to His creation.”*

***Bavinck** – “It is an attribute of God’s will as well as of his mind. It indicates both that God is the true God over against all false gods, and that he is faithful to his promises. Scripture everywhere teaches God’s veracity.”*

***Grudem** – “God’s truthfulness means that he is the true God, and that all his knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth.”*

OTHER COMMON TERMS

Veracity

Faithfulness

Reliability

SEE IT THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 7:9 --- “Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

Deuteronomy 32:4 --- “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.”

Psalms 119:90 --- “Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.”

Isaiah 65:16 --- “...he who takes an oath in the land shall swear by the God of truth...”

Jeremiah 10:10-13 --- “But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation. Thus shall you say to them: ‘The gods who did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens.’ It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.”

Lamentations 3:22-23 --- “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

Hebrews 10:23 --- “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.”

John 14:6 --- “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

1 John 5:6 --- “And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.”

ASPECTS OF HIS TRUTHFULNESS

1. HE IS THE ONLY TRUE GOD

John 17:3 --- “This is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

He is the standard of what God should be.

2. ALL OF HIS KNOWLEDGE IS TRUE

He has a true understanding of all things.

God is never mistaken in His perception or understanding of anything.

Job 37:16 --- “Do you know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him who is perfect in knowledge...”

3. ALL OF HIS WORDS ARE TRUE

Because His very nature is truth, all of His words are true.

2 Samuel 7:28 --- “And now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant.”

Psalms 12:6 --- “The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.”

Psalms 119:160 --- “The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.”

John 17:17 --- “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”

Titus 1:2 --- “... in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began...”

Thus, we believe the Bible is inspired, infallible, and inerrant.



4. HE IS THE ULTIMATE STANDARD OF TRUTH

There is no higher standard.

Since God is truth, knows all truth, and everything He says and does is true, then He is our standard of truth.

HOW DOES THIS ATTRIBUTE CHANGE HOW WE LIVE?

1. We believe in God as He Has Revealed Himself



2. We gladly submit to the authority of His Word

John 17:17 --- "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."

Psalms 119:10-18 --- "With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes! With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word. Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep your word. Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law."

3. We believe His promises

God will never break a promise!

Proverbs 30:5 --- "Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."

Numbers 23:19 --- "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?"

"He is a perfectly reliable refuge for all his people." (Herman Bavinck)

"How does God's faithfulness show itself? By his unfailing fulfillment of his promises. He is a covenant keeping God; he never fails those who trust his word." (J. I. Packer)

God's faithfulness to His promises bring either hope or fear.

Joshua 23:14-16 --- "14 "And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed. But just as all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you have been fulfilled for you, so the LORD will bring upon you all the evil things, until he has destroyed you from off this good land that the LORD your God has given you, if you transgress the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them. Then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and you shall perish quickly from off the good land that he has given to you."

"This faithfulness is the ground both of hope and fear." (James P. Boyce)

THIS IS A COMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTE

God calls us to “walk in truth”

2 John 1:4 --- “I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father.”

What does that look like in our lives?

It means we rely on God’s grace and the strength He provides to ...

1. Speak truthfully

Colossians 3:9-10 --- “Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.”

“When we lie we dishonor God and diminish his glory, for we, as those created in God’s image and created for the purpose of reflecting God’s glory in our lives, are acting in a way that is contrary to God’s own character.” (Wayne Grudem)

2. Show a love for truth and a holy hatred for falsehood.

Proverbs 13:5 --- “The righteous hates falsehood, but the wicked brings shame and disgrace.”

3. Strive to learn more about God and His creation

CHALLENGE

“It is one thing to accept the faithfulness of God as a Divine truth, it is quite another to act upon it. God has given us many ‘exceeding great and precious promises,’ but are we really counting on his fulfillment of them? Are we actually expecting him to do for us all that he has said? Are we resting with implicit assurance on these words, ‘He is faithful that promised’ (Heb. 10:23)?” (A. W. Pink)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How should the attribute of God's truthfulness encourage us in Bible study?
2. How should the attribute of God's truthfulness encourage us to pray?
3. Do you agree that this attribute is grounds for both hope and fear? How so?
4. How does God's faithfulness to keep His promises help you through trials?
What promises from Scripture do you cling to when life is tough?
5. How is God dishonored when His people do not speak truthfully?
6. Why then is careless and dishonest speech so common among believers today?
7. How should the attribute of God's truthfulness encourage us to keep learning,
both about God and about the world in general?
8. What songs do you know that include God's truthfulness/fidelity?

