

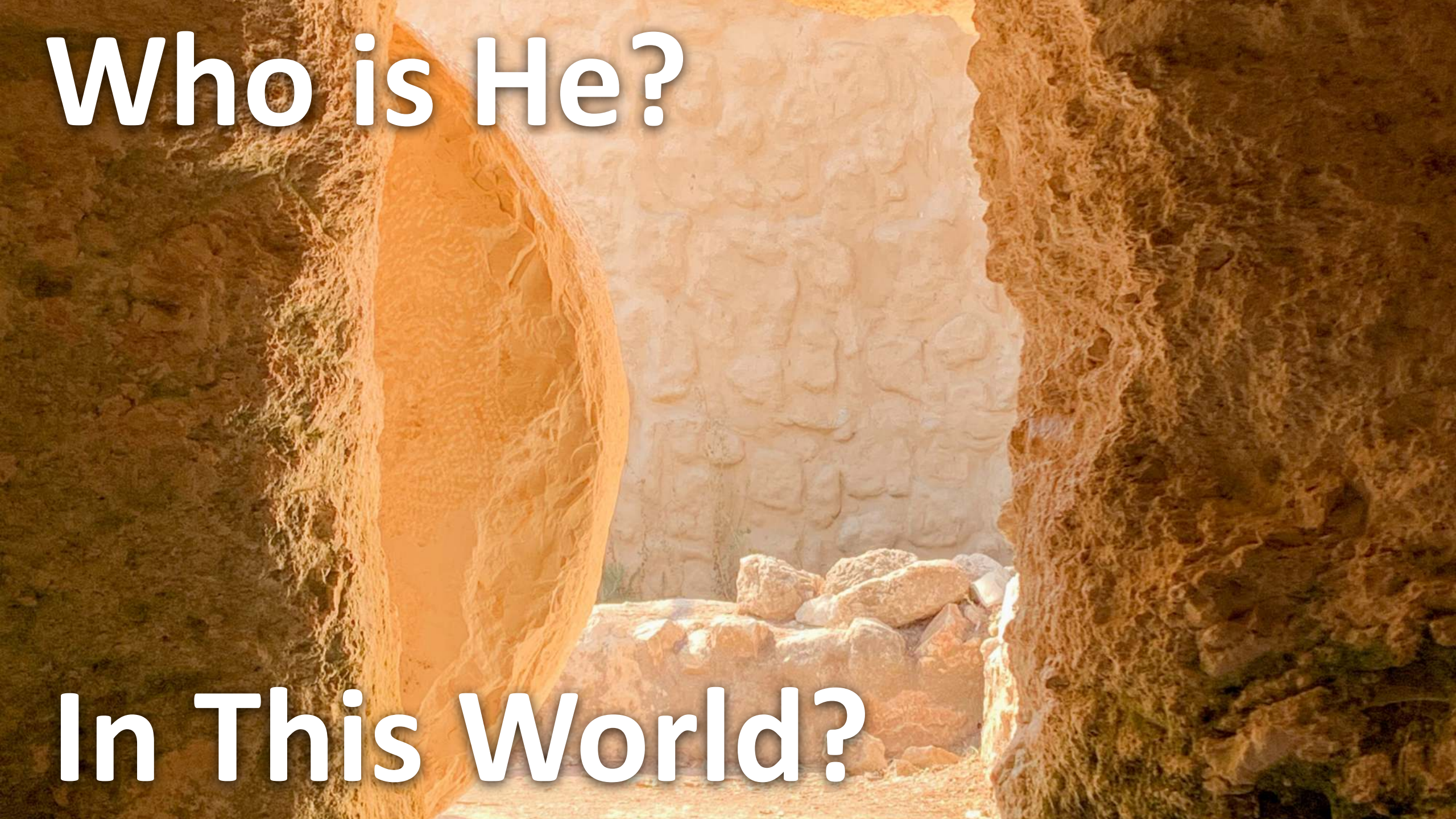
IDENTITY CHRISTIANITY





Who Am I?

In This World?



Who is He?

In This World?

What is His Identity?



What is My Identity?



IDENTITY POLITICS

Identity Politics



Your Life Matters?

A person is shown from the side, holding a book. The scene is set against a bright sunset or sunrise, with a warm orange glow on the horizon. The person is wearing a dark, long-sleeved garment with a colorful, speckled pattern on the sleeve. The background is a blurred, natural landscape.

IDENTITY CHRISTIANITY

The Only Two Identities That Matter

YOU



GOD





YOUR IDENTITY AS A CHRISTIAN

Your Nature

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. 1 Cor 2:14



Your Nature

But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

NASB 1995 - Eph 4:20–24.



Your Nature

“Awake, sleeper,
And arise from the dead,
And Christ will shine on you.”

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.
NASB 1995 - Eph 5:14-21



Your Nature

4561 σάρξ [sarx /sarx/] n f. Probably from the base of 4563; TDNT 7:98; TDNTA 1000; GK 4922; 151 occurrences; AV translates as “flesh” 147 times, “carnal” twice, “carnally minded + 5427” once, and “fleshly” once. 1 flesh (the soft substance of the living body, which covers the bones and is permeated with blood) of both man and beasts. 2 the body. 2a the body of a man. 2b used of natural or physical origin, generation or relationship.

n n: noun or neuter

f f: feminine

TDNT - Enhanced Strong's Lexicon
(Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995).



Your Nature



This vital and exciting passage contains Paul's explanation of what he meant when he wrote in Galatians 2:20,

"I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Paul found freedom not to be "himself," but to be his new self. And Paul realized that new life as God's own.



Lawrence O. Richards, *The Teacher's Commentary*
(Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1987), 910.

Your Nature



The Spirit. Now we will begin to penetrate to the root of our freedom. Six times in the next few verses of **Galatians (5:16–25)** Paul spoke of the Holy Spirit.

- “Live by the Spirit” (v. 16).
- “The Spirit ... is contrary to the sinful nature” (v. 17).
- “Led by the Spirit ... not under law” (v. 18).
- “The fruit of the Spirit” (v. 22).
- “We live by the Spirit” (v. 25).
- “Keep in step with the Spirit” (v. 25).

The dynamic of Christian freedom is found not only in the possession of new life but also in the person of the Holy Spirit. God Himself has entered us with His gift of power.

Lawrence O. Richards, *The Teacher’s Commentary*
(Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1987), 910.



Your Nature



But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

NASB 1995 - Ga 5:16–23.

A dramatic landscape featuring a calm lake nestled between dark, rugged mountains. A bright sunbeam pierces through a heavy, cloudy sky, casting a golden glow across the water's surface. The foreground shows a grassy, rocky shoreline. The overall mood is serene yet powerful, suggesting a divine presence in nature.

THE IDENTITY OF OUR GOD

God's Nature

Historically, theologians have often discussed the attributes of God in abstract, speculative, scholastic ways. That never happens in the Bible. God's disclosure of his attributes led Moses to fall on his knees in worship to confess Israel's sin and pray for pardon (Ex 34:8, 9). In other summary passages the response was similar. A sinful appeal to God's attributes was made by Jonah in his angry prayer (Jon 4:1–4). To Christian believers, Scripture presents God's attributes as a standard for living: his people are to be holy, loving, and the like, because God is (Lv 19:2; 1 Jn 4:8, 11).

This next Section is Baker's Summation
(Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible:1988)



God's Nature

The Incomprehensibility of God

A description of human inability to understand God fully.



God's Nature

Acknowledgment of God's incomprehensibility should contribute to a spirit of humility in every consideration of God and his attributes.

(Pss 139:6; 145:3; Is 40:28; 55:8, 9; Mt 11:25–27; Rom 11:33–36; 1 Cor 2:6–16; 13:8–13).



God's Nature

Incommunicable Attributes

Unity, Spirituality,
Independence,
Immutability, Eternity,
and Immensity



God's Nature

God's Unity

God's unity is an expression of monotheism—the fact that the God of Scripture is the only, living, true God (Dt 6:4; Mk 12:29; Jn 17:3). All other gods are idols and figments of human imagination. This attribute is reflected in the first commandment: “You shall have no other gods before me” (Ex 20:3; Mt 4:10).



God's Nature

God's Spirituality

God's **spirituality** indicates that God is not physical and is invisible. Positively it means that God is personal, living, self-conscious, and self-determining. The invisible God cannot be seen by human eyes (Ex 33:20), so the second commandment forbids every visible representation of God (20:4). Because God is Spirit, he must be worshiped in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:24).



God's Nature

God's Independence

God's *independence or self-existence* indicates that he is not dependent upon anything outside himself. He is self-sufficient in his existence, in his decrees, and in all his works. God has “life in himself” (Jn 5:26) and he “gives to all men life and breath and everything” (Acts 17:25).



God's Nature

God's Immutability

God's *immutability or constancy* expresses his changelessness and his faithfulness to himself, to his decrees, promises, and works. He remains forever the same true God who undergoes no change from within or from anything outside himself. And so in James 1:17 (rsv) we read: "Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." RSV



God's Nature

God's Eternity

God's *eternity* indicates his transcendence over time. He is timeless and everlasting. He has no beginning or end; he does not undergo growth, development, or maturation. He existed before the creation of the world; he dwells now in eternity; he will continue as the eternal God even when history ends. Scripture speaks of God as "eternal" (Dt 33:27), "the King" (1 Tm 1:17 niv), "the beginning and the end" (Rv 22:13). He "inhabits eternity" (Is 57:15) and his "years have no end" (Ps 102:27; cf. 2 Pt 3:8). NIV



God's Nature

God's Immensity

God's *immensity and omnipresence* express his transcendence over space. God fills heaven and earth (Jer 23:23, 24). Heaven is his throne and the earth his footstool, so he is not restricted to temple buildings (Is 66:1; Acts 17:24). Yet God is immanent in the world and is actively at work in it to establish his kingdom. No one can hide from the omnipresent God (Ps 139:6–12). Jesus promised “I am with you always, to the close of the age” (Mt 28:20). Since Pentecost (Acts 2) the Holy Spirit is said actually to dwell within the bodies of believers (1 Cor 6:19).



God's Nature

Communicable Attributes

Intellectual, Moral,
and Volitional.



God's Nature

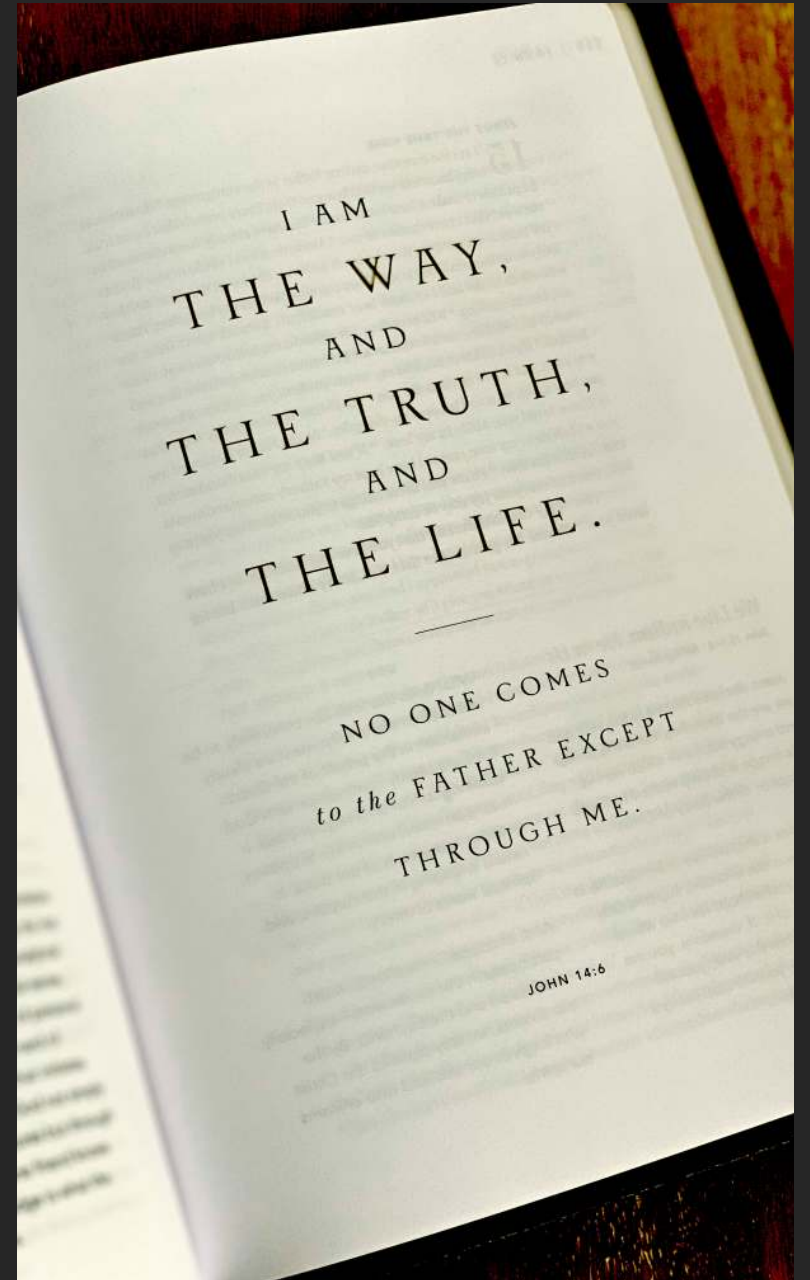
Many attributes of God can be classified under this heading, although it is sometimes difficult to say which biblical references to God should be regarded as attributes.



God's Nature

God's Intellectual Attributes

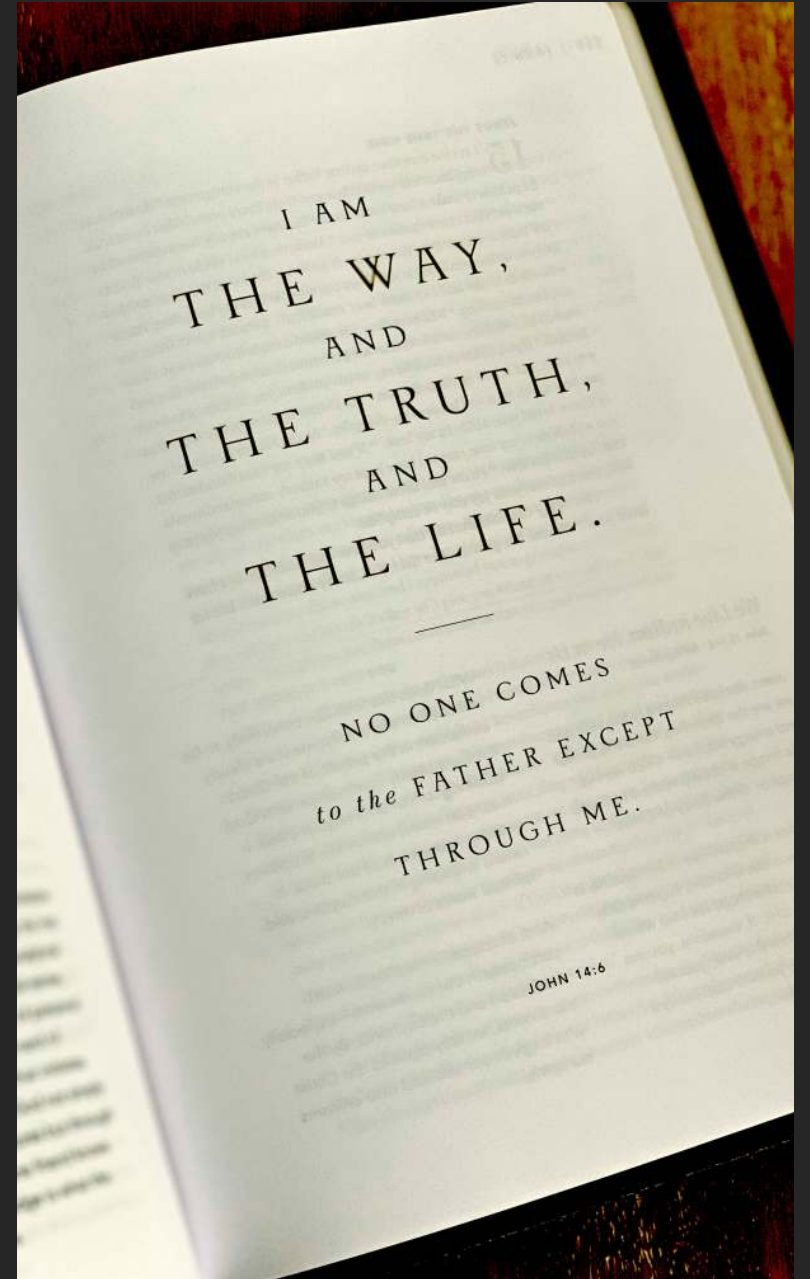
God's **knowledge** indicates that in a unique way God knows himself and all things possible and actual. Omniscience means that "he knows everything" (1 Jn 3:20). "Even before a word is on my tongue, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether" (Ps 139:4), the secret thoughts of a person's heart. God's righteous judgment is rooted in the fact that he "knows the thoughts of man" (Ps 94:11).



God's Nature

God's Intellectual Attributes

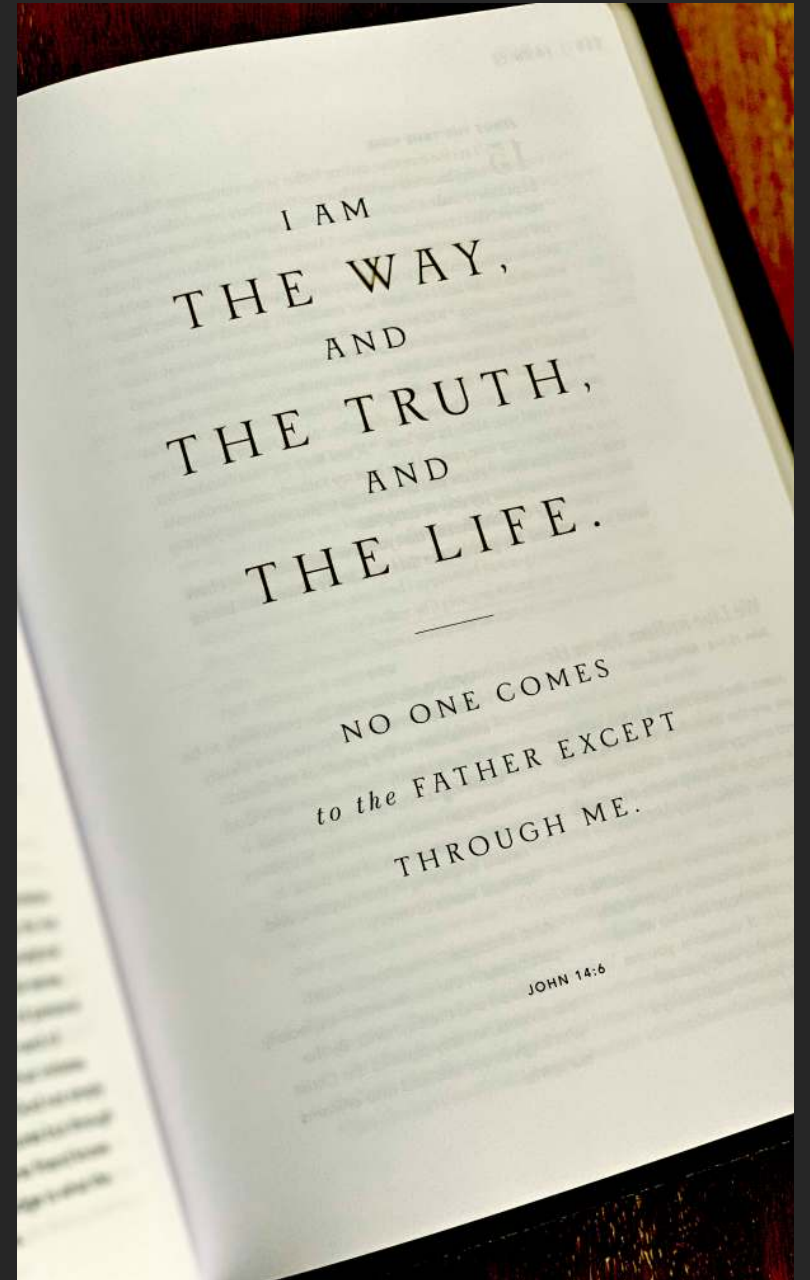
God's wisdom indicates that he uses his knowledge in the best possible manner to achieve his goals. God's works are varied, but they are all done in wisdom (Ps 104:24). "The Lord by wisdom founded the earth" (Prv 3:19); his providence also displays his wisdom (Gn 50:20). Redemption through Jesus Christ reveals God's wisdom (1 Cor 1:24) and awakens awe and praise (Rom 11:33–36). Human beings should seek wisdom (Prv 3:21)—wisdom rooted in the fear of God (Jb 28:28; Ps 111:10; Prv 9:10).



God's Nature

God's Intellectual Attributes

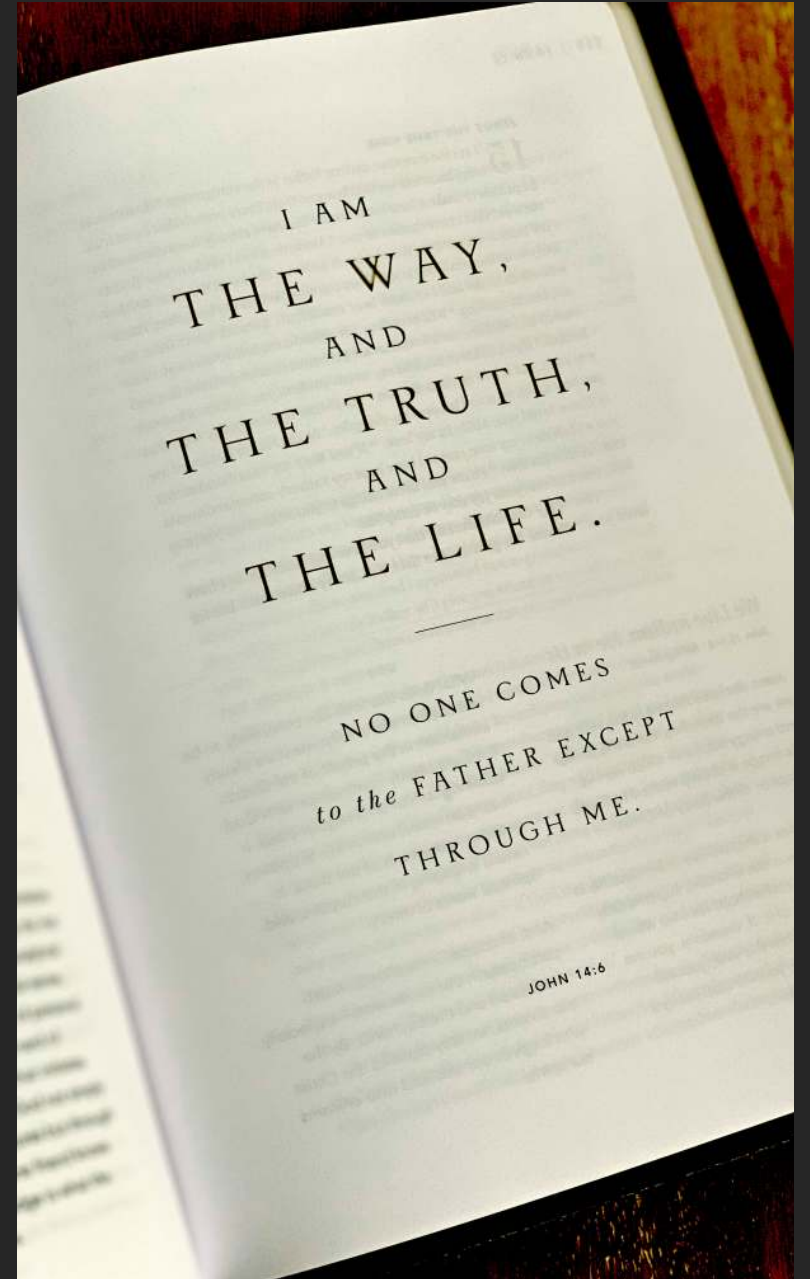
God's **veracity** expresses his truthfulness and faithfulness. He is the truth and he is faithful to himself, to his Word, and to his promises (2 Tm 2:13). "God is light and in him is no darkness at all" (1 Jn 1:5); therefore his followers are to walk in the light (vv 6, 7). Jesus is "the way, and the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6); hence Christians are to walk in the truth and show faithfulness in their lives.



God's Nature

God's Moral Attributes

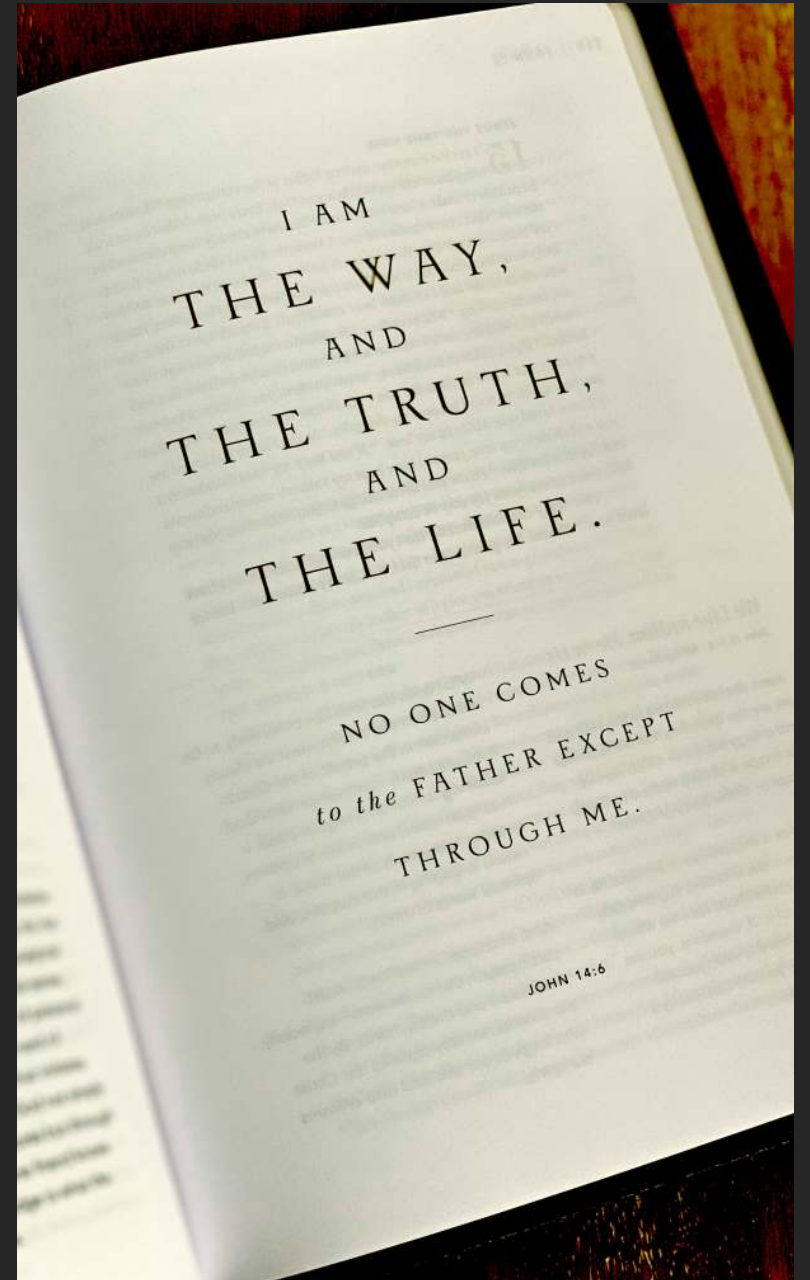
The most comprehensive description of God's moral character is his **goodness**. God deals bountifully and kindly with all his creatures. He is "good to all" (Ps 145:9). Jesus insisted that "No one is good but God alone" (Mk 10:18; Lk 18:19). The redeemed praise God for his goodness (1 Chr 16:34; 2 Chr 5:13; Pss 106:1; 107:1; 118:1; 136:1; Jer 33:11) and are called upon to emulate this divine characteristic (Mt 5:45; Lk 6:27–36).



God's Nature

God's Moral Attributes

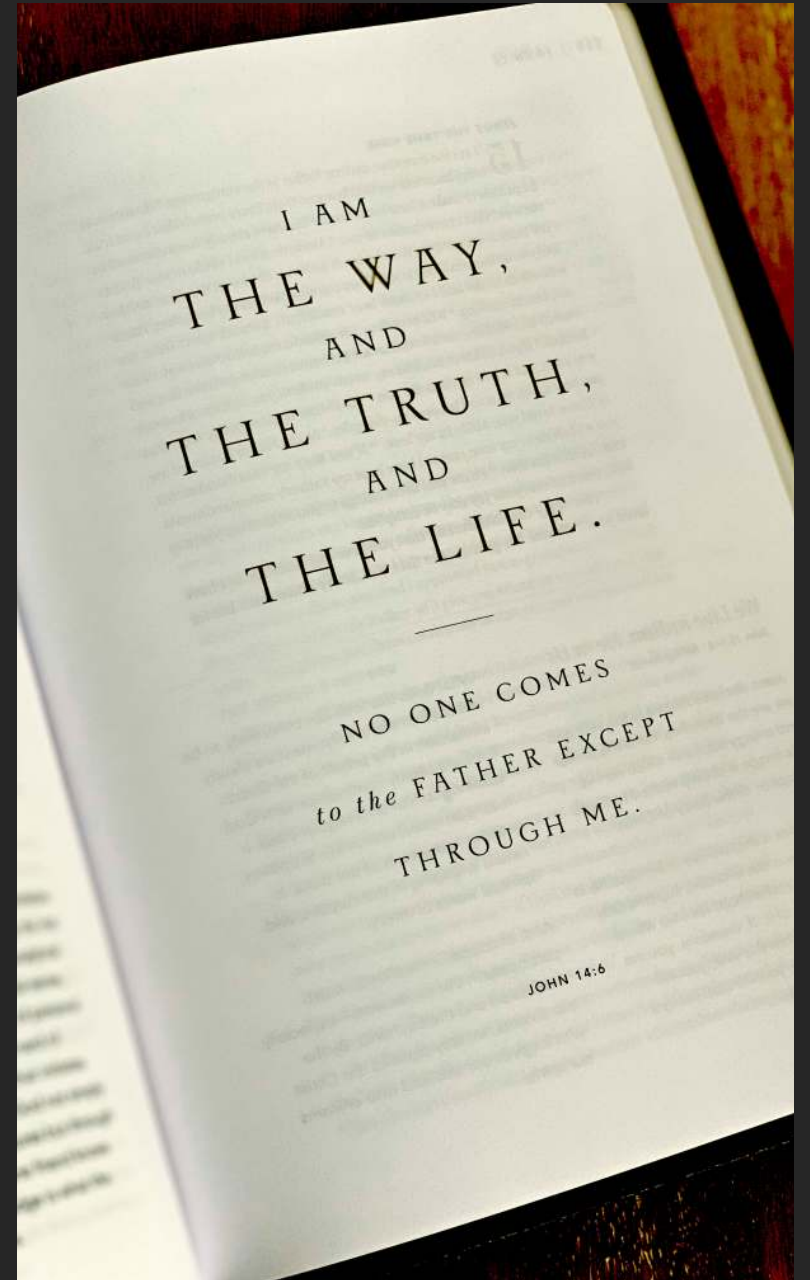
God's love is the heartbeat of the gospel. Perfect love flows between the Persons of the Trinity (Jn 3:35; 17:24). At Sinai God revealed himself as “abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (Ex 34:6, 7), and all his covenantal relations with Abraham’s descendants showed his steadfast love. The chief manifestation of God’s love was the sending of his Son, Jesus Christ (Jn 3:16). The apostle John, who declared that “God is love,” pointed to the cross to indicate what that love really meant: “he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins” (1 Jn 4:8, 10).



God's Nature

God's Moral Attributes

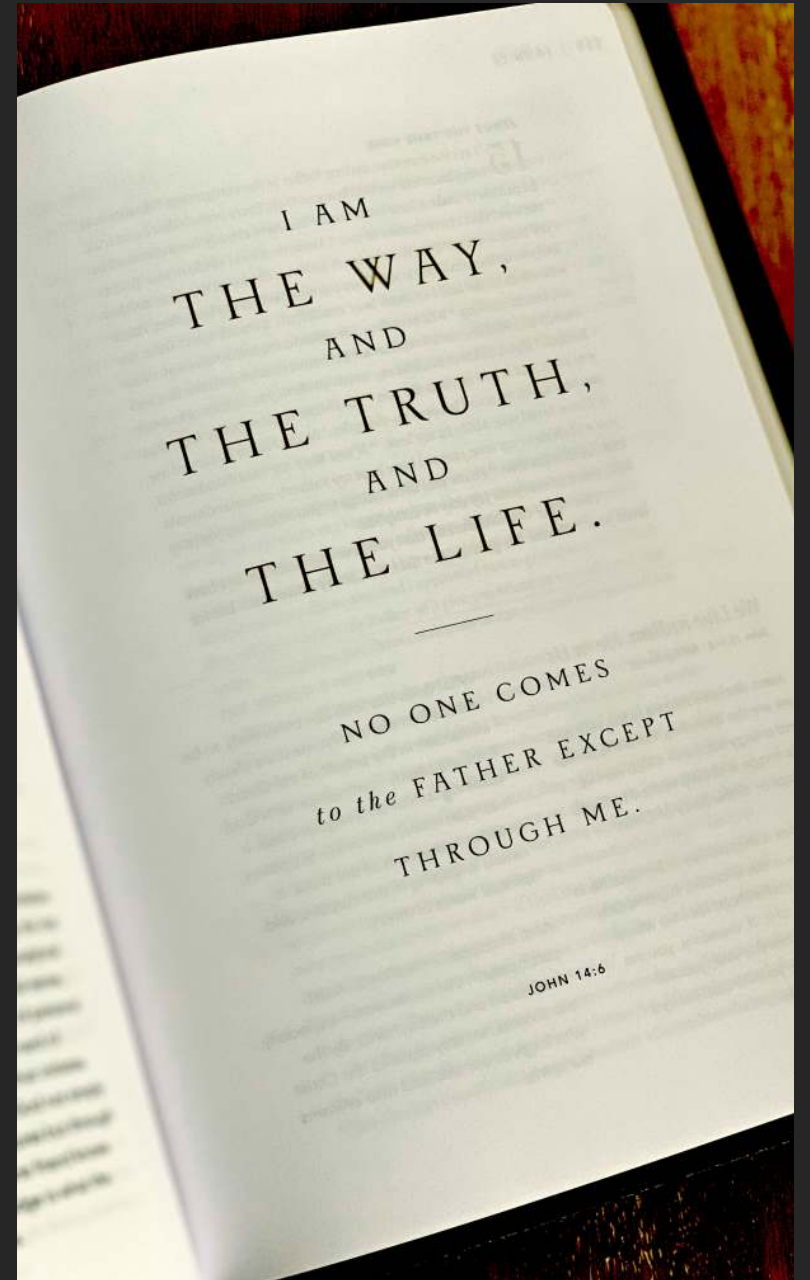
God's **holiness** depicts the moral purity and excellence of God. The description of Jesus' holiness is applicable to each of the Persons of the Trinity: "holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens" (Acts 3:14; Heb 7:26). The root idea of holiness is to be separate or set apart. Because of his inherent holiness, God is distinct from everything impure or unholy. God alone is holy; his name is holy, and he bears the name the "Holy One" (Pss 78:41; 89:18; 99:3, 9; 111:9; Is 12:6; Jer 51:5; Rv 15:4).



God's Nature

God's Volitional Attributes

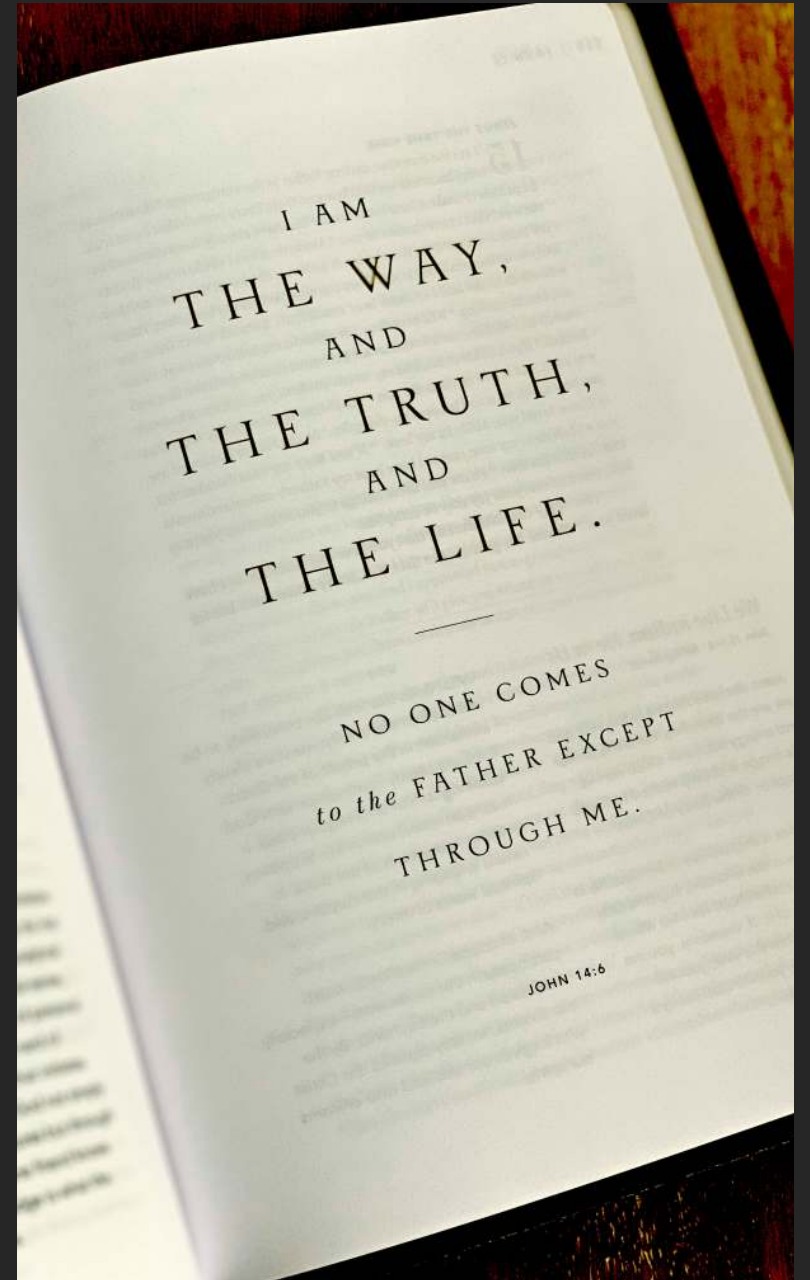
God's **sovereignty** indicates the divine authority with which he rules the entire creation and in his sovereign good pleasure does whatever he wills. God is king over the entire creation, and he rules the destiny of human beings and nations. He restores his kingdom through Jesus Christ; the risen Lord revealed that "all authority in heaven and on earth" was given him (Mt 28:18). Election to salvation in Christ is "according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will" (Eph 1:11).



God's Nature

God's Volitional Attributes

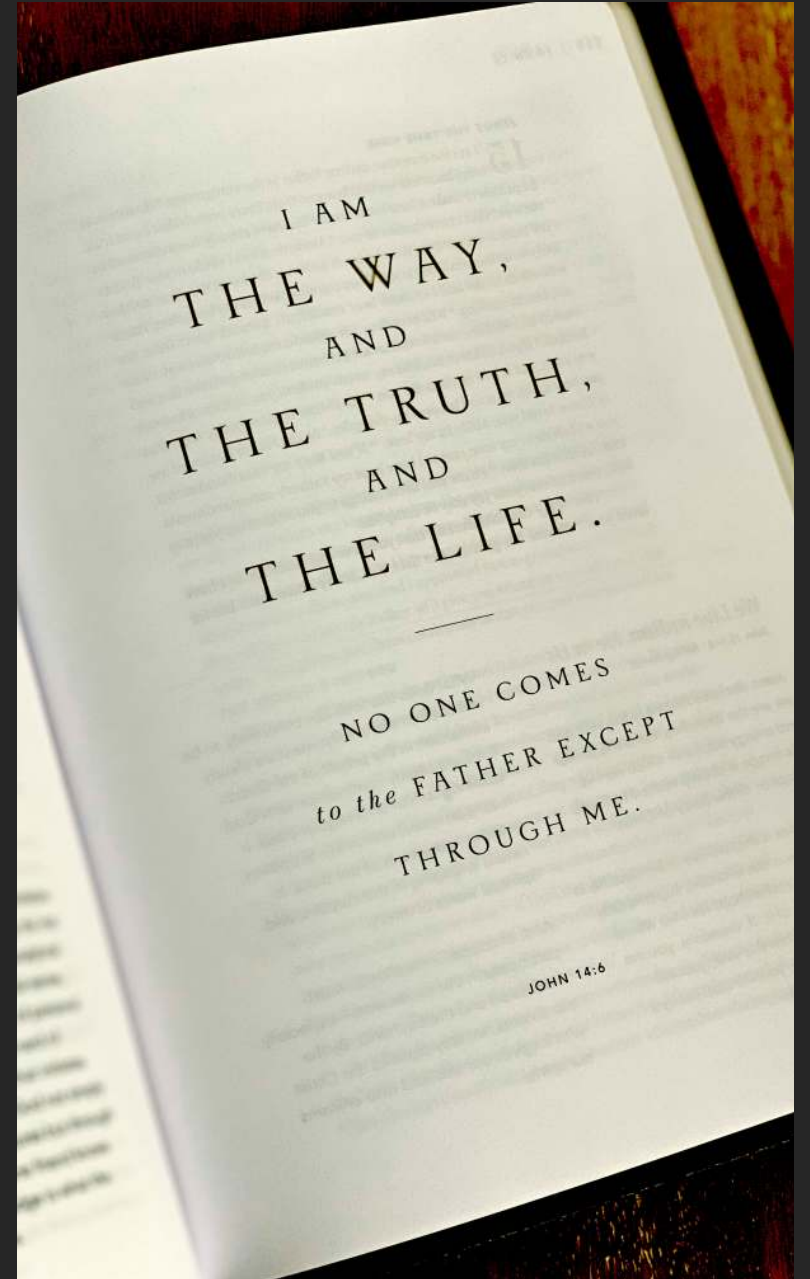
God's **sovereign power** means that he is without bounds or limit in ability; he is omnipotent or almighty (Rv 4:8). By his powerful word he created all things, and upholds "the universe by his word of power" (Heb 1:3). There is nothing too hard for the Lord God Almighty (Gn 18:14; Jer 32:27; Mt 19:26); he keeps his gracious covenant and fulfills all his promises (Lk 1:37; Heb 6:18; 2 Tm 2:13). The gospel is "the power of God for salvation" (Rom 1:16) for Christ is "the power of God" to save (1 Cor 1:24).



God's Nature

God's Volitional Attributes

God's **Glory**. All the attributes of God are summarized in Scripture's references to the glory of God. The majesty, splendor, beauty, and brilliance of God who dwells in unapproachable light are expressed by this indefinable term. "The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham" (Acts 7:2); God showed his glory to Moses (Ex 33:18, 19; 34:6, 7). The God of the Lord Jesus Christ is "the Father of glory" (Eph 1:17). The heavens declare the glory of God (Ps 19:1);





Your Identity

God's Identity

A close-up photograph of a young woman with long, wavy blonde hair, smiling broadly and looking slightly to her right. She is wearing a blue denim jacket. Her right hand is raised, touching her hair, and she is wearing a ring on her ring finger. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is joyful and serene.

Walk in the Spirit

Reflecting God's Identity



Joy of the Holy Ghost

Reflecting Through You

Jesus Living in You

The Hope of Glory

