

Theology Proper—Doctrine of God

Part 1 – The Nature and Knowledge of God

Who is God?

Can I know God?

I. Who is God?

- A. Definition:** God is the supreme, living, holy, infinite (1 Tim 6:16–17), perfect, unchangeable spirit, who is the ruler over all and source, support, and end of all things.
- B. God is subsistent—he is living.**
- Jer 10:10, 1 Thess 1:9, 1 Tim 4:10, Num 14:28
- C. God is supreme.**
1. **God can do whatever he pleases** (Ps 115:3, Ps 135:6).
 2. **God can not be thwarted** (Is 46:10, Dan 4:35).
 3. **God works out his plan in this world** (Eph 1:11, Prov 21:1, Prov 20:24, Ezra 1:1).
 4. **God has no rival** (Deut 6:4, 1 Cor 8:6).
- D. God is spirit (Jn 4:24)**
- Definition:** “God is spirit” means that God is one personal and active being without material substance.
1. **God is a real spirit.**

 2. **God is a personal spirit.**
- E. God is the source of all**
- Creator of all Rev 4:11, Gen 1
 - Derives nothing from men - Job 22:2–3

- Gives men life and breath - Acts 17:24–25, Jn 5:26 (corollary)
- Everything sourced in God - Rom 11:36

II. Can I know God?

A. The proof of God’s existence

1. **God’s existence is never proven in the Bible; it is assumed.**

2. **There is no need to philosophically prove God.**
 - You will end up with a God of proof.
 - You will never convince the unbeliever of God. He must be “convinced” by God.

B. The knowledge of God’s existence

The biblical position is that the knowledge of God is innate and universal, and is not the result of formal reasoning or speculation. Everyone knows about the true God, but no one arrives at that knowledge via any “proofs” or system of natural theology based on argumentation or pure logic.

C. The discovery of God’s existence (Revelation)

We must use the Bible. In the Scriptures, the central affirmation is not that God is, but that *God has spoken*. If God has spoken, then of course He exists. And he, of course, expects his revelation to impact our lives.