

## Notes for Session 2 - *Can I Know God?*

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” A.W. Tozer

Idolatry – Creating a less than accurate image of God.

### Part 1 – “Can I Know God?”

**General Revelation** – God’s revealing of Himself through His creation.

“For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made, so they are without excuse.” Romans 1:20

A supreme being exists.

It is intelligent.

It is creative.

It values beauty and order.

It merits my “seeking.”

**Special Revelation** – God’s revealing of Himself through His written word, the Bible.

The only source of specific information about God.

Attributes – Things God has revealed as being true about Himself.

Holy - Set apart from all else. Not like anything else. 1st Samuel 2:2

Eternal - No beginning, no end. Hebrews 13:8

Self-existent/Self-sufficient - He has no needs. He depends on nothing outside Himself. Ephesian 3:20

Sovereign - He acts from His own will. No outside factors affect His actions. Daniel 4:35

All-knowing (omniscient) - He knows all that is. He knows all that could or couldn’t be. Isaiah 46:9-10

All-powerful (omnipotent) - He can do anything that can be done. Nothing can stop His action. Jeremiah 32:17

Unbounded (omnipresent) - Everywhere at once. Yet He can “be present” in a special way, also. Psalm 139:7-12

Unchanging (immutable) - Being perfect He can’t be “more.” Being righteous and holy, He can’t be “less.” Malachi 3:6

Just/Good - God is perfectly fair in all His workings. Psalm 34:8

Triune - God exists as 3 Persons with 1 essence. Philippians 1:2, Titus 2:13, Acts 5:3–4

Righteous - There is nothing evil or imperfect in Him. Psalm 71:19

Loving - God is perfectly devoted to the well-being of others. The Trinity have been in a loving relationship for all eternity. 1 John 4:7-8

Personal - God is sentient with will, intellect, and emotions. God is not a “force.” God is relational. Exodus 3:14

God can't... 1) Lie, 2) Change, 3) Be anything outside of His character, 4) Be equal to any of His creations.

## **Part 2 – “Can We Prove God Exists?”**

“We have reasonable evidence that God exists.”

The Hiddenness of God - Why doesn't God just come down and prove He exists?

### ***Evidence for the existence of Yahweh God...***

Natural Revelation - Creation demands a Creator. Design demands a Designer. Purpose & order demand a Mind.

Philosophical coherence - “ex nihilo nihil fit” Nothing comes from nothing. A greater can't come from a lesser. (Research Kalam principle, William Lane Craig).

Coherence and reliability of the Bible - Statistical probability of such a book is low.

Miracles - Not simply statistical expectations, but low probability events within a context.

Intrinsic values - Humans have strong internal senses of: “right/wrong” “good/bad”

Fulfilled prophecy - All prophecies that could have been fulfilled to the present have been fulfilled.

Efficacy of God's principles - His laws work in the real world.

Answered prayer - Prayers are consistently answered within the context of good, wise, powerful, sovereign, loving, creative God.

Communication of the Holy Spirit

*There is no one “proof” of God's existence, but the preponderance of truth gives strong evidence.*