

God the Father

According to the National Church Life Survey from 1998, some 74% of Australians believe in God. While on the surface this sounds mildly encouraging it becomes less so when we discover what people mean by belief.

- **35% believe in a personal God**
- **39% in a life-force of some sort**
- **9% feel there is no God**
- **17% don't know**

It is alarming to realize that barely over 1 in 3 Australians believe in a personal God. If we were to break this down further we would understand that there are wide variations of belief on who this personal God is and what He wants from man.

In a later lesson, we will discuss the Bible and how we might know the Bible is true. For this lesson let us assume that the words of the Bible are completely accurate.

What about your country. What percentage do you think believes in God and what does He mean to their lives? _____

Evidence For God's Existence

1. **The Bible says that God exists.** (Genesis 1:1). The Bible assumes the existence of God, it does not try to prove His existence.
2. **It is reasonable to assume there is a God.** The world is orderly and argues for an intelligent Creator. (Psalm 19:1, Romans 1:20)
3. **All the world's cultures have believed in a god or gods.** (Acts 17:23)
4. **The Historical Argument.** The resurrection is attested by the disciples and the rapid growth of the early church.

Special points of interest:

- The Bible says that the fool believes there is no God. (Psalm 14:1)
- The God of the Bible claims to be the only God. (Psalm 115:5-7; Jeremiah 10:5; Habakkuk 2:18-19; John 17:3; Psalm 86:10.



What Do We Know About God From the Bible?

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. <u>God is Spirit</u> — John 4:24; 1 Timothy 1:17; Colossians 1:15. | Timothy 6:16. | 12. <u>God is Holy</u> — Leviticus 20:26; 1 Peter 1:15-16. |
| 2. <u>God is Self-Existent</u> — Exodus 3:14; Isaiah 43:12-13. | 7. <u>God is Sovereign</u> — Deuteronomy 10:17; Psalm 97:9. | 13. <u>God is Loving</u> — 1 John 4:8,16; John 3:16. |
| 3. <u>God is One</u> -- Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:4. | 8. <u>God is Omnipotent</u> — Job 42:1-2; Romans 1:20. | 14. <u>God is Jealous</u> — Exodus 20:5; Ezekiel 39:25. |
| 4. <u>God is Eternal</u> — Isaiah 40:28; Romans 16:26. | 9. <u>God is Good</u> — Exodus 33:18-19; Psalm 100:5. | 15. <u>God is Merciful</u> — Ephesians 2:4; 2 Samuel 24:14. |
| 5. <u>God is Righteous</u> — Psalm 129:4; 50:6. | 10. <u>God is Omniscient</u> — 1 John 3:20; Psalm 147:5. | 16. <u>God is Wrathful</u> — Psalm 2:5; Romans 1:18. |
| 6. <u>God is Immutable</u> — Psalm 102:25-27; 1 | 11. <u>God is Omnipresent</u> — 1 Kings 8:27; Acts 17:27-28. | 17. <u>God is Patient</u> — Exodus 34:6. |

Discussing God's Attributes

1. Which of the above attributes of God do you think is the most important? Why?

2. Which of the above attributes is most popular in our world today? _____

Which is the least popular attribute of God? _____

3. Which of these attributes deal with how God relates to man?

4. What do you think is the greatest evidence of the existence of God?

5. Which attributes show us that God can punish someone that He loves?

6. Which attributes describe how God wants to respond to man?

While 74% of Australians say they believe in God; only 10% attend Church regularly. Still, 43% feel somewhat or very close to God.

The Week Ahead

Monday/Tuesday — Read Psalm 102:25-27 and consider God's immutability. This is to say that He is eternally enduring. Reflect on 1 Timothy 1:16 and God's immortality. Packer says, "*He does not grow older. His life does not wax or wane. He does not gain new powers, nor lose those than he once had. He does not mature or develop. He does not get stronger, or weaker, or wiser, as time God by.*"

Cottrell writes that the bottom line of immutability is the *faithfulness* of God. He is our **Rock**. (Psalm 33:4; 119:90; Lamentations 3:23; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 18:2; Isaiah 26:4.

What do the attributes above mean to your life?

Wednesday/Thursday — God is righteous and just. This means that God conforms to the appropriate norm or standard. His standard is His perfect nature. He will do nothing that is contrary to His nature. God is *consistent*. He is *faithful*. He will do what is *right*. What comfort do you gain from these truths?

See the following scriptures: Psalm 129:4; 145:17; 50:6; 11:7; 143:1; John 17:25; Deuteronomy 32:4.

Friday/Saturday — What does it mean to your life to say that God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent? See Genesis 49:25; Job 40:2. Psalm 147:4; Matthew 10:29; Job 34:21; 1 John 3:20; Isaiah 46:9-10; John 4:20-24; Acts 7:48-50; Jeremiah 23:23-24.

Record Your Thoughts and Prayers

*God is Omnipotent, yet Titus 1:2 tells us that He **cannot** lie. Why is this so? Because to lie would be to violate His Holy nature. James 1:13 adds that He cannot be tempted by evil. This does not show a weakness of God, but is a demonstration of His power!*