

GOD'S INFINITUDE

Holy Father, let us allow the idea that our finite mind cannot quite grasp your infinitude, humble us to a point that we revere you and stand in awe of your greatness. Let us take this time to learn just a little so that we may grow closer to you and your will. Let us take what we study and learn and like a river let it flow down stream so that it may nourish all those who come in contact with it. We will never grasp you the way that we want but let us never cease to try. Amen.

Venturing into infinitude may be a difficult task and is considered by some to be the most difficult attribute to grasp. To put it simply, infinitude means "limitless" and is not applicable to anyone or anything other than God. Because this is such a difficult concept to grasp, we as mankind have made an attempt to create a God that we can understand and control. Therefore, He cannot surprise or astonish us, leaving us as the true gods. For example, the ancient Greeks were a polytheistic people that believed in many gods that were created from myths passed down over the generations. Their gods lived at the top of Mt. Olympus and were governed by the supreme god, Zeus who was married to Hera. Other gods included Ares, Hermes, Aphrodite, Apollo, Poseidon, and Hades among others. These gods controlled war, messages, beauty and fertility, the sun by way of a chariot, the seas, and the underworld respectively and were quite discontent to dwell amongst one another leaving them to bicker amongst themselves frequently. They carried many of the attributes of man; emotional, inconsistent, immoral, etc. and this was assisted by Greek culture which did not have a set of moral laws like Jews and later Christians. We can see the excitement of their lives in stories by Homer such as the Iliad which details the Trojan War and the Odyssey which details the journeys of Odysseus.

Many times throughout history God has shown that He can astonish us before restoring our sight. This can be quite humbling and make us uncomfortable because the finite mind simply cannot comprehend the infinite. In 2 Chron. 2:6, the prophet Ezra shares this with us "But who is able to build a house for Him, for the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain Him? So, who am I, that I should build a house for Him, except to burn incense before Him?" He goes on to say in 6:18 "But will God indeed dwell with mankind on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You; how much less this house which I have built." We may do what we can to build temples, walls and statues to contain the Spirit of God but it is to no avail as He cannot be contained in them. Neither can he be dictated by autonomous borders or governments. In Isaiah 66:1 we read, Heaven is My throne and the earth is my footstool, where then is a house you can build for Me..." The only confinement for Yahweh is within our innermost being where we must prepare a habitation of love, faith and humility.

Try as we may, it is impossible for the finite mind to grasp the infinite. But, because we are a stubborn species, we try desperately to envision something that is completely foreign to us and unlike anything we have ever known. Louis Berkhof explains the infinity of God this way: "The infinity of God is that perfection of God by which He is free from all limitations...He is in no way limited by the universe, by this time-space world, or confined to the universe". That means that whatever attribute we can attribute to Him is infinite, His love, mercy, wisdom, holiness, etc. We are talking about Yahweh being above and beyond weight, measure, distance, light, sound, numbers, etc. Picture this, He has attributes that the angels do not even know, because He has no limits, and they do.

He is strictly beyond measure. We could look at the mathematical number for Pi and see 3.1414141414... and on and on or the protein links of our DNA. For the simple mind that I possess, this number is practically infinite. But it is not, it is simply too large for me to grasp because it is subject to the limitations of the measurer. This is not a meaningful comparison to God however because He has no limitations. When I try to envision the beginning of time or existence prior to the beginning of time my head could explode. With God however, time does not pass it simply remains, He is in no hurry and has no deadlines, He is completely independent of a clock, watch, or sun dial. We could say that He exists but does not exist at any point of times and He does not experience temporal succession.

For Biblical context, Titus 1:2 reads "in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago..." and likewise 1 Peter 1:20 reads, "For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world..." God's creations have limits because He chooses this to be so but the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus is as limitless as God. This is why we must choose to be of the kingdom of Christ not the kingdom of the world. God has appointed governments to rule nations and we are accountable to them, but our reliance and faith must not dwell in them because they are sinful beings just like us. Abounding sin is the terror of the world, but abounding grace is the hope of mankind. Only a savior that is void of limits can offer such a reward. While we struggle with our limits each day, may we find comfort in the one who has no limits or boundaries and lean upon Him for His strength.

QUESTION SECTION:

1. Ephesians 1:4 tells us of the mission of Christ before the foundation of the world, what is the mystery that is made known to us and what chapter and verse can it be found in?

2. Hebrews 11 tells us that worlds were prepared by the word of God but how do we know this? _____
3. What adjective (descriptive word) is attributed to the Spirit in Hebrews 9? _____
4. In John chapter 8, Jesus utters famous words, "Before Abraham was, I Am". What passage do we see the words "I Am" uttered to Abraham from God? _____
5. What words are the equivalent of I Am in the Greek? _____

Isaiah 40:28

Do you not know? Have you not heard?

The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth

Does not become weary or tired.

His understanding is inscrutable.

