

3 Absolutes of Wonder - The Nature of God and Reality -

These absolutes of wonder are fundamental statements of the truth which God has chosen to reveal about Himself and His creation. Although we cannot prove or go beyond these statements, the logical evidence of nature, logical reasoning, and the revelation of the scriptures all agree to the one fact that these fundamental principles are true. As we understand them we can compartmentalize all the things we can observe into one of these areas - Romans 1:16-20.

Isaiah 6:1-3

Rev. 4:8

Holy	Holy	Holy
UNCREATED	TRIUNE	CREATOR
<u>BEING</u>	<u>TRUTH</u>	<u>CHARACTER</u>
"Stuff"	"relationship"	"choices"
<u>ETERNAL</u>	<u>UNITY AND DIVERSITY</u>	<u>SEQUENTIAL</u>
Timeless Being	Diversity	acts in sequence
Changeless James 1:17	Diversity	flexible
Unchangeable	Unity	faithful

INFINITE- Ps. 145:3

WISDOM*JUSTICE*LOVE

PERSONAL

No physical limits to:

These precepts direct God's actions

Moral limits to:

Power of God

"With God all things are possible"

God's choices of action:

Job 42:2, Ps. 62:11,
Ps. 115:3, Isa. 59:1
Jer. 32:17, 27, Dan 2:20,
Mk. 14:36, Rom. 1:20
Eph. 1:19-20, Eph. 3:20,
Gen. 18:14, 1 Cor. 1:25
Rev. 11:17-

Matt. 19:26, Job. 37:23

Titus 1:2, cannot lie
Jn. 16:13

The Almighty:
Gen. 17:1,
Ex. 6:3, Rev. 19:6, 21:22

2 Tim. 2:18 can't deny Himself-- No contradictions in His moral character obligations.

Jas. 1:13 Can't be tempted by evil

UNCREATED

TRIUNE

CREATOR

The presence of God

2 Chron. 2:6, Ps. 139:7-10
Jer. 23:24, Prov. 15:3
Col. 1:17

"God is not physically far
from any one of us"

Acts 17:24-28

God's Manifestation

Near to the humble:
Ps. 34:18, Ps. 145:18-21
Jas. 4:8, Jn. 9:31

Far from the wicked:
Ps. 73:27, Ps. 119:155
Prov. 15:29, Lk. 5:8

Mental Abilities of God

Ps. 92:5, Job 21:22
Job 36:5, Job 37:16
1 Chron. 28:9, 1 Sam. 2:3
1 Sam. 16:7

Free Will of men

Free moral beings choose or
create new things

Josh. 24:15

God's Foreknowledge

2 Pet. 3:17
Acts 2:23
1 Pet. 1:18-20
Rom. 8:29

All-Wise

Reasonable Universe
Jer. 10:7-12, Dan. 2:20-23
Prov. 3:19, Rom. 16:27
Eph. 8, Eph. 3:10, 1 Tim.
1:17
WISDOM BEHIND THE LAW

Mercy X Truth

Ps. 25:10, Ps. 57:10
Ps. 61:6-7, 85:10, 86:15
Ps. 89:14, 115:1, Prov. 3:3
Prov. 14:22, 16:6, 20:28
Hos. 4:1

God is perfect in applying truth.

-- he knows our deepest
thoughts and desires
-- Dan. 4:37

All-Understanding

1 Chron. 28:9, Job 12:13
Ps. 147:5, Isa. 40:28,
Jer. 51:15

Patience x Wrath x Grace

Ps. 78:38-39

God's goal is always
redemption and reconcilia-
tion.

God knows all possibilities and probabilities

All-knowing

1 Sam. 2:3, 1 Kings 8:39
Job. 21:22, 23:10, 36:4,
Ps. 37:18, Ps. 44:21, Ps. 1:6
Ps. 37:18, Ps. 44:21, 69:19

Righteousness x Justice

2 Pet. 3:9-13, Jer. 11

God knows all that can be
known but some areas are
still uncertain because of
man's free will.

Ps. 94:11, 103:14, 142:3,
 Ps. 147:4, Isa. 66:18,
 Ezek. 11:5, Lk. 16:15,
 Acts 1:24, Rom. 11:33,
 1 Cor. 8:3, II Tim. 2:19,
 Heb. 4:13, I Jn. 3:20

UNCREATED

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CREATOR

God Has Power Over His Power

Since God's power is infinite, He can never use all of it at once.

God also can choose to limit His power in any way at all that He wills.

Authority and Submission

The Godhead is doing all that can be done at any given moment to get everyone saved based on the Moral confines of truth. God has given man a free-will and will not take it back and overrule it to make men do something they do not want to do.

Deut. 30:19

God's army consists only of volunteers. Prayer releases God to move more mightily yet stay impartially just and fair.

God's Sovereignty

God is free from outside control or manipulation.

Man cannot reach God or control God by any human device.

Job. 11:7-11

Ps. 2:1-6

2 Cor. 12: 7-10

Law/Form

Right & wrong

Obedience

submission to authority

Freedom

personal choice

Order

Beauty & Symmetry

Creativity

Structure

Balance

Liberality

Expenditure of energy to maintain balance

Spiritual- Jn. 4:24

What God is:

Ps. 86:8, 89:6, 71:19,

Father x Son x Holy Spirit

What God (the Godhead) is

Matt. 28:19, 1 Jn. 5:6,

Moral- Ps. 25:8

What God does:

Ps. 86:8, 72:18

Ps. 113:1-9, Isa. 40:18
Isa. 46:5

Jn. 14:12-26, 15:26
Jn. 16:7-16

The Godhead- fellowship of
3 distinct but not separate
persons

UNCREATED	TRIUNE	CREATOR
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<u>Ultimate Value</u>	<u>Ultimate Relationship</u>	<u>Ultimate Morality</u>
All 3 members of the Godhead are the same in substance, nature, and essence.	Harmony and Unity John 17:18-24 All 3 members of the Godhead are one in agreement, purpose, and love.	All 3 members of the Godhead are perfect in character.

<u>Fundamental Reality</u>	<u>Fundamental Relationship</u>	<u>Source of Love</u>
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Infinite-- no physical limits

Eternity will not exhaust the limits of God

Ps. 145:3 "Great is the Lord and highly to be praised; His greatness is unsearchable.

Personal

Personality of God

A. God possesses intelligence and intellectual activity

I Sam. 2:35 "A faithful priest who will do according to what is in My heart and soul."

Isa. 1:18 "Come let us reason together"

*God is an intelligent and reasonable God

I Cor. 2:9 "Eye has not seen"

Imagination

Rev. 20:12 The books of judgment opened

Memory

Heb. 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their iniquities, And I will remember their sins no more"

Ps. 92:5 "Thy thoughts are very deep"

B. God experiences emotional reactions depending on men's attitudes and conducts.

Gen. 6:5-6 The risk God took in making us

Zeph. 3:17

*We are so significant to God that He allows us to make our own choices.
An ant before the steamroller.

C. God has a free will

*Character comes from choices

Isa. 12:1

Zech. 1:14-16 God declares "I will"

*Not a computer in the sky

*Not an impersonal energy force

WONDERS vs. MIRACLES

Wonders describe the fascination of watching God's creation

Miracles are exceptions to the rule.

1. Consistency is a testimony to His stability and faithfulness;

Gravity doesn't change; Sun doesn't go out.

2. God does perform miracles at times to manifest His glory; but it's the exception.

Example: A Christian and non Christian fall off of a 100' cliff

Which one will die?

Example: A believer asks for the sun to come up 5 hours later so he can sleep.

What would be the consequences?

*But it did happen- Josh. 10:13

Isaiah 38:8

Foreknowledge:

"The Greek word *foreknowledge* (*Proginosko*) is made up of the two Greek elements 'previous' (*pro*) and 'knowledge' (*ginosko*) . In general Greek literature it simply means 'knowledge in advance,' or sometimes 'prognosts' in the medical sense.

"In the early church the term was sometimes used as another word for prophecy. When used of God it seems always to mean knowledge in advance--usually of events.

"Sometimes it is connected with his full understanding of us, e.g., in Clement: 'For He has foreknowledge of all things and knows what is in our hearts.'

"Also Justin, '. . . until the number of those fore known by Him as good and virtuous is complete' and 'For He foreknows some about to be saved by repentance.' The early church was, we note, emphatic in its denial that foreknowledge implied any predetermination of events. Thus Justin Martyr says: 'So that what we say about future events being foretold, we do not say it as though they came about by fatal necessity; but God foreknowing all that shall be done by all men, and it being His decree that the future actions of men shall all be recompensed according to their value, He foretells by the Spirit of prophecy that He will bestow meet rewards. . . ' and 'But if the word of god foretells that some angels and men shall be certainly punished, it did so because it foreknew that they would be unchangeably wicked, but not because God had created them so'.

"Origen says: 'I shall take from the Scriptures the predictions regarding Judas, or the foreknowledge of our Savior regarding him as the traitor. . . ' and then proceeds to argue that this foreknowledge in no way implied compulsion.

"Jerome, notwithstanding, his withering attack on the Pelagians, is also clear on this point: 'For Adam did not sin because God knew that he would do so; but God, inasmuch as He is God, foreknew what Adam would do of his own free choice.'"