



*Canst thou by searching find out God?
Canst thou find out the Almighty
to perfection?*

Job11.7

So, what *is* God really like? This has to be one of the greatest and most important questions we can ever ask, for if we do not know what God is like, how can we know how we should approach Him and treat Him? How can we ever have the relationship with Him that we need, and which will transform our lives and bring us into heaven? Where do we look for the answer? How can we be sure we get it right? The answer we end up with, and the response we give to it will affect us for ever.

Our own imagination?

If we met someone for the first time, a total stranger, we may immediately think and imagine all sorts of things about him, and the likelihood is that we would be very wrong. How could we ever make an accurate judgement if all we relied on was pure guesswork? That is exactly what many of us do with God - we build a picture of Him in our minds without actually knowing the truth.

Other people's opinions?

Many people are all too ready to give us their own personal views on all kinds of things, including their opinions about God. But where did they get their ideas from? If they are only telling us what they imagine God to be like, then we are just listening to their imagination instead of our own, and it doesn't get us any nearer to the truth.

Wishful thinking?

Many people decide what God ought to be like, and persuade themselves that's how it is. For example, He should be a God who cooperates with our wishes, who leaves us alone to get on with life but is ready to step in to help if things go wrong. We may like to think that He will take us all to heaven, no matter what. It's all very well to think in these ways, but is that what God is actually like?

The actual truth!!

If we allowed that person we met for the first time to speak for himself, and if we then went on to really get to know him personally we would know what's actually true of him.

God speaks to us in the Bible, and it's there that He tells us about Himself and reveals to us facts that we would otherwise never know. If we are ready to listen and learn we will discover the truth. We may be in for a few surprises but it will be the truth, and it will be the start of a discovery of the wonderful reality of God. This is the first of a series of leaflets designed, in a very simple way, to help introduce you to the living and true God.

Jesus met a woman one day in Samaria, and their conversation is recorded in the fourth chapter of John's Gospel. One of the things Jesus said to her was this : *God is a Spirit.* (Verse 24). That brief statement is a good place for us to start, and it points us to a number of things about God also taught elsewhere in the Bible.

No body!

Being a Spirit, God is not a physical or material Being with a body. We need one , but He doesn't because He is God! He doesn't need eyes to see or ears to hear because He knows everything anyway. He doesn't need hands to create or change things because as soon as He wants something to be done, it is done immediately just because it's His will. He is not like us!

Invisible!

We cannot expect to see a Spirit with our human eyes. We cannot look in a certain direction or place and say, 'There He is'!

Infinite!

Being a Spirit, we can't measure Him, and put limits on Him. In fact He is infinite, without any kind of limitation. No other Being is like Him!

Not bound by space!

He doesn't need a physical place in which to exist. Before God created the universe there was no material place at all, but God existed nevertheless! Neither is He confined to one place at a time like we are, for He is everywhere all at once. There is no place we can go where God is not present!

A God to marvel at!

Already we should be marvelling at all of this, and there's so much more to come! No wonder the Bible tells us that *the world by wisdom knew not God* (1 Corinthians 1. 21). In other words, we can never know what God is like through our own wisdom alone. He is far too great for that! We must never think of Him as being like us, not even a more powerful and exalted version of us, for He is far above and beyond mere mortal human beings!

A God to know!

Amazingly, this great Spirit, the God who fills heaven and earth, sent His Son to be born into this world as a real man, as the God-Man, in order to save us from our sins through His death on Calvary's cross. By believing in Him we can personally know God in all His greatness as our God and Saviour, and experience for ourselves His great mercy and love.

