

Colossians 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another
in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*



Who is God? What is He like? Can He be known? These are the most important questions in the universe. The good news is God has answered these questions by revealing Himself through His attributes. The most important thing we can do in the universe is grow in our knowledge of God. We have been created by God to know God. For the season of Lent our devotions will be on knowing God through His attributes.

Self-Sufficient

The reality is that God doesn't need us. God didn't create the world, the oceans, the tigers, or people because He was desperately lonely or lacking. He didn't create us to make up for a deficiency in His character or attributes. God is not dependent upon His creation; rather He is independent from His creation. This is good news, we would not want or be helped by a needy God. God is self-existent and self-sufficient.

When we worship Him, we are not adding to His greatness, but rather expressing our satisfaction in Him and His greatness.

Because God is self-sufficient, we can go to Him to satisfy all our needs. We never have to worry about "drying up" His never-ending well of goodness, peace, mercy and grace. "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us..." (Ephesians 3:20).

Scripture on God's Self-Sufficiency

Job 12:10, 13 In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.

¹³ With God are wisdom and might; he has counsel and understanding.

Psalms 50:10-12 For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.

¹¹ I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.

¹² If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.

Psalms 102:25-27 Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end.

Isaiah 40:28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

Matthew 19:26 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

John 1:3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

John 5:26 As the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Acts 17:24-25, 28 *The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man. ²⁵ Nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ... ²⁸ In him we live and move and have our being.*

Romans 11:36 *For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever.*

II Corinthians 2:8-9 *For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.*

II Corinthians 3:5 *Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God.*

Philippians 4:13 *I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

Colossians 1:16-17 *By him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

Song

Psalm 59:16 *But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

O God Our Help In Ages Past (Hymn by Isaac Watts)

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home;

Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure.
Sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away.
We fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Prayer

II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Holy Father, there is a spirit in our land of self-sufficiency, that we have got this, we don't need you, that everything we have we have gotten for ourselves. This spirit pervades our culture at every possible level. As adults, we can fool ourselves into being quite self-sufficient. We live in a land of practical atheists, until some crisis shows us how weak and out of control we really are. Then we come running to you, but even then, we often come not for you but just for what we want you to give us. Father, have mercy on us and forgive us.

Heavenly Father, the idol of self-sufficiency is formidable. We resist being needy, being a burden on anyone. Enable us to give up the illusion of our competency. We can't fix all that is wrong in the world or even in our little corner of it. We can't fix broken people, we can't heal others, let alone change our own hearts. Grant us grace to accept our limits, and faith to trust you more. Grant us humility and a greater willingness to accept help from others.

You have called and created us to be like children, to be completely dependent on you. We glorify you most when we see you as the giver of every good and perfect gift, the supplier of every need, the God who delights to give more than we ask or imagine. We glorify you when we boast in our weaknesses and boast in your sufficiency. Help us to live in a way that magnifies the truth that in you alone we live and move and have our being. In Jesus name, Amen.