

2/2/20 SN

Foreknowledge And Wisdom
The Attributes Of God, Pt .2

In our previous study we looked at God's natural or incommunicable attributes of Omnipotence, Omnipresence and Omniscience.

* We want to look at God's foreknowledge and wisdom.

Then we want to look at these first five natural attributes of God that we have studied and see how they benefit His saints even though they are incommunicable to His creatures in their entirety like holiness, righteousness, goodness, etc.

Remember the attributes of God are those qualities or characteristics of His character which God has revealed about Himself in order that we might know His person as well as the personality.

I. Foreknowledge.

II. Wisdom.

III. How God's natural Attributes benefit the Saints.

I. Foreknowledge.

A. The attribute of God's foreknowledge is in its most basic definition as knowledge beforehand but it involves assimilation, understanding to perfection.

* The Dictionary of Theology defines it like this: Prescience or foresight of God concerning the entire course of future events.

1. We want to go to the Scriptures where the word is found and from the context determine what foreknowledge is not, as well as what it is.
 - a. The word foreknowledge is not found in the Old Testament, yet the evidence of the foreknowledge of God is present throughout it.
 - b. The word does appear in the New Testament.
 - 1) Twice it appears in the noun form in the New Testament. Acts 2:23; 1Pet. 1:2
 - 2) Five times it appears in the verb form in the New Testament. Acts 26:5; Rom. 8:29; 11:2; 1Pet. 1:20; 2Pet. 3:17
2. The counsel or purpose and foreknowledge refers to the same act in the Greek construction. Acts 2:23

* "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death."

 - a. Counsel or purpose refers to an interchange of opinions, advice, deliberative judgment.

- b. Determinate refers to the past act of putting limits upon something with a present result that some certain thing has been appointed or decreed.
 - c. Foreknowledge is the decree in relation to Christ being crucified.
3. In another passage in Acts it refers to pure knowledge that the Jews had before Paul's conversion which is what the word means, knowledge beforehand. Acts 26:5
 4. In Romans it refers to the decree of God to predestinate people by foreknowledge. Rom. 8:29
 5. In a second text in Romans refers to the declaration of God that he will not cast away true Israel his people whom He foreknew. Rom. 11:2
 6. Peter uses it to refer to God's declaration of the election of some by foreknowledge. 1Pet. 1:2
 7. Peter uses it again to refer to the declaration of Christ being the lamb of God from foundations of the world by God's foreknowledge. 1Pet. 1:20
 8. Both in Acts and in Second Peter it refers to purely previous knowledge in regards to those who corrupt the Scriptures as in Acts. Acts 26:5; 2Pet. 3:17

- B. The observations we can draw from these five texts are important in order to know what foreknowledge is not.
 1. God's foreknowledge is not causative or dependent on conditions.
 - * Let's take the area of salvation, God didn't choose you because He knew you were going to choose him.
 - a. That would indicate that there is good in some men sufficient to merit salvation.
 - b. It would put God subject to man's response which in turn would put salvation out of the control of God.
 - c. Yes, God knew how a person would respond because he knows all things past, present and future but it is not the reason he called me or you.
 2. God's foreknowledge never violates the free will of man.
 - a. "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain". Jn. 15:16a-c
 - b. And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. Rev. 22:17
 - c. Foreknowledge is not causative or dependent on conditions!

C. The observations we can draw from these five texts are also important to know and understand what foreknowledge is.

1. God's Foreknowledge is part of God's omniscience that deals with the declarations or deliberate judgment with certainty of taking place.
 - a. Christ's crucifixion declared. Acts 2:23
 - b. The declaration of predestination. Rom. 8:29
 - c. The declaration of the remnant of Israel. Rom. 11:2
 - d. The declaration of election of some men. 1Pet. 1:2
 - e. The declaration of Christ to be the lamb of God. 1Pet. 1:20
2. God's foreknowledge in every one of these five cases reveals the subject matter is people.
 - a. "Him", refers to Christ. Acts 2:23
 - b. "Whom", refers to the saints. Rom. 8:29
 - c. "His people", refers to Israel. Rom. 11:2
 - d. "Pilgrims of the Dispersion", refers to believers. 1Pet. 1:1-2
 - e. "Who", refers to Christ. 1Pet. 1:20-21
3. God's foreknowledge then is that part of God's Omniscience that deals with declarations that cannot be thwarted, but are certain.
 - a. And the subject matter is people, though events would be connected.

- b. The important thing to remember about God's foreknowledge is that it was from eternity.
 - 1) "Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: The Lord knows those who are His, and, Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity". 2Tim. 2:19
 - 2) "In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory". Eph. 1:11-12
 - 3) "Known to God from eternity are all His works". Acts 15:18
- c. God's foreknowledge allows God to know all things as present with Him from eternity and therefore predicting future events includes also His knowledge of all accidental and insidental actions or events.
 - 1) The prophecies of God do not cause people to act on the knowledge and fulfill the prophecies, but are in fact events foreknown by God to be so.
 - 2) Otherwise as we have already seen man's free will would be violated and God could not be holy and just

holding man responsible for something he did by God's compulsion.

Illustration

We are impressing with our scientific knowledge, but God has always known it. The sun radiates more energy in one second than has been used since the beginning of civilization. In one second, a typical quasar throws out enough energy to supply all the earth's electrical needs for billions of years. #1367

This is the attribute of foreknowledge!

II. Wisdom.

A. God's divine wisdom is to perfection without error, involving the best selection of knowledge to be applied to bring about a perfect desired end.

* The wisdom of God is also a moral and communcable attribute to man, but it is not to perfection on the part of man.

1. God's wisdom involves all other attributes which are perfect in themselves, resulting in a perfect application of knowledge.
2. Then Daniel, after he was told of the kings decree to kill all the wise magicians and astrologes, went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven

concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise *men* of Babylon. Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, **For wisdom and might are His**. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what *is* in the darkness, And light dwells with Him. Dan. 2:17-22

3. Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite. Ps. 147:5

B. God's wisdom is seen in creation as we look at the world around us.

* "O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions". Ps. 104:24

1. In variety of species and different forms of life.
 - a. Entomologists estimate that there is over one million different kinds of insects in the world, and could be as high as five million.
 - b. God asked Job, "Does the hawk fly by your **wisdom**, And spread its wings toward the south?" Job 39:26

2. Have you ever thought about the wisdom it took to design and put together the nervous system of a centipede, so that all hundred legs move in harmony and coordination?
3. Our seasons declare God's wisdom.
 - a. "You have set all the borders of the earth; You have made summer and winter." Ps. 74:17
 - b. Without seasons crops, animals and people would not survive.
4. God gave us night and day that we might rest our bodies. Gen. 1:16
 - * "Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. *He made* the stars also."
5. Our bodies are a beautiful example of God's wisdom, the complexity and intricacy of the nervous system, the genetic coding of DNA and the natural healing process of the body.
 - a. David declares, "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well." Ps. 139:14
 - b. The earth is the result of God's wisdom. Prov. 3:19
 - * "The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens."
 - c. God established the world by wisdom. Jer. 10:12

* "He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion."

- C. God's wisdom is seen in redemption through the person of Jesus Christ.
 1. God knowing fallen man could not redeem himself, he made a plan which would not violate his holiness while at the same time meet the payment for sin.
 - a. He revealed how the Redeemer would come, through the seed of a woman. Gen. 3:15
 - b. That seed is declared to be God. Matt. 1:23
 - * "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."
 - c. God became man. Jn. 1:14
 - * "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."
 - d. God the Son confirmed that the Father had prepared a body for him. Heb. 10:5
 - * "Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me."

- e. God was right on schedule in sending His Son. Gal. 4:4
* “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.”
 - f. Christ is a man, even today in heaven. 1Tim. 2:5
* “For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus.”
 - g. The entire Canon of the Scriptures speak of the Redeemer. Heb. 10:7
* “Then I said, “Behold, I have come--In the volume of the book it is written of Me--To do Your will, O God.” Ps. 40:7
2. So you have Jesus being 100% man to identify with man, yet sinless, virgin born, and 100% God identifying with God.
 - a. He died as man’s representative as the last Adam, making payment for sin and being raised by the power of God that his righteousness might be imputed to us. 2Cor. 5:21
 - b. And God did it in such a way where no man can boast, for we are justified by faith and grace. Eph. 2:8-9
 - c. Paul says the angels in heaven are spectators to the manifold wisdom of God as they see the church. Eph. 3:10

- d. Peter tells us that angels desired to look into God’s plan. 1Pet. 1:12
- D. God’s wisdom results in his glory.
 1. To the only wise God.
 - a. “To God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever.” Rom. 16:27
* The context is for God’s grace and salvation.
 - b. Paul writes, “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.” 1Tim. 1:17
 - c. Jude declares, “To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.” Jude 25
 3. To God who we should glory in.
 - a. “As it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.” 1Cor. 1:31
 - b. “For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?” 1Cor. 4:7
 4. To the creator and Redeemer of man. Rev. 4:8-11
 - a. “The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God

Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!” Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”

- b. God’s wisdom is infinite, immutable, eternal, Omnipotent, holy, good and just, in contrast to man’s wisdom which is finite and hailed as wisdom today and tomorrow it is exposed as sheer foolishness and at times the very reason for the next generation’s problems.

Illustration

The heart is a hard-working marvel. It can keep on beating automatically even if all other nerves were severed. And what a beat! It beats an average of 75 times a minute, forty million times a year, or two and a half billion times in a life of 70 years. At each beat, the average adult heart discharges about four ounces of blood. This amounts to three thousand gallons a day or 650,000 gallons a year - enough to fill more than 81 tank cars of 8,000 gallons each. The heart does enough work in one hour to lift a 150-pound man

to the top of a three-story building, enough energy in twelve hours to lift a 65-ton tank car one foot off the ground, or enough power In seventy years to lift the largest battleship afloat completely out of the water.
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This is the attribute of wisdom!

III. How God’s natural Attributes benefit the Saints.

- A. Though these first five attributes of God are incommunicable to man, we do receive certain benefits in part, the first being Omnipotence.
 - 1. Paul tells the Ephsians, “Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, far above all principality

and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Eph. 1:15-23

2. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” Matt. 28:18

B. The second attribute of God is Omnipresence enefits us in His companionship and comfort.

1. He will never leave us nor forsake us. Heb. 13:5
2. He is present even with two or three who gather to make discisions for His church. Matt. 18:20
3. He is present in our body is His temple. 1Cor. 6:19
4. He gives us the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:7

C. The third attribute of God Omniscience, He imparts to us those things he chooses.

1. We have the mind of Christ. 1Cor. 2:16c
2. We are able to be renewed in the spirit of our mind. Eph. 4:23

3. We are to let this mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus, one of a humble servant. Phil. 2:5
4. We can trust the Holy Spirit to bring all things to our remembrance and teach us. Jn. 14:26

D. The fourth attribute of God foreknowledge gives us great assurance and trust in God.

1. Knowing that what God has declared will come to pass and that no one will be violated in their free will.
* The reason being that He cannot lie!
- 2 Knowing that His holiness and righteousness cannot be violated.
3. Knowing that God can not ever learn anything.
4. Knowing that God can not make a mistake.

E. The fifth attribute of God wisdom is that we can ask in prayer for that He might impart to us divine wisdom for our lives.

1. “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints”. Eph. 1:17-18
2. We are to ask of God if we lack wisdom.

- a. “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him”. Ja. 1:5
 - b. “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy”. Ja. 3:17
3. Christ is made unto us wisdom. 1Cor. 1:30
 * “But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God--and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.”
4. In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Col. 2:3
 * “In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”.

Illustration

But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding? Job 28:12

* He declares how men dig for gold and silver, yet wisdom is of greater gain and value.

Oh that man would seek God for wisdom as they do for natural things!

And Job says, “The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom.”
Job 28:28

Paul declares to the Romans, “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! ¹?For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor?

‘Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?

“For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.” Rom. 11:33-36

God’s natural Attributes benefit the Saints!

Conclusion

These are two more natural attributes of God.

- I. Foreknowledge.
- II. Wisdom.
- III. How God’s natural Attributes benefit the Saints.