

Always the Same

December 22nd, 2013

The Name

YHVH - The I AM - The HE WAS, HE IS, AND ALWAYS WILL BE

The Always, The Continuous, The Never-Ending, The Perpetual, The Same

The Most Elementary Attribute of God

I AMness, Eternal Sameness, Forever Alwaysness, Unchanging Everness

His Unchanging Everness

His Nature - The Most Basic Building Block of Faith

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh

to God must believe that **He IS**, and that **He IS a**

rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6

The Two Factors of Faith

- #1 - The Facts - HE IS
- #2 - The Promise - HE IS a rewarder

The Legs

#1 - The Facts

So, you're stuck, huh? Have you begun to realize that somehow you need to get from here to over there? Hmm. Do you see those two elongated fleshly tree limbs attached to your body just under your waist? Those two appendages are called "legs" and they were designed by God for doing precisely what you are needing your body to do. They will help you get unstuck. They are built to carry the weight of your upper torso and actually transport your body from here to over there.

#2 - The Promise

This news just in. It turns out that your Creator offers a guarantee on His creation. He has declared that if you would merely rise up from your seated position and put your weight on your two legs, that they WILL, in fact, be able to carry your body. Some practice may be necessary in order to fully master the art of walking from here to there, but the good news is, they WILL work IF you just rise up and walk on them. Oh, and by the way, legs are built for more than just walking. They are designed for a multitude of other very exciting activities, including, but not limited to, running, dancing, leaping, scaling, skipping, frolicking, and even prancing.

The Mouth

#1 - The Facts

You are hungry and thirsty, huh? Well, you have a mouth. Yes, it is that tooth-filled hole in the front of your face just beneath your nose. It's pretty obvious, isn't it? Uh-huh, it's been there your entire life. Well, anyway, this mouth is designed by God to be the means through which you satisfy your hunger and thirst. This mouth is designed to masticate food and supply a porthole of entry into your body for nutritious foods and life-giving liquids.

#2 - The Promise

This news just in. It turns out that your Creator offers a guarantee on His creation. He has declared that if you would merely place nutritious food and life-giving liquids into your mouth, and swallow them, then you will live - you will get stronger, healthier, and livelier with every bite. If you use your mouth as it was designed, then your hunger and thirst will be satiated and you will be satisfied.

Looking a Little Deeper at *The Facts*

. . . he that cometh to God must believe that **He IS . . .**
Hebrews 11:6

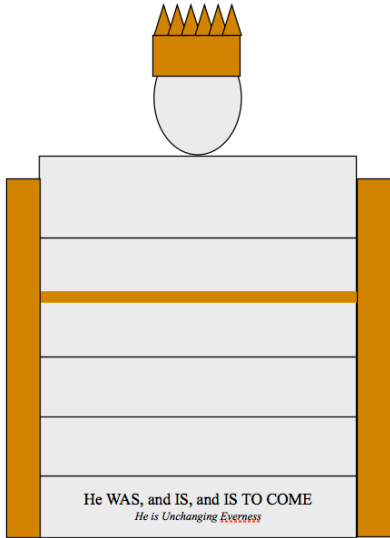
So, Who IS HE?

The History of the Law

God was, is, and always will be

And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM**: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **I AM** hath sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: **this is my name for ever**, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

Exodus 3:13-15



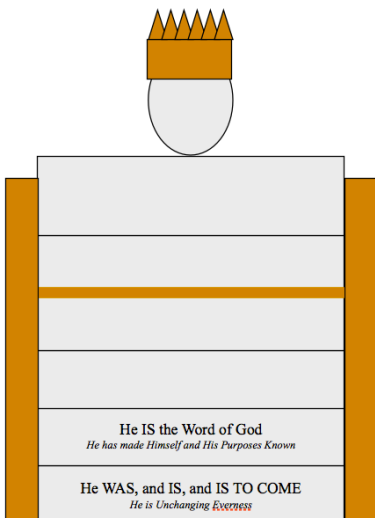
The God of Revelation

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:17

And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

Exodus 6:3



The God who IS Holy

Unlike the Darkness

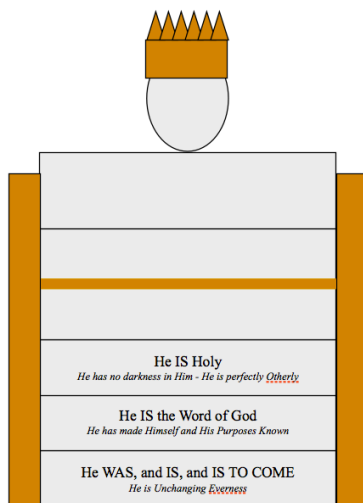
Holy

Wholly Separate from Darkness

. . . The LORD our God is holy.

Psalm 99:9

Otherly. Not as the Dark (but Light), Not as the Death (but Life), Not as the Lie (but Truth), Not as the Bad (but Good), Not as the Flesh (but Spirit), Not as Sin (but Righteous), Not as Dishonest scales (but Just and Equitable), Not as a wave of the sea tossed to and fro (but Unchanging), Not as Self-centered (But Love); and Not as Lawlessness (But as the Perfect Fulfillment of the Law). Otherly. Always and Eternally Otherly. Never for one moment is He Not Otherly. But rather, He is tri-fold Otherliness, wholly separate from Darkness and untouched by its stain.



The God who IS Righteous

The Lawgiver, the Lawkeeper, the Just and Equitable Judge

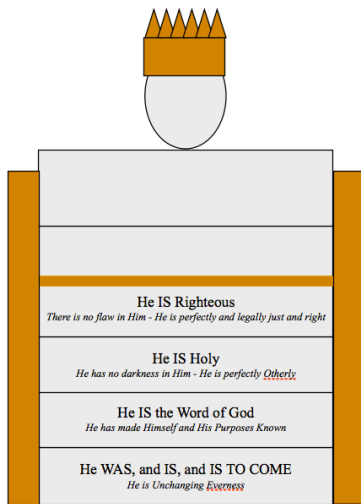
Righteousness

Perfect in Relation to the Law

O LORD God of Israel, thou art righteous . . .

Ezra 9:15

Righteousness is as God is. He is Unblurred Light; Eternal Life; Always Truthful; Perfectly Good; Always Just; Wholly Loving; with a Perfect Hatred for Sin and a Perfect Love for that which is Good; Wholly Unchanging; Unblemished, Without spot, and the Perfect Fulfillment of the Law.



The Law

That which brings light to the Otherness (the Holiness) of God, enunciating the perfect Righteousness (Law-keeping nature) of God's behavior. He is Otherly. The Law clarifies Light from Dark; Life from Death; Truth from Lie; Good from Bad; Justice from Injustice; Selfishness from Love; Spirit from Flesh; and Righteousness from Sin. It exposes the fact that God is Otherly from us and we are Otherly from Him.

The Law is a Schoolmaster

Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ,
that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we
are no longer under a schoolmaster.

Galatians 3:24-25

The Law Exposes Just Consequence

The Law - *You Sin - You Die!*

The Revelation - *You've Sinned - Therefore, You Die!*

The Law Leads the Sentenced Sinner to the Cross

The Law - *You Must Be Righteous*

The Revelation - *I Can't Do it! I am not like God! I am Unholy
and Unrighteous - I am a Sinner!*

The Cry - *What must I do to be saved?*

The Cross Reveals Grace

The Cross - *Believe and Live!*

The Revelation - *My God has made a way for me to be saved!*

The Unchanging Everness of God has been Revealed

He was, and is, and is to come

He is eternal and unchanging

I AM THAT I AM

Exodus 3:14

He is the Word of God

He has made Himself and His purposes known

. . . His name is called The Word of God.

Revelation 19:13

He is Holy

He has no darkness in Him - He is perfectly otherly

. . . The LORD our God is holy.

Psalm 99:9

He is Righteous

There is no flaw in Him - He is perfectly and legally just and right

O LORD God of Israel, thou art righteous . . .

Ezra 9:15

God IS . . . The Same (Psalm 102:27) . . . He Changes Not
(Malachai 3:6) . . . In Him is no variableness, neither shadow of
turning (James 1:17) . . . He is the same yesterday, today, and
forever (Hebrews 13:8)

The Statement of Law

God eternally was, is, and always will be holy and righteous. You are “other” than He is and have violated His righteous nature. Therefore, you are under the just sentence of death and your due punishment is eternal hell fire.

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul . . .

Psalm 19:7

The Statement of Grace

But . . . God is not merely holy and righteous. He is also love. And though we were justly deserving of condemnation, at the expense of His own person, He saw fit to humble Himself and endure the terrible sufferings of a Cross, in order to bear the just sentence of death and the due punishment that was rightfully ours to bear.

The God of Love

The God who can't help but bring Life - He was love, IS love, and always will be love

Love

That behavior which is absent of self-interest and wholly occupied with another's gain

. . . God is love.

1 John 4:8

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

The Unchanging Everness of God has been Revealed

He was, and is, and is to come

He is eternal and unchanging

He is the Word of God

He has made Himself and His purposes known

He is Holy

He has no darkness in Him - He is perfectly otherly

He is Righteous

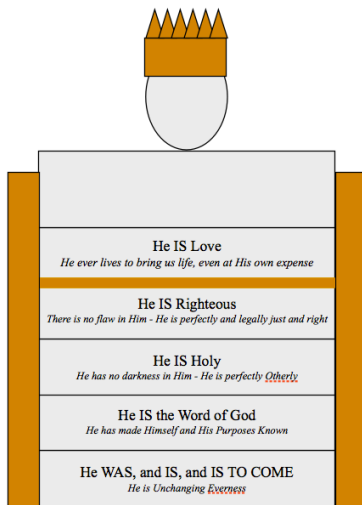
There is no flaw in Him - He is perfectly and legally just and right

He is Love

He ever lives to bring us life, even at His own expense

. . . God is love.

1 John 4:8



The Cross

1. The Enunciation of His I AMness
2. The Word of God Fulfilled
3. Holiness Exemplified
4. Righteousness Fulfilled, Justice Satisfied, Punishment and Wrath Satiated
5. Love Demonstrated

Law

That which sets forth God's eternal decree of "what is perfect behavior, right action, and just consequence." More simply - that which reveals sin. The Schoolmaster.

Grace

God's loving (and legal) response to the failure on man's part to demonstrate perfect behavior, and right action, and the measures God has taken to rescue us from the just consequences of our error. More simply - that which rescues from sin. Jesus.

Law was not Discarded in the Offering of Grace

It was fulfilled!

Holiness was not discarded in the Declaration of God's Love

It was now made possible!

Righteousness was not discarded now that Jesus has expressed His mercies and kindnesses at the Cross

He has now enabled us to partake of His Divine Nature!

God's Nature is Inviolable

He was, is, and always will be the same

- *He did not turn off His hatred of Sin - He still hates it with a vehemence*
- *He did not stop being Holy and commanding us to be so as well*
- *He did not cease from being perfectly righteous, just, and a perfect and eternal punisher of sin*
- *He did not quit opposing darkness*
- *He did not take a break from having wrath toward all unrighteousness*
- *But, He also didn't quit being love*
- *He didn't stop His rescuing grace*
- *He didn't cease being our intercessor, our captain of salvation*
- *He didn't quit offering humble mercy, kindness, patience, and gentleness*
- *His commands haven't changed*

- *His Holiness hasn't altered*
- *His Righteous demands are still perfect and impossible*
- *It's still true that if we sin, we die*
- *But, it's also true that if we believe, we live*

Grace

The Labor (work) of God to carry out the Impossible Errands of the Almighty

A Short List of Impossibles

- Thou shalt be perfect as I am perfect
- Thou shalt be holy as I am holy
- Thou shalt love as I love
- Thou shalt forgive as I forgive
- Thou shalt be pure as I am pure

The Three Roles of Grace

1. To awaken us to our vast need of a savior and to turn our eyes to the Cross
2. To clothe us in the just and satisfying work of the Cross
3. To infill us with the Almighty purifying and transforming work of the Spirit

... the God of all grace ...

1 Peter 5:10

The Unchanging Everness of God has been Revealed

He was, and is, and is to come

He is eternal and unchanging

He is the Word of God

He has made Himself and His purposes known

He is Holy

He has no darkness in Him - He is perfectly otherly

He is Righteous

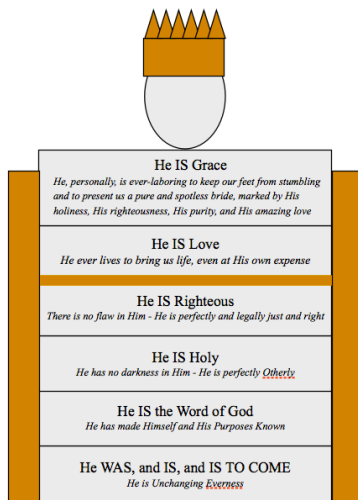
There is no flaw in Him - He is perfectly and legally just and right

He is Love

He ever lives to bring us life, even at His own expense

He is Grace

He, Personally, is ever-laboring to keep our feet from stumbling and to present us a pure and spotless bride, marked by His holiness, His righteousness, His purity, and His amazing Love.

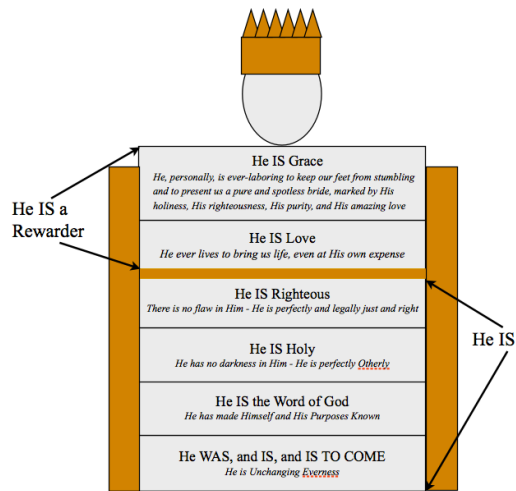


The God who was Grace, is Grace, and will always be Grace

The Two Factors of Faith

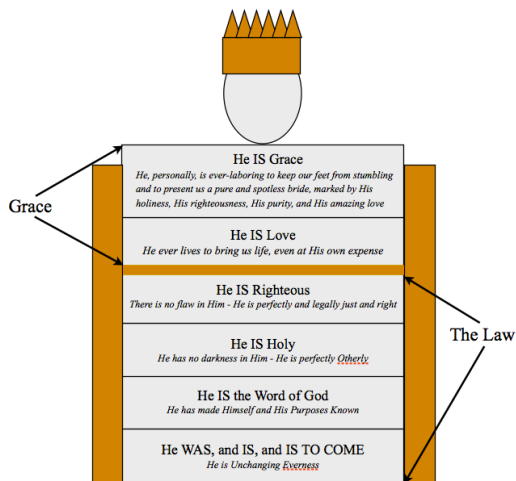
But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that **He IS**, and that **He IS a rewarder** of them that diligently seek Him.
Hebrews 11:6

- #1 - The Facts - HE IS
- #2 - The Promise - HE IS a rewarder



The Two Factors of Faith

- #1 - The Law
- #2 - The Grace



The Word of God in Text

- #1 - The Facts - The Law, The Old Covenant - HE IS
- #2 - The Promise - Grace, The Gospel, The New Covenant - HE is a rewarder

The Word of God in Person (Jesus)

The Name Jesus is the blend of two amazing words

- #1 - YHVH - HE IS
- #2 - The Verb “To Save”

Christianity

- #1 - Clothed in His Unchanging Righteousness
- #2 - Empowered by His Grace to Live a Holy Life, that would otherwise be impossible

Passing Along His Unchanging Everness

He clothes us and infills us with this Unchanging Everness - His Throne Room of Grace will never close, so there is never a situation where His Unchanging Everness is not available to us. He makes us “Always People.”

The Most Elementary Attribute of a Christian

God’s I AMness, His Eternal Sameness, His Forever Alwaysness, His Unchanging Everness

The Always People

Christians - the same yesterday, today, and forever

The fire shall **always** be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out.

Leviticus 6:13

We set the LORD **always** before us: and because He is at our right hand, we shall not be moved (Psalm 16:8). We ought **always** to pray (Luke 18:1), and without ceasing make mention of others **always** in our prayers (Romans 1:9). We thank our God **always** (1 Corinthians 1:4), **always** abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58), for He **always** causes us to triumph in Christ (2 Corinthians 2:14). We are **always** bearing about in our bodies the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body (2 Corinthians 4:10). We are **always** confident (2 Corinthians 5:6), and due to His abounding grace, we **always** have all sufficiency in all things in order to abound to every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8). We are giving thanks **always** for all things (Ephesians 5:20), and **always** making our requests with joy (Philippians 1:4). And we are **always** magnifying Christ in our bodies, whether it be by life, or by death (Philippians 1:20). We are **always** obeying (Philippians 2:12). We are rejoicing in the Lord **always** (Philippians 4:4), praying **always** (Colossians 1:3), and our speech is **always** with grace, seasoned with salt (Colossians 4:6). We are **always** laboring fervently for others in prayer (Colossians 4:12) and giving thanks to God **always** for others (1 Thessalonians 1:2). We **always** follow that which is good (1 Thessalonians 5:15) and we rejoice **always** (1 Thessalonians 5:16). We are bound to thank God **always** for

our brothers and sisters in Christ and we pray **always** (2 Thessalonians 1:3,11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13), making mention of others **always** in our prayers (Philemon 1:4).

Jesus - The Always Savior

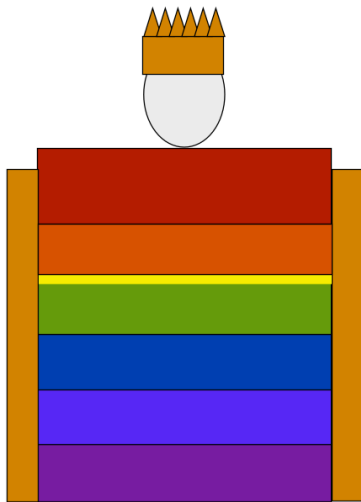
The Only One who is Always

And He that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do **always** those things that please Him.

John 8:29

Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He [**always**] lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:25



As the appearance of **the bow** that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And

when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spoke.

Ezekiel 1:28

And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone:
and **there was a rainbow round about the throne**, in sight like unto an emerald.

Revelation 4:3