

The **Bible** Unpacked

This series of studies is based on the
Foundations Edition of The Bible Unpacked.

There are seven editions of *The Bible Unpacked*.
These aim to address the needs of
NON-CHRISTIANS through to MATURE CHRISTIANS,
from TEENAGERS to ADULTS.

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Foundations Study Series

A compilation of the Bible's teaching
for believers consolidating their faith

An Appeal on Behalf of Persecuted Christians

Over 200 million Christians in at least 60 countries are denied basic human rights solely because of their faith. (Source: World Evangelical Alliance) Every year many Christians are killed because of their faith.

Through prayer, encouragement and practical assistance we can assist and fellowship with persecuted Christians in their suffering. You can play a vital part in this through contacting one of the organizations listed below. Most produce regular news/prayer letters.

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It provides material and spiritual support in response to needs identified by local Christian leaders.

Christian Faith and Freedom – www.cffreedom.org

It advocates on behalf of and aids persecuted Christians.

Christian Solidarity International – www.csi-int.org

CSI works to defend religious liberty and help persecuted Christians.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide – www.csw.org.uk

It advocates for freedom of religion and justice for persecuted believers.

Compass Direct – www.compassdirect.org

This is a Christian news service providing news, reports, interviews and analyses of situations facing persecuted Christians.

Open Doors – sb.od.org; www.opendoors.org.au

It provides Bibles and other Christian materials, to prepare believers for persecution and equip them to maintain a witness to the Gospel.

Religious Liberty Commission – www.worldevangelicals.org/commissions/rlc/; www.ea.org.au/ea-family/Religious-Liberty.aspx

RLC defends and aids persecuted Christians. See also www.idop.org
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The Bible League – www.bibleleague.org/persecuted; www.bibleleague.com

It supplies Bibles to persecuted Christians and also provides training.

Voice of the Martyrs – www.persecution.com; www.persecution.com.au

VOM provides Bibles, literature, radio broadcasts and other assistance to help persecuted Christians spread the gospel. They also send material aid.

Then the King will answer, 'I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me.' Matthew 25:40 NCV

The Bible Unpacked™

Foundations Study Series

A compilation of the Bible's teaching for believers consolidating their faith

Part A. God and Spiritual Powers

Composed by Paul Mallison

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Overview of *The Bible Unpacked*


There are seven editions of *The Bible Unpacked*, as shown below. Each edition is an abbreviated version of the next longest edition. As such they have similar structures. Four of the editions have studies based on them, with the same text along with questions. For more details and free downloads of all the material, go to www.thebibleunpacked.net.


 **Two-Minute Edition:** Key Bible teachings for people "on the run"
For giving to non-Christians.


 **Pocket Edition:** Key Bible teachings for seekers of truth
Largely for giving to inquiring non-Christians or young new Christians.

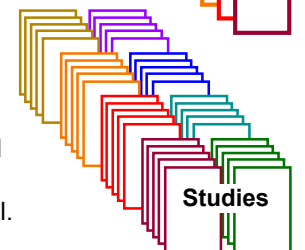
 **Concise Edition:** Key Bible teachings for new believers
For either new or young Christians. Suitable to give to non-Christian friends. Has study series based on it.

 **Foundations Edition:** A compilation of the Bible's teaching for believers consolidating their faith. For newer Christians.
Study series is ideal for studies with newer believers.

 **Intermediate Edition:** A compilation of the Bible's teaching for believers growing in the faith.
For developing a sound understanding of the faith.
Studies are excellent for Bible study groups.

 **Comprehensive Edition:** A compilation of the Bible's teaching for believers established in the faith. For a comprehensive knowledge of the faith. Useful as a study or a devotional tool - and preparing talks.
Studies are ideal for studying topics in detail.

 **In-Depth Edition:** A compilation of the Bible's teaching for teachers and students of the Bible.
For Christians keen to gain a deep understanding of their faith. Useful for speakers preparing talks, study groups leaders, Bible students and Bible colleges.
It is also in an electronic version, which is a PDF file.



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5. Angels, Demons and Satan

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Suggestions for Study Groups

Preliminary matters:

- Beforehand the leader should: check the context of any verses they are not familiar with; and review the questions. If need be, they should compose questions more applicable to the group.
- Each person should have a Bible, for things such as checking a verse's context. It would also be helpful to have Bible commentaries on hand.
- Pray before beginning the study. Ask God for help in understanding the meaning of the verses and to affect your lives through them. Also pray together at the end.

Doing the study:

- Ideally, read the material and answer the questions prior to the meeting. Then share answers and discuss any issues arising from the material in the meeting.
- Alternatively, read the material and answer the questions in the meeting – reading either aloud as a group or individually (prior to sharing answers). If reading as a group, **try having one person read the headings, another read the verses and another read the comments**. Additionally, a fourth person could read the Bible references.

General or concluding questions:

If time permits, conclude with one or more of the following questions:

- What is something that you either: **did not know** before; gained **greater insight** into; or **needed reminding** of?
- What verse would be helpful to memorize and bear in mind during the next week?
- In taking the verses seriously, is there anything you should change in:
 - (a) how you relate to God and/or to other people; or
 - (b) any other area of your life (e.g. attitudes, values or behavior)?
 If so, are there any specific steps you could take to do this?

Why are angels so special?

In what ways do angels help God's people?

What is one way that Satan deceives people?

Why should you be wary of but not frightened of Satan?

Do you know of any indicators that a person may be possessed by a demon?

Demons

Demons are evil and powerful spiritual beings

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] For we are not fighting against human beings but against *the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age.*

EPHESIANS 6:12 GNT

The terms “rulers”, “authorities” and “powers” are indicative of the great – but limited – power of demons.

Demons can possess people and cause them great harm

A Canaanite woman from that area came to Jesus and cried out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! *My daughter has a demon, and she is suffering very much.*” MATTHEW 15:22 NCV™

Demons fear and have to submit to God and Jesus Christ

[JAMES, EXHORTING HIS READERS:] *You believe there is one God. Good! But the demons believe that, too, and they tremble with fear.*

JAMES 2:19 NCV™

Jesus ordered the spirit, “Keep quiet, and come out of him!” ²⁶*The evil spirit threw the man into convulsions and came out of him with a loud shriek.* ²⁷Everyone was stunned. They said to each other, “What is this? This is a new teaching that has authority behind it! *He gives orders to evil spirits, and they obey him.*” MARK 1:25–27 GW

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To begin to understand the Bible, we must know what God is like. This chapter teaches key fundamentals, providing the basic concepts for understanding how awesome God is.

God's Form

God is one

[JESUS, QUOTING MOSES:] Listen, Israel, *the Lord our God, the Lord is one.* MARK 12:29B NET

God is a single thing. He is only one being.

God is spirit

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. JOHN 4:24 NCV™

God is a spiritual being. He is not physical like people are.

God is everywhere

[GOD:] *I am everywhere— both near and far, ²⁴in heaven and on earth.* JEREMIAH 23:23–24A CEV

God's Glory

God has great glory

They [kings] will sing about the ways of the LORD, for *great is the glory of the LORD!* PSALMS 138:5 ISV

God's glory is a prominent part of his actual being. In fact his presence is sometimes described in terms of his glory. God's glory is also revealed or reflected in his extraordinary deeds.

God is surrounded by light

[EZEKIEL, DESCRIBING A VISION OF GOD:] I then saw what looked like a throne made of sapphire, and sitting on the throne was a figure in the shape of a human. ²⁷From the waist up, it was glowing like metal in a hot furnace, and from the waist down it looked like the flames of a fire. *The figure was surrounded by a bright light, ²⁸as colorful as a rainbow that appears after a storm. I realized I was seeing the brightness of the LORD's glory!* EZEKIEL 1:26–28A CEV

Note that "LORD" is the personal name of God.

Satan's Evilness

Satan is evil and is opposed to God's kingdom

[JESUS, EXPLAINING THE MEANING OF A STORY:] The seeds that fell along the road are the people who hear *the message about the kingdom*, but don't understand it. *Then the evil one [Satan] comes and snatches the message from their hearts.* MATTHEW 13:19 CEV

Like birds eating up seeds (cf. v. 4), Satan snatches God's message from some people.

Satan is deceitful

[JESUS, SPEAKING ABOUT SATAN:] *Whenever he tells a lie, he's doing what comes naturally to him. He's a liar and the father of lies.*

JOHN 8:44B GW

Satan's Power

Satan has great power and authority in the world

[JOHN, TO BELIEVERS:] We are certain that we come from God and that *the rest of the world is under the power of the devil [Satan].*

1 JOHN 5:19 CEV

But Satan is not as powerful as God or Jesus Christ

[JOHN, TO BELIEVERS:] *The God of peace will quickly crush Satan under your feet.* ROMANS 16:20A NET

[JESUS:] *But when someone stronger comes and defeats him, the stronger one will take away the weapons the first man trusted and will give away the possessions.* LUKE 11:22 NCV™

Jesus is portraying his defeat of Satan (represented by "the first man") through what Jesus accomplished in his mission.

Satan has been condemned

God has already judged the ruler of this world. JOHN 16:11B CEV

Angels and God

There are millions of angels, surrounding God

[JOHN, DESCRIBING A VISION OF A SCENE IN HEAVEN:] Again I looked, and I heard *angels, thousands and millions of them! They stood round the throne* [of God] ... REVELATION 5:11 GNT

Angels serve God

Praise the LORD, you angels of his, you powerful warriors who carry out his decrees and obey his orders! ²¹Praise the LORD, all you warriors of his, *you servants of his who carry out his desires!* PSALMS 103:20–21 NET

Angels are very powerful

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] And he [God] will give rest to you who are troubled and to us also when the Lord Jesus appears with burning fire from heaven with *his powerful angels*. 2 THESSALONIANS 1:7B NCV™

Angels and God's People

Angels help and care for God's people

All the angels are spirits who serve God and are sent to help those who will receive salvation. HEBREWS 1:14 NCV™

The LORD's angel camps around the LORD's loyal followers and delivers them. PSALMS 34:7 NET

Angels give people messages

[PAUL:] For *last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve came to me* ²⁴and said, '*Do not be afraid, Paul! You must stand before Caesar, and God has graciously granted you the safety of all who are sailing with you.*' ACTS 27:23–24 NET

Note that the Hebrew and Greek words for "angel" carry the meaning "messenger".

God's Eternity

God has always been alive

Your throne, O LORD, has been firm from the beginning, and you existed before time began. PSALMS 93:2 GNT

God will live forever

[NEBUCHADNEZZAR:] Then I gave praise to *the Most High God*; I gave honor and glory to *him who lives forever. God's rule is forever, and his kingdom continues for all time.* DANIEL 4:34B NCV™

God does not change

All generous giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from *the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or the slightest hint of change.* JAMES 1:17 NET

God's Greatness and Power

God is great and awesome

[MOSES, TO THE ISRAELITES:] For *the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, mighty, and awesome God* who is unbiased and takes no bribe, ... DEUTERONOMY 10:17 NET

God can do all things – nothing is too hard

[JOB, TO GOD:] *I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted;* ... JOB 42:2 NET

[THE ANGEL GABRIEL, TO MARY:] Your relative Elizabeth is also going to have a son, even though she is old. No one thought she could ever have a baby, but in three months she will have a son. ³⁷*Nothing is impossible for God!* LUKE 1:36–37 CEV

God's power is far superior to that of anyone else

[JEHOSHAPHAT, PRAYING TO GOD:] *You possess strength and power; no one can stand against you.* 2 CHRONICLES 20:6B NET

God's Knowledge and Wisdom

God knows everything

God is greater than our conscience and *knows all things*. 1 JOHN 3:20B NET

God even knows the future

[GOD, SPEAKING TO HIS PEOPLE:] *From the beginning I told you what would happen in the end. A long time ago I told you things that have not yet happened.* When I plan something, it happens. What I want to do, I will do. ISAIAH 46:10 NCV™

God has incredible wisdom

Our Lord is great and has awesome power; *there is no limit to his wisdom*. PSALMS 147:5 NET

God Is Personal

God has feelings and character

But *the LORD God felt sorry for his people*, and instead of destroying the temple, he sent prophets who warned the people over and over about their sins. 2 CHRONICLES 36:15 CEV

... *the Lord is full of compassion and mercy*. JAMES 5:11B NET

God interacts with people

[GOD, SPEAKING OF A PERSON DEVOTED TO HIM:] *When he calls out to me, I will answer him. I will be with him when he is in trouble; I will rescue him and bring him honor.* PSALMS 91:15 NET

5. Angels, Satan and Demons

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To live the Christian life we must be aware of our allies and chief opponents in the spiritual world. The following teaching about them includes reasons to always be wary, but also reasons to be greatly encouraged.

How can we relate to God if we cannot see him?

Write down a couple of observations about God's glory.

What things show God to be a personal being?

Knowing that God can do all things, is there anything that you should ask and trust him to do?

How do you feel about God knowing everything? How does it encourage or challenge you?

What does the Bible mean in describing the Holy Spirit as “the Spirit of God”?

In what ways does the Holy Spirit communicate? (Write down any that you know of.)

What things might indicate that the Holy Spirit is a personal being rather than simply a thing?

What reasons are there to associate or identify the Holy Spirit with God and Jesus Christ?

Write down things you could say about the Holy Spirit in explaining him to someone who had not heard of him.

one who fosters them, the Holy Spirit's own character is reflected in them.

The Holy Spirit communicates

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *The Spirit himself bears witness to our spirit that we are God's children.* ROMANS 8:16 NET

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] But *the Spirit himself speaks to God for us*, even begs God for us with deep feelings that words cannot explain.

ROMANS 8:26B NCV™

The Holy Spirit interacts in other ways

The church became stronger, as *the Holy Spirit encouraged it and helped it grow.* ACTS 9:31B CEV

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] But if *you are led by the Spirit*, you are not under the law. GALATIANS 5:18 NET

2. God's Character

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In order to relate to God, we need to know who God is – what his character is like. In tackling this topic, this chapter includes teaching on the two primary personal characteristics of God, from which his other characteristics come. These are his holiness and his love.

God's Holiness

God is holy

Holy, holy, holy! The LORD Almighty is holy! ISAIAH 6:3B GNT

Being holy means that God is morally pure. It also means that he is separate from and intolerant of anything which is not morally pure.

There is nothing bad in God

[A PSALMIST:] They will say that the LORD is good. He is my Rock, and *there is no wrong in him.* PSALMS 92:15 NCV™

God cannot tolerate evil

[HABAKKUK, TO GOD:] *You are too just to tolerate evil; you are unable to condone wrongdoing.* HABAKKUK 1:13A NET

There is no one holy like God

No one is holy like the LORD! 1 SAMUEL 2:2A NET

God's Righteousness and Faithfulness

All God does is right and just

Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, for *all his deeds are right and his ways are just.* DANIEL 4:37A NET

[BELIEVERS, TO GOD:] *Just and true are your ways, King over the nations!* REVELATION 15:3B NET

God is faithful

[JEREMIAH:] The LORD's gracious love is the reason we are not consumed, since his compassions never end. ²³They are new every morning—*great is your faithfulness!* LAMENTATIONS 3:22–23 ISV

God does not lie nor change his mind – he keeps his promises

God is no mere human! *He doesn't tell lies or change his mind. God always keeps his promises.* NUMBERS 23:19 CEV

The Holy Spirit's Divine Characteristics

The Holy Spirit is everywhere

[DAVID, TO GOD:] *Where could I go to escape from your Spirit or from your sight?* PSALMS 139:7 CEV

The Holy Spirit is eternal

Through *the eternal Spirit* he offered himself to God and cleansed our consciences from the useless things we had done. Now we can serve the living God. HEBREWS 9:14B GW

The Holy Spirit has sovereign power

[JOHN, TO BELIEVERS:] Children, you belong to God, and you have defeated these enemies. *God's Spirit is in you and is more powerful than the one that is in the world.* 1 JOHN 4:4 CEV

The description of the Holy Spirit as greater than Satan – “the one that is in the world” – shows the Spirit's great power.

The Holy Spirit has complete knowledge

For the Spirit searches everything, even the deep things of God. 1 CORINTHIANS 2:10 ISV

This speaks of the Holy Spirit searching out or finding out all things (cf. CEV, NCV, NLT).

The Holy Spirit Is Personal

The Holy Spirit has personal characteristics

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, through our Lord Jesus Christ and through *the love of the Spirit*, to join fervently with me in prayer to God on my behalf. ROMANS 15:30 NET

But *the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* ²³*gentleness, and self-control.* GALATIANS 5:22–23A

Each of these characteristics is described as a “fruit of the Spirit” because – like fruit from a tree – their source and means of growth is the Holy Spirit. Arguably this implies that as their source and the

The Holy Spirit and God

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God

The earth [in the beginning] was barren, with no form of life; it was under a roaring ocean covered with darkness. But *the Spirit of God* was moving over the water. GENESIS 1:2 CEV

The Holy Spirit is God's spirit. As such one should bear in mind that when the Bible speaks of the Holy Spirit, it is in effect speaking of God himself. This is reflected by the Holy Spirit's divine characteristics, spoken of later in this chapter.

The Holy Spirit is linked with God's presence

[JOHN, TO BELIEVERS:] The people who obey God's commands live in God, and God lives in them. *We know that God lives in us because of the Spirit God gave us.* 1 JOHN 3:24 NCV™

This verse links the Holy Spirit with God's presence by teaching that because believers have God's Spirit, God lives in them.

God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are closely associated

[JESUS, TO HIS DISCIPLES:] Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them *in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit*, ... MATTHEW 28:19 NET

The phrase "the name of" denotes a single name. Here it is applied to all three of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. As such it points to a very close relationship between the three of them.

God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit work together

So Jesus said to them [the disciples] again, "Peace be with you. *Just as the Father has sent me, I also send you.*" ²² *And after he said this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.* JOHN 20:21–22 NET

God sent Jesus Christ to carry out his purposes and Jesus Christ sends his people empowered with the Holy Spirit to continue his work.

God's Anger and Jealousy

God's anger is awesome

[A PSALMIST, TO GOD:] *No one knows the full power of your furious anger*, but it is as great as the fear that we owe to you. PSALMS 90:11 CEV

But God is slow to anger and does not stay angry

The LORD is merciful and loving, slow to become angry and full of constant love. ⁹He does not keep on rebuking; *he is not angry for ever.* PSALMS 103:8–9 GNT

God is a jealous God

[MOSES, TO ISRAEL:] *The LORD your God is a jealous God, like a fire that burns things up.* DEUTERONOMY 4:24 NCV™

The Hebrew and Greek words translated as "jealousy" convey a very forceful passion. When used of God, "jealousy" is spoken of in a positive light, as an attribute aligned with his great commitment to and love for his people.

God's jealousy in regard to his people is like that of a husband or wife. Their jealousy is a product of their intense love for each other and aroused by anything that poses a threat to their relationship. As such God's jealousy is expressed in action against whatever threatens his people or his relationship with them. Thus it is expressed both against hostile forces (in saving his people) and in disciplining his people for unfaithfulness (to lead them back to him).

God's Love and Mercy

God is love

The person who doesn't love doesn't know God, because *God is love.* ⁹*God has shown us his love by sending his only Son into the world so that we could have life through him.* 1 JOHN 4:8–9 GW

The phrase "God is love" (v. 8) implies that God's nature is fundamentally love, rather than that love is simply a characteristic of God. It also reflects that God is the sole source of love.

God's love is great

[DAVID, TO GOD:] *Your great love reaches to the skies, your truth to the heavens.* PSALMS 108:4 NCV™

God is merciful and compassionate

[JAMES, TO BELIEVERS:] You have heard of Job's patience, and you know how the Lord provided for him in the end. For *the Lord is full of mercy and compassion.* JAMES 5:11B GNT

God's Goodness**God is good**

[A PSALMIST, TO GOD:] *You are good and you do good.* PSALMS 119:68A NET

God exercises kindness

[A PSALMIST:] *How can I repay the LORD for all his acts of kindness to me?* PSALMS 116:12 NET

God is generous

God gives generously and graciously to all. JAMES 1:5B GNT

4. The Holy Spirit

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To have a good understanding of God, it is vital that we know about the Holy Spirit. For the Holy Spirit is God's Spirit. As such the Holy Spirit is closely linked with God and what he does.

Note that in regard to the Holy Spirit and God's people, see the second half of 17. *Keys to God's Interaction with His People.*

What is "holiness"?

If God is good, how can anger be one of his characteristics?

Explain in your own words what the Bible means by saying: "God is love" (1Jn 4:8, 16)?

What does "compassion" mean? How does God show compassion?

Is God's jealousy a good or bad thing? Explain your answer.

Choose one verse or phrase from Colossians 1:15-18 that you find particularly significant - and say why?

What is one attribute of Jesus Christ that you need to be more mindful of in your daily living? How would doing so affect you?

What does the Bible mean in saying that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? In what sense is he God's Son?

What reasons are there to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?

In what way/s are Jesus Christ and God one?

Jesus Christ's Divinity

Jesus Christ is the Son of God

We have a great high priest, who has gone into heaven, and he is *Jesus the Son of God*. HEBREWS 4:14A CEV

Whenever people with evil spirits saw him, they would fall down in front of him and shout, "You are the Son of God!" MARK 3:11 GW

Jesus Christ has the nature and fullness of God

He always had the nature of God ... PHILIPPIANS 2:6A GNT

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in the Son ... COLOSSIANS 1:19 NET

The phrase "all his fullness" means: "the full nature of God" (GNT) – "the sum total of the divine perfection, powers, and attributes" (AMP); and/or "all of himself" (NCV; cf. CEV, NLT). The latter would mean that God himself in all his fullness lives in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ and God are one – each is in the other

[JESUS, TO THE JEWS:] *The Father and I are one. ...* ³⁶why do you say that I'm dishonoring God because I said, 'I'm the Son of God'? God set me apart for this holy purpose and has sent me into the world. ³⁷If I'm not doing the things my Father does, don't believe me. ³⁸But *if I'm doing those things and you refuse to believe me, then at least believe the things that I'm doing. Then you will know and recognize that the Father is in me and that I am in the Father.* JOHN 10:30, 36–38 GW

A number of commentators state that the Greek for "one" (v. 30) means "one thing", rather than "one person". God (the Father) and Jesus Christ are generally understood to have a unity of nature, but not be the same person. This would include a unity of purpose, as vv. 37–38a suggest.

3. Jesus Christ

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What distinguishes Christianity from other religions is largely its teachings about Jesus Christ. This chapter looks at this central figure, including the amazing claim that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Jesus Christ's Eternity

Jesus Christ existed in the beginning

[JOHN, TO BELIEVERS:] I'm writing to you, fathers, because you know *Christ who has existed from the beginning.* 1 JOHN 2:13A GW

Jesus Christ existed before the world was created.

Jesus Christ will be alive forever

But *Jesus lives forever, so he serves as a priest forever.* HEBREWS 7:24 GW

Jesus Christ remains the same

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever! HEBREWS 13:8 NET

Jesus Christ's Pre-Eminence

Jesus Christ is greater than all things

Christ is exactly like God, who cannot be seen. He is the first-born Son, superior to all creation. ¹⁶*Everything was created by him, everything in heaven and on earth, everything seen and unseen, including all forces and powers, and all rulers and authorities. All things were created by God's Son, and everything was made for him.* ¹⁷*God's Son was before all else, and by him everything is held together.* ¹⁸*He is the head of his body, which is the church. He is the very beginning, the first to be raised from death, so that he would be above all others.* COLOSSIANS 1:15–18 CEV

Jesus Christ has mighty, sovereign power

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] Finally, build up your strength in union with the Lord and by means of *his mighty power.* EPHESIANS 6:10 GNT

[PAUL, SPEAKING OF CHRIST:] By *his power to rule all things*, he will change our simple bodies and make them like his own glorious body.

PHILIPPIANS 3:20B-21 NCV™

Jesus Christ has superlative knowledge and wisdom

[THE DISCIPLES, TO JESUS:] Now we know that *you know everything.* JOHN 16:30A GW

[JESUS, TO HIS DISCIPLES:] *I will give you words and wisdom that none of your enemies will be able to oppose or prove wrong.*

LUKE 21:15 GW

Jesus Christ has wisdom far superior to that of any enemy that believers may encounter.

Jesus Christ's Character

Jesus Christ is holy and righteous

[BELIEVERS, TO GOD:] Then they turned against *your holy Servant Jesus*, your chosen Messiah. ACTS 4:27 CEV

[JOHN, TO BELIEVERS:] But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, *Jesus Christ the righteous One*, ... 1 JOHN 2:1B NET

Jesus Christ is faithful

But *the Lord is faithful*, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one. 2 THESSALONIANS 3:3 NET

Jesus Christ is loving

[PAUL, TO THE BELIEVERS IN EPHESUS:] And I pray that you and all God's holy people will have the power to *understand the greatness of Christ's love—how wide and how long and how high and how deep that love is.* ¹⁹*Christ's love is greater than anyone can ever know*, but I pray that you will be able to know that love. Then you can be filled with the fullness of God. EPHESIANS 3:18–19 NCV™

Jesus Christ is merciful

[JUDE, TO BELIEVERS:] Remain in God's love as you *look for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to give you eternal life.* JUDE 1:21 GOD'S WORD®