

Name: _____

Date: _____

THE ESSENCE OF GOD

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.” (John 4:24)

Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	God is a spiritual being, immortal, and self-existing.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God is above all, through all, and in all.
<i>Good Works</i>	Build a real and lasting relationship with God.

A. The Meaning of “Essence”

The essence of God is His identity. Consider His characteristics. We know His characteristics, but how is He able to be all of these things? The answer is in John 4:24, where Jesus says, “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.”

B. God Is Spirit

As the Creator of the universe, God existed even before the existence of the physical, so He surpasses the world that we currently live in. Since we are bound by the physical, how can we possibly understand the consequences and effects of being a spirit? Paul addresses God’s characteristics in Ephesians 4:6.

1. **God is above all:** Time has no meaning for God, and neither does the physical. He is the Creator of all, and as our Creator, His power is beyond our understanding. He is above all in three levels:
 - a. *God rules over all:* All creatures owe their existence to God, including mankind.
 - b. *God is self-existing and immortal:* God has no beginning or end. He simply is.
 - c. *God is an unapproachable light:* We cannot enter His light, so He lowered Himself for us.
2. **God is through all:** His works pervade all of creation, meaning the world exists and acts for His will, including ourselves. He is also able to dwell among His people and watch over us.
3. **God is in all:** God is able to dwell within us through the precious Holy Spirit. We can hide nothing from Him, and He knows all of our needs.

C. Understanding God’s Essence

Once we recognize the essence of God, we can come to Him faithfully in confidence, knowing that we can cast our cares upon Him. We know that we can fully rely on Him because He has complete authority over all things, is not bound by space or time, dwells among us, and understands our needs.

Life Application: Building Our Relationship with God

We will never be able to understand God’s power or His plans, yet we know that we can always turn to Him for all our needs. But our relationship with Him cannot be limited to our requests for His help. God wants us to have a meaningful relationship with Him that is not based on our needs, but on our love for Him. He wants us to have a “REaL” relationship with Him – Rich, Everlasting, and Life-changing.

1. **A rich relationship:** When we communicate with God on a daily basis and actively seek to do His word, then God will answer in kind (Jas 4:8). Those who turn to God first and prioritize Him over the world are those who have a rich relationship with Him.
2. **An everlasting relationship:** It is natural to lose touch with your friends, but God never loses touch. He is always thinking of and taking care of us.
3. **A life-changing relationship:** We need to allow the Spirit to touch our hearts and affect our everyday decisions and attitude. Our hearts will be enriched with His love and mercy, and will reflect His glory in our lives.

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Lesson 1 Homework Assignment

The Essence of God

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (John 4:24):

1. What does it mean to worship God in spirit?

2. Paul wrote that there is “one God and Father of all, who is _____ all, and _____ all and in _____ all” (_____ 4:_____).

3. In what way is God self-existing?

4. Explain in your own words how God is “through all.”

5. How can you have a “mindful” prayer? Write down three specific things that you are going to talk to God about in your prayers this week.