

## HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD? WEEK 24 – SELF-EXISTENCE

<p><b>** Communicable – We share with God</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Love</li> <li>2. Jealousy</li> <li>3. Graciousness</li> <li>4. Just</li> <li>5. Wrath</li> <li>6. Merciful</li> <li>7. Goodness</li> <li>8. Faithfulness</li> <li>9. Wisdom</li> </ol>	<p><b>**Incommunicable – Unique to God</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Omniscience</li> <li>11. Incomprehensibility</li> <li>12. Glory</li> <li>13. Majesty</li> <li>14. Sovereignty</li> <li>15. Omnipresence (&amp; Immanence)</li> <li>16. Holiness</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17. Righteousness</li> <li>18. Omnipotence</li> <li>19. Immutability</li> <li>20. Impassability</li> <li>21. Spiritual</li> <li>22. Triunity</li> <li><b>23. Self-Existence</b></li> </ol>
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### Introduction

#### What Does This Attribute Mean?

- *Self-existence = existing of or by oneself or itself independently of any other being or cause: not caused to exist by someone or something else*
- *Self-sufficient = able to maintain oneself or itself without outside aid: capable of providing for one's own needs*
- *Independent = not dependent:*
  - *not subject to control by others, self-governing*
  - *not affiliated with a larger controlling unit*
  - *not requiring or relying on something else, not contingent*
  - *not looking to others for one's opinions or for guidance in conduct*
  - *not requiring or relying on others (as for care or livelihood)*
- *Aseity...which is from Latin meaning "from or by himself"*
  - *Defined as the quality or state of being self-derived or self-originated; specifically: absolute self-sufficiency, independence, & autonomy of God*

Herman Bavinck defines it as: "God is whatever he is by his own self or of his own self." (Bavinck Doctrine of God, p144)

"Aseity merely expresses the fact that God is self-sufficient in his existence; but "independence" has a broader connotation, and indicates that God is self-sufficient in everything: in his existence, in his attributes, in his decrees, and in his works." (Bavinck Doctrine of God, p144-145)

Cornelius Van Til Described God as being "Self-contained" (John Frame as well)

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- Which means that God is in no sense correlative to or dependent upon anything besides his own being.” (Van Til, Defense of the Faith, p9)

### Biblical Definition:

**Ex. 3:10** Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” **11** But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” **12** He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.” **13** Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” **14** God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

**Psa. 102:25** Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, & the heavens are the work of your hands

**Psa. 102:26** 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, 27 but you are the same, and your years have no end.

**Psa. 102:28** The children of your servants shall dwell secure; their offspring shall be established before you.

### New Testament Passage:

**Acts 17:22** So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. **23** For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. **24** 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. 26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, **27** that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, **28** for “‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’ **29** Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. 30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, **31** because he has fixed a day on which he will

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judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." **32** Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." **33** So Paul went out from their midst.

First: Vs 24 & 25

Second: vs 27

Third: vs 29

Fourth: Vs 31

Tozer:

To admit the existence of a need in God is to admit incompleteness in the divine Being. Need is a creature-word and cannot be spoken of the Creator. God has a voluntary relation to everything he has made, but He has no necessary relation to anything outside Himself. His interest in His creatures arises from His sovereign good pleasure, not from any need those creatures can supply nor from any completeness they can bring to Him who is complete in himself. (AW Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy, p32)

**Does Scripture Teach That God Exhibits This Attribute?**

**Gen. 1:1** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

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**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**Rev. 1:8** “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

**Rev. 21:6** And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

**Rev. 22:13** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

**Job 41:11** Who has first given to me, that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine.

**Psa. 90:2** Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

**John 5:24** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. **25** “Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. **26** For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. **27** And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. **28** Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice **29** and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

### How Does This Attribute Affect the Christian?

1 – God’s Self-Existence & Our Worship

2 – God’s Self-Existence & Our Existence

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### 3 – God’s Self-Existence & Our Assurance

“God doesn’t need time, but he freely enters it; he does not need a house, but he builds on anyway. All of this is for our benefit, out of God’s zeal to dwell together with finite, embodied creatures in covenant. That God freely does this in creation, without any inherent need, is a testimony to his unfathomable goodness. That he continues to do this even in relation to the unfaithful covenant partner is a measure of his unsearchable grace.” (Michael Horton, *The Christian Faith*, p235)