**SELF-SUFFICIENT GOD**

Sunday School Lesson 5

*The Attributes of God*

Acts 17:24-25

6/27/2021

**Introduction:** This week, as we continue to look at the attributes of the Lord, we are going to examine His self-sufficiency. We have previously considered His self-existence, immutabilit*y,* omnipresence, and omnipotence. Let’s quickly recall the primary observations made about His omnipotence before we move on to this new topic for our lesson today. The omnipotence of God is proclaimed in His name. He is called the Lord God Almighty. He is also simply called the Almighty. Nothing is outside of His abilities. The omnipotence of God is also proclaimed in the possibilities. Nothing is impossible with God. The power of the believer is another thing that proclaims the omnipotence of the Lord. He has given His power unto us through His Son. Finally, we must remember that the omnipotence of God preserves the holy and perfect nature of God. There is no contradiction between His nature and His power. Turning our attention to the lesson at hand, I believe that the attribute discussed today is one of the easiest for us to understand. The fact that God is self-sufficient and does not need anything should not come as a surprise to the believer. Yet, it is an attribute that is important for us to study and consider in order for us to fully appreciate the Lord and who He is. It will also help us to better trust in Him as our great Provider.

1. **THE LORD’S SELF-SUFFICIENCY REMINDS US THAT HIS CREATION WAS NOT MADE FROM A POSITION OF NEED.**
2. **Notice that the reason for creation was to show forth the glory of the Lord (Isaiah 6:3, 43:6-7; Psalm 19:1).** When it comes to all of God’s creation, we must understand that He did not create the world and all things in it as a result of necessity. We find no place in the Bible that supports any idea that the Lord needed to create the world. Instead, He created the world because He wanted to. That’s really the bottom line of it. Yet, if you want an explanation for the reason that God created the world, then you need to look no further than in the Word of God to find it. The book of Isaiah tells us that God created man and this world for His glory. All of creation was made to attest to the greatness of God. Surely, we can understand how someone might make something in this world for that same purpose. We are walking monuments to the glory of God. The clouds attest to His glory. The oceans attest to His glory. The intricacies of the many animals living on this earth testify to the glory of the Lord. Again, we must remember that God does not need glory either. He just desires to have it. He is worthy of it. If the world did not give the glory to Him, it would surely come from something or someone else.
3. **Notice that the Lord did not create mankind out of a personal feeling of loneliness (Job 38:4-7).** There are some Christians who think that the Lord created the world out of a personal feeling of loneliness. They reason that the Lord’s statement regarding not being alone for mankind is an indicator of the Lord’s own need for companionship. This viewpoint, though, does not seem to harmonize with Scripture. The primary reason that this narrative does not work is that the Lord was not alone before the creation of the world. The Bible clearly shows us that He had His heavenly host prior to creation. We do not know exactly when the angels came into existence, but we do know that at least some of them were there prior to the creation of mankind. While there are differences between men and angels, both share a similar responsibility to give glory to the Lord. God did not need to create man in order to be worshipped, praised, or given glory. He was not sitting idly by in the far reaches of outer darkness with the hopes of finding or creating someone or something that would glorify Him.
4. **THE LORD’S SELF-SUFFICIENCY REMINDS US THAT HE DOES NOT NEED ANYTHING IN ORDER TO PRODUCE JOY FOR HIMSELF.**
5. **Notice that joy belongs to the Lord (John 15:11; Acts 2:28, 13:52; Romans 14:17; Galatians 5:22; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; Nehemiah 8:10).** The eternal joy mentioned throughout the Word of God belongs to the Lord. Nehemiah refers to it as the joy of the Lord. In the New Testament, we see that our joy comes from the Holy Spirit of God. It is one of the fruits of the Spirit. It is without doubt that joy then belongs to the Lord. We could not know joy without knowing the One who owns it. It exists as part of His nature. Perhaps, we could even consider it to be one of His attributes. He is joyful. Surely, we know people that we would characterize as happy people. Hopefully, we also see believers that we could easily recognize as joyful people. When it comes to the joy of the Lord, it is a self-sustaining quality. The joy of the Lord is our strength. It is able on its own to help and comfort us in times of trouble. If it is able to do that for us, then what does that say about the Lord’s own self-sufficiency when it comes to His joy**?** It tells us that He needs nothing to create that which He already owns.
6. **Notice that while there are things that produce the joy of the Lord, He is not like man in needing things to make Him happy (Hebrews 12:2; Luke 15:7-10; John 16:24; Psalm 127:5, 128:2).** The Bible notes two things that produce the joy of the Lord. First, the Bible tells us in Hebrews that the Lord went to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. There was joy of the Lord when the Son of God willingly laid down His own life to redeem mankind. There is joy in His resurrection. There is joy for Him as He sits in Heaven and makes intercession for us. As our friend, the Lord experiences joy in redeeming mankind. Yet, we understand that He did not need this joy. It was just a natural byproduct of His will and purpose for man. Secondly, we know that there is joy in Heaven when one sinner repents. Every time that a person is saved, there is joy produced around the throne of God. That is the love of the Father in having no greater desire for us than to see us avoid damnation and be restored back to Him. On the other hand, man relies upon things, people, or situations to produce our happiness. While we might say that we don’t need anything to make us happy, we know that this is not really the truth.
7. **THE LORD’S SELF-SUFFICIENCY REMINDS US THAT HE DOES NOT NEED MANKIND TO SERVE HIM.**
8. **Notice that the Lord’s necessary reliance upon mankind would undermine His power and glory (Acts 17:24-25).** This is the message that Paul had for the men at Athens. They had an altar built to the unknown God. They wanted to serve and offer things to Him just to be on the safe side. The pagans were very devout in their sense of serving their false gods. They believed that these various gods had needs that had to be met in order to keep away bad things from taking place. This ideology sadly seeped into the nation of Israel. By the end of the Old Testament, we find a group of people who had no relationship with God, yet they would regularly offer sacrifices to Him. They believed that He needed these sacrifices. He did not need the sacrifices. They were the ones that needed it. If we limit God to needing to be served by man, then we have made a god in our own image and likeness. We serve an omnipotent God. That very fact should constantly remind us that He does not need us.
9. **Notice that the Lord did not need the ministry of man during His earthly ministry (Mark 10:45; Colossians 3:23-24).** Even during the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, we find that the Lord did not need the ministry of mankind. Yes, He did have His 12 disciples that followed Him and assisted Him with His ministry, but the truth is that He ultimately called them to help them and mankind. The Lord could have walked the earth throughout His entire earthly ministry without the help of any man. He wants man to serve Him. He allows and even calls man to serve Him. He let Mary minister unto Him, but He recognized that it was something that she needed. She needed to be able to express her love for Him. He did not need His feet to be washed. He had not asked for it to be done. It is foolish to think that there are many Christians who act self-sufficient and even as if God needs us to serve Him. He does not need us to serve Him. We need to serve Him. It is the path of joy for us. It is the path of purpose for us. Mankind needs other men to serve Him, but God absolutely does not need any man to serve Him.
10. **THE LORD’S SELF-SUFFICIENCY REMINDS US THAT HE IS NOT LACKING IN ABILITY TO MEET OUR NEEDS.**
11. **Notice that the Lord does not lack in ability to meet our physical needs (Philippians 4:19; 2 Corinthians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:12; Luke 22:35).** As we consider the self-sufficiency of the Lord, we must be reminded that this means that we should likewise be lacking nothing. He is sufficient to meet all of our physical needs. If we need physical healing, ask the Lord for it. If we need some material thing, ask the Lord for it. Ask, and ye shall receive. The reason that the Bible can make this promise to us is the self-sufficiency of the Lord. If He did not have enough to sustain Himself, we might lack in confidence of His ability to sustain us. Yet, the Bible has given us absolutely no reason to doubt the Lord when it comes to our physical needs. If we truly stopped to consider the self-sufficiency of the Lord, it might keep some of us from doubting that He can answer our requests.
12. **Notice that the Lord does not lack in ability to meet our spiritual needs (2 Corinthians 12:9; James 1:5).** The Lord is not limited to only meeting the visible needs. He is also able to meet the needs that others cannot see. These are the spiritual needs that we have. Jesus Christ is sufficient for our salvation. He said that His grace is sufficient for thee. God has given us His grace. He also is willing to give us His wisdom. If a man does not have Godly wisdom, he has no one to blame but himself. He cannot claim that it is because the Lord lacked in giving it to him. He desires to give out His wisdom. As mentioned earlier, He also gives us His joy. He gives us His strength and power. He gives us a sound mind. He gives us peace. He gives us love. These are all things that we cannot give each other. We can express them to other people, but we cannot give it to them. God in His self-sufficiency is able to give these things out to every man. We must simply go to Him and seek them from Him.