Build A Kingdom Perspective After A Study Of The Greatness Of God

A.W. Tozer: "God's greatness is the sum of His perfections" (The Knowledge of the Holy)

A) GOD'S NATURE (ESSENCE OF GOD- Ontological Being)

The essential being of God — who and what God is in Himself, eternally and indivisibly. (Essence = the one, simple, undivided being of God.)

- **God is Spirit – immaterial, incorporeal being. God the Spirit** is the **infinite, personal, holy Lord**.
- **God is One – perfect unity of essence.**
- **God is Light – holiness, truth, purity as essential being (holy light, not physical).**
- **God is Love – eternal self-giving communion.**
- **God is Living – source of life, self-existent.**
- **God is a Consuming Fire – holy in purity and judgment.**
- **God is Invisible – transcendent Spirit, unseen by creatures.**
- **Aseity / Self-Existence – "I AM," uncaused being.**
- **Incomprehensibility – God cannot be fully known, surpasses full human understanding.**
- **God is Blessed — God's perfect, self-sufficient joy (Beatitude).**
- **Impassibility – not subject to involuntary change or passions.**

Key: Because modern Christians in this age of 'self' do not truly know who God is, they :-
- are largely ignorant of what these doctrines & commands really mean
- and because they want to have a comfortable life, they will, from their ignorance of who God truly is, try do dumb-down, and silence those who call for more passion, commitment, and zeal. **Beware of the scoffers** who will try to avoid these things by saying something like "You are too intense, God loves us too you know."

B) ATTRIBUTES OF GOD - Perfections

I. Incommunicable Attributes (Essential) "Greatness of God"

- **Eternality** – God exists endlessly, without beginning or end.
- **Self-Existence (Aseity)** – God exists by the necessity of His own being; He is uncaused.
- **Immutability** – God does not change in His nature, character, or purpose.
- **Omnipotence** – God is all-powerful and able to accomplish His perfect will.
- **Omniscience** – God knows all things—past, present, future, actual, and possible.
- **Omnipresence** – God is present everywhere, not bound by space.
- **Sovereignty** – God has supreme authority and absolute rule over all creation.
- **Simplicity (Divine Unity)** – God's attributes are perfectly one in His being.
- **Infinity** – God is limitless in being, knowledge, and power.
- **Independence** – God does not depend on anything or anyone for His existence.
- **Incomprehensibility** – God is knowable, but beyond full human understanding.

God's holiness Focus
God's holiness is to be the prime focus humans are to maintain in this life, where sin is present, while God's love is the primary focus in heaven will be the norm.

Or, to put it more theologically precise:

Holiness is God's eternal nature, but in heaven His holiness is experienced primarily as love. In this life, His holiness is experienced as separation from sin.

II. Communicable Attributes (Moral/Relational) "Goodness of God"

- **Holiness** – God is perfectly holy in His nature.
- **Righteousness** – God is morally perfect and loves what is right.
- **Justice** – God perfectly upholds justice in all His ways.
- **Jealousy** – God zealously guards His honor and covenant.
- **Wrath** – Holy opposition to sin, God righteously opposes sin and ungodliness.
- **Love** – God is eternal, self-giving love.
- **Grace** – God freely bestows unmerited favor.
- **Mercy** – God shows compassion in not giving sinners what they deserve.
- **Kindness** – God's goodness draws sinners to repentance.
- **Goodness** – God is the source and standard of all that is good.
- **Beauty** the *harmonious splendor of all perfections* (cf. Ps 29:2 "the **splendor** of holiness"
- **Compassion** – God tenderly cares for His people.
- **Faithfulness** – God is utterly trustworthy and keeps His promises.
- **Truth / Veracity** – God is truth, and His word is true.
- **Wisdom** – God is infinitely wise in His counsel. God's perfect knowledge applied to achieve His purposes.
- **Patience / Longsuffering** – God restrains His judgment, giving time for repentance. Delayed judgment.
- **Peace (Shalom)** – God is the source of wholeness and peace.
- **Purity** – God is morally pure and cannot look upon evil.

C) CHARACTER OF GOD - Moral Relational Outworking of Attributes

- **Merciful and Gracious, Abounding in Love and Faithfulness**
- **Righteous and Kind in All His Works**
- **Just and Upright, Perfect in All His Ways**
- **God is Love**
- **Beauty** as the *pleasantness* of God's dealings

Holiness in Character → Israel called to be holy; God disciplines
Justice in Character → God vindicates the oppressed, judges wicked
Wrath in Character → Outpoured against sin in history...
Love in Character → God so loved the world He gave His Son
Faithfulness in Character → He keeps covenant promises to...
Mercy in Character → Compassion shown to the weak repentant
Wisdom in Character → Directing history and guiding His people
Peace in Character → Shalom given to His people

D) PERSONHOOD OF GOD & RELATIONALITY

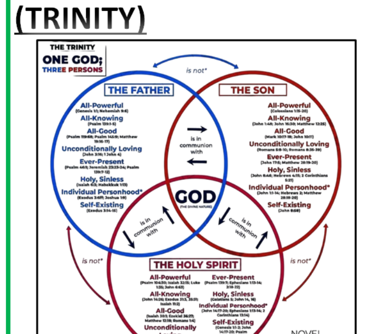
- **God is Personal and Near**
- **Intellect – God thinks, reasons, and understands all things.**
- **Will – God makes deliberate choices according to His purposes.**
- **Emotion – God expresses righteous emotions, consistent with His holy nature.**
- **Self-Awareness – God speaks of Himself and declares His own eternal identity.**
- **Relationality – God is not abstract but covenantally present, revealing Himself personally to His people.**
- **Emotions / Divine Affections – God's affections are real and covenantally consistent with His holy nature (not unstable passions).**

Why so many Christians are defeated and weak

Isa 51:13 '...have forgotten the LORD, your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth, and you fear continually all the day...' ESV

Self-Absorbtion of Modern Times
Self-absorption is one of the enemy's sharpest blades, dulling the church's mind to the knowledge of God. Without noticing, we have catechized ourselves into a story where **we** are the center and God is our enthusiastic admirer. Even when we denounce the sugar-coated gospel, much of it still sticks—our liturgies of preference, our prayers of convenience, our metrics of success. The result? A domesticated God and a distracted people.
So test yourself: Are your reflexes God-ward or self-ward? Do your affections burn hotter for His holiness and mission than for your comfort and platform? Repent of the subtle creed, "God exists for me," and recover the biblical confession, "We exist for Him" (Rom 11:36). Seek the **greatness** of God until it displaces the **greatness** of self.

E) THE GODHEAD (TRINITY)



F) ADDITIONAL FACETS OF GOD'S REVEALED BEING (Ad Extra)

- **Will of God (Decretive, Preceptive, and Permissive).**
- **Decrees of God.**
- **Works of God (Opera Dei ad extra).** • Creation • Providence (Divine Government) • Redemption • Judgment • Glorification/Consummation
- **Providence of God.** • Preservation • Governance • Concurrence
- **Sovereignty of God.**
- **Lament & Hiddenness**
- **Glory & Beauty of God**
- **Divine Accommodation**
- **Kingdom Program (Missio Dei. Creation → Consummation)** • Creation Aim (Design) • Covenantal Backbone (Promise) • Christocentric Fulfilment (Inauguration) • Providence & Sovereignty (Execution) • Israel/Church Distinction (Integrity) • Consummation (Goal)

G) SPECIAL REVELATORY EXPRESSIONS OF God

- **Names of God**
- **Theophanies → Christophanies**
- **Fear of the LORD**
- **God's Covenant Relationships**
- **Kingdom Program - Missio Dei**
- **Names of God** • Creatorship Names • Covenantal Names • Names of the Son • Names of the Holy Spirit
- **Covenants of God** • The Everlasting Covenant • The Edenic Covenant • The Adamic Covenant • The Noahic Covenant • The Abrahamic Covenant • The Mosaic Covenant • The Palestinian (Land) Covenant • The Davidic Covenant • The New Covenant

H) The Greatness Of God— The study of God encapsulated in a phrase

Systematic Categories of Divine Greatness
1. Ontological Greatness (Greatness of Being)
2. Attributive Greatness (Greatness of Perfections)
3. Operational Greatness (Greatness of Works)
4. Relational Greatness (Greatness of Love)
5. Eschatological Greatness (Greatness of Glory)

Theological Components
- **Summative Perfection** — All attributes working in perfect harmony.
- **Infinite Excellency** — Transcendent superiority over all creation.
- **Incomprehensible Magnitude** — Beyond human measurement or comparison.
- **Worship-Evoking Majesty** — The proper response to divine greatness is adoration.
- **Conservative Evangelical Significance** — Prevents reductionism that treats attributes as separable parts; preserves the unity of essence with the richness of revelation.

Transition for you, the reader now to take on a much great Kingdom Perspective:
- we must be very grateful to God - complaining is an utter insult to God
- we must surrender to and obey God - it is the logical conclusion; the right order of things
- we must love and worship God - it is the logical conclusion; the right order of things
- we must always be seeking and walking in God daily - God 'IS' but sinful humans are weak in being like Christ
- we must persevere in God, knowing that He is committed to our good and loves us
- we must be committed to God's plan of bringing in the lost

Two searching diagnostics for you:
Idolatry audit: What competes most with God's greatness for my heart this week (1John 5:21; 1Cor 10:14)? What concrete step removes its supply line?
Stewardship check: Where do time, talents, and treasure visibly confess "Yours is the kingdom" (1Cor 4:2; 1Pet 4:10)? What item changes this week?

Sin

Shallow Understanding: Doing something wrong, breaking rules or missing the mark.

Kingdom Perpsective: Sin is cosmic treason and Ontological Insanity against the infinitely holy, infinitely worthy self-existent Creator God; an attempt to dethrone the One who is the source of all being, thereby fracturing the very fabric of reality itself, because to sin is to hate the One whose essence is Light in whom there is no darkness at all.
- Because God is **Aseity** (Self-Existent) and **Sovereign**, sin is the creature attempting to steal the Creator's independence. It is a finite being declaring autonomy from the Source of Life.
- Because God is **Simplicity** (Unity), sin is an assault on the harmony of the universe. It is not just breaking a rule; it is an attempt to fracture the indivisible nature of Truth and Goodness.
- Because God is **Light**, sin is not just "naughtiness"; it is the introduction of darkness and chaos into a realm designed for luminous order. Violates the moral architecture of the universe, which reflects God's nature.

It is not merely a legal infraction but an assault on the character of God Himself—His holiness, truth, beauty, and love. Sin disrupts the moral fabric of the universe and is infinitely heinous because it is committed against an infinitely worthy being.
Sin is a metaphysical assault on the very being of God. As violation of infinite holiness, cosmic rebellion and treason, against the Creator's moral order. It is not merely a wrongful act but a *privation of being*—a creature's attempt to assert autonomy against the One who is the source of all existence (Aseity). Sin violates God's *holiness* (B) by introducing ontological disorder into His good creation (F). It is a rejection of covenantal reality (G), treating God as less than the Great One whose name is Jealous (Ex 34:14). Sin is cosmic treason because it denies God's rightful sovereignty over the entire domain of being (F).

Links: A (Aseity), B (Holiness/Justice), C (Wrath), D (Will), (Decree; Permissive), G (Covenant), H (Greatness → humility).

The Fear of God - Fear of the Lord

Shallow Understanding: Being scared of God; or conversely, just "respecting" Him.

Kingdom Perpsective: "Reverence" without fear is not biblical.
Not terror for the blood-bought (saved), but reverent awe before the Consuming Fire who is our God forever and ever.
Through the Lens of Greatness: It is **Traumatic Awe (**a shock of glory**) and Existential Trembling (**inner shaking**)**. It is the mechanism by which the finite consciousness registers the weight of **Infinite Majesty**.
It is the "internal mechanics" of realizing one is standing before a **Consuming Fire**—a distinct mode of revelation where the creature realizes its fragility before the Uncreated One.
The fear of the Lord is the awestruck reverence and holy dread that recognizes God's majesty, holiness, and power. It is the beginning of wisdom, the fountain of obedience, and the guard against sin (Prov 1:7; Isa 11:2–3). Epistemic and moral posture before infinite greatness.
[This is why Paul told us to "Fear the Lord."]

Links: A (Holiness), B (Omniscience), C (Truth/Justice), D (Affections), E (Spirit of fear), G (Covenant), H (Majesty).

Repentance

Shallow Understanding: Feeling sorry for wrongdoing; apologizing; trying to do better.

Kingdom Perpsective: Repentance is **Ontological** (our whole being) **Realignment**. - the realigning of yourself with God at the deeper level of your being - a transformation.
It is the total re-orientation of the entire self, of the will from self-reference to **Theocentric (God) Reference**.
A return to alignment with divine holiness and truth. It is aligning one's finite character with God's **Immutable Character**. It is ceasing the war against Reality. It is the creature agreeing with the **Truth** (Veracity) of God regarding their own condition.
It is not merely moral improvement but a return to *truthful existence* under the reign of the Great King.
Repentance acknowledges that God's character (merciful yet just) is the only stable ground for being (A). It is agreeing with God's assessment of sin as cosmic violation and embracing His covenant faithfulness
Repentance is an act of *worship*—re-enthroning God's greatness over the self's false sovereignty.

Links: A (Love), B (Mercy), C (Mercy/Justice), D (Will), E (Relational), F (Decrees/Permissive Will), G (Covenant), H (Greatness evokes humility).

Living for Christ - Being A Christian

Shallow Understanding: Repenting, reading Bible, praying, going to church, to heaven.
Kingdom Perpsective: How God Sees and Wills It
From the *divine* vantage, to *be like* and *living for Christ* is the *accomplishment* of God's *eternal purpose* (Eph 1:11). It is the *means* by which the *Missio Dei* (God's Mission) advances (Acts 1:8). God *wills* it (1 Thess 4:3), *sees* it as *beautiful* (Ps 149:4), and *rejoices* over it (Zeph 3:17). The believer's life is *hidden* in Christ (Col 3:3) and *exhibited* before the heavenly court (Eph 3:10) as *doxological proof* of God's wisdom. **So then:**
Worship: Every moment is *liturgical* (Rom 12:1).
Ethics: Decisions are *Christ-referenced* (1 Cor 10:31).
Mission: Life is *evangelistic* (1 Pet 3:15).
Suffering: Trials are *cross-sharing* (Phil 3:10).
Community: Relationships are *Trinity-imaging* (John 17:21–23).
Identity: Self is *crucified*; Christ is *exalted* (Gal 2:20).
Living for Christ is not a post-conversion addendum but the *ontological* (being, existence) and *teleological* (purpose, goal, or end) realization of human existence *in* the One who *is* the Great I-AM-With-Us. It is the *human correlative* to divine greatness—a *doxological* (worship) life that *participates* in the *triune communion* while preserving the *Creator-creature* distinction. Its depth is *exegetical*, its breadth *systematic*, its reality *metaphysical*, its dynamic *psychological*, and its end *divine*.
Links: A (Aseity, Immutability), B (Holiness, Love), C (Covenant Faithfulness, Mercy), D (Intellect/Will/Affections Reordered), E (Trinitarian Participation), F (Decrees, Providence), G (Name, Fear of LORD), H (Greatness → Beauty, Beatitude).

Sanctification

Shallow Understanding: Becoming a better person. Self-improvement, moral self-improvement, a slow change for the better over time.

Kingdom Perpsective: Sanctification is the gradual re-alignment of the creature's being with God's holy essence. It is the *Spirit's work* of conforming us to the *character* of Christ (D), who is the perfect image of the Father (E). Sanctification is not moralism but *participation* in God's holiness (A) through union with the Son. The Spirit applies the *beauty* of God's perfections (H) to our souls, making us reflect His glory (F).
It is the Holy Spirit making us actually holy, because the Holy One has claimed us for Himself, and His glory is at stake in our holiness.
Transformation into the likeness of the infinitely holy God.
Becoming holier, growing in obedience.
Worship implication: Sanctification is *beautification* (making something beautiful)—being made fit to dwell in the presence of infinite greatness.
The finite being reordered under the infinite moral beauty of God. A progressive unveiling of divine character in the believer.
Through the lens of Greatness: Sanctification is the progressive transformation of the believer into the likeness of Christ, reflecting the holiness of God. It is Spirit-wrought conformity to the moral perfections of the infinitely holy God, restoring the image marred by sin (2 Cor 3:18; 1 Thess 4:3).

Links: A (Holiness/Purity), B (Grace/Kindness), C (Covenant faithfulness), D (Holy affections), E (Spirit's work), F (Providence), H (Beauty).

The Carnal Christian Minimizing Of God (THE "EASY GOD" SYNDROME)

Shallow Understanding: "God is loving and kind, so we shouldn't be too intense about doctrine. He wants us to be happy, not theological. Grace means God is not really bothered by our sin; He's our friend, not our judge, afterall, Jesus did not judge the woman caught in adultery. The Christian life is about balance, not fanaticism."

Kingdom Perpsective: This reaction is a **covenantal failure of perception**—a **theological aesthesia** that reduces the **unsearchable greatness of God** (H) to a manageable, non-threatening deity. It is not humility but a **subtle idolatry** that trades the **I AM WHO I AM** (A) for a **god-figment** shaped by human **aseity** rather than divine. The **incommunicable attributes** (B) are **silenced**: **immutability** is dismissed as rigidity, **holiness** as harshness, **sovereignty** as control. The **communicable attributes** (B) are **stripped** of their **holy frame**: **love** becomes **unholy love** (blessing sin without repentance), **mercy** becomes **permissiveness**, **grace** becomes **cheap** (Bonhoeffer). The **character of God** (C)—His **steadfast love** that disciplines (Heb 12:6) and **justice** that vindicates the oppressed (Ps 9:7–8)—is **recast** as a **therapeutic presence** that **affirms** rather than **transforms**. The **personhood** (D) of God is **reduced** to an **impersonal** force or a **projection** of human emotion. The **Trinity** (E) is **flattened** into **modalism** or **ignored** entirely, making God a **singularity** who exists to serve human needs. The **ad extra** works (F)—**decrees**, **providence**, **sovereignty**—are **denied** in practice: prayer becomes **wish-casting**, history becomes **random**, human freedom becomes **autonomous**. **Special revelation** (G) is **subordinated** to **subjective experience**; the **Name** is **casualized**; the **fear of the LORD** is **pathologized** as unhealthy. The **Greatness of God** (H) is **domesticated**—no longer **unsearchable** (Ps 145:3) but **comprehensible**, **controllable**, **comfortable**.
Paradox: The desire to make God "easy" produces the **impossible burden** of **self-salvation**; the refusal to tremble before His **greatness** (H) leaves the soul **ungrounded**; the attempt to avoid **intensity** results in **spiritual anemia**. **Hebraic balance** holds **holiness** and **love** together; the **Western/Greek** mind collapses them into sentimentality or severity.
Worship implication: **Minimizing** God produces **muted worship**—not awe but **affectation**, not **doxology** but **duty**. The **greatness** of God **slays pride**; the **easy god inflates** it. True worship **exults** in **divine transcendence**; false worship **tames** God into a **domesticated deity**.

Links: A (Spirit, Fire, Invisible → recast as buddy), B (Holiness, Justice, Sovereignty → dismissed; Love, Grace → sentimentalized), C (Faithfulness, Mercy → permissiveness), D (Intellect, Will, Affections → projection), E (Trinity → modalism), F (Decrees, Providence → denial), G (Name, Fear → casualization), H (Greatness → domestication).

Hope

Shallow Understanding: Looking forward to good things.

Kingdom Perpsective: Hope is *eschatological virtue* anchored in *God's immutability* (A). It is *certain* because God's *greatness* (H) *guarantees* His *covenant* (G). Hope is *Trinitarian* (E): the *Spirit seals* (Eph 1:13).

Hope is *worship*—trusting God's greatness for
Nature: Hope is more than desire — it is covenantal confidence and volitional orientation toward God's promised future, sustained by the Spirit.
Function: Hope reorders time and motive — it sustains endurance in suffering, forms moral action, fuels mission, and shapes worship.
Metaphysically, hope is the intersection of **Eternity** and **Time**.
Hope is the **temporal mode of faith**—it is faith *stretched forward* into the eschatological horizon.
God's eternal purposes breaking into creaturely finitude, enabling humans to live *now* in light of *then*.

In Hebrew thought, hope is **covenantal assurance** It is the virtue that reaches into eternity and pulls it into the now, making believers citizens.

Links: A (Immutability), B (Faithfulness), C (Truth), D (Relational), E (Trinity), F (Decrees), G (Covenant promises), H (Greatness → glory).

The Beatific Vision (the ultimate state of happiness) Summary

The end of the way, the goal of the journey, the final, full, eternal, unmediated communion with the Triune God Himself.
When all these doctrines are seen against the blazing backdrop of the Greatness of the Unsearchable God, they cease to be museum pieces in a dusty systematic theology textbook and become the very air the new creature breathes. The entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is the story of this God.
This is the knowledge that slays pride, humbles, and then exalts the Lamb.
This is the knowledge that saves, sanctify, and satisfy forever.
This is the knowledge of the Holy One.
This is the knowledge that makes worshippers.

When the Greatness of God becomes the lens through which every doctrine is viewed, the following shifts occur:
- Moral categories become cosmic realities.
- Religious duties become covenantal privileges.
- Personal feelings become ontological truths.
- Ethical actions become acts of worship.
- Temporal struggles become eschatological preparations.

The Christian life is not a self-improvement program but participation in the life, mission, and glory of the Triune God. Every doctrine—sin, grace, faith, love, worship, suffering—takes on eternal weight, infinite seriousness, and profound beauty when measured against the infinite perfections of the God who is spirit, light, love, life, fire, invisible, self-existent, incomprehensible, and blessed forever.

To know God rightly is to see everything rightly.
To worship Him truly is to live all of life coram Deo—before the face of God.
- Psalm 145:3 – "Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable."
- Romans 11:33–36 – "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! … To him be glory forever."
- 1 Chronicles 29:11 – "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory…"
- Isaiah 6:1–5 – "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"
- Revelation 4:8–11 – "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty… Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power…"

Summary Principle
Every doctrine, when viewed through the **Greatness of God**, becomes:
Ontologically (in substance/essence) thick—rooted in God's being (A), not human experience.
Covenantally charged—binding God and creature in fidelity (G).
Trinitarianly structured—flowing from Father, Son, Spirit (E).
Doxologically (worship) directed—summoning awe, gratitude, and obedience (H).
Paradoxically held—embracing tensions as complementary perfections (Hebraic mindset).
The Greatness of God is not one doctrine among others; it is the **lens** that reveals each doctrine's true weight, turning theology into worship and belief into *existential alignment* with the One who is, was, and is to come.

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