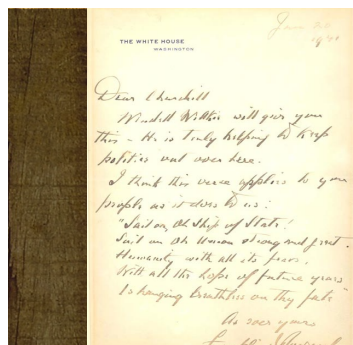


# God Essentials

GREG HASWELL

## IS GOD PERSONAL?



### CHURCHILL AND FDR

Churchill tried repeatedly to convince FDR to enter the war. Initially, instead of joining the war directly, America sent war supplies to help Britain.

Encouraging Churchill, Roosevelt sent a letter (dated January 20, 1941) in which he quotes from Longfellow's poem, "The Building of a Ship." They were words, the President said, which applied equally to Britain and America.

In one of his BBC broadcasts, Churchill responds to the President with this heartfelt plea for the US continued supply of weaponry: "Give us the tools, and we will finish the job."

## CHURCHILL AND FDR

The other day, President Roosevelt gave his opponent in the late Presidential Election [Mr. Wendell Willkie] a letter of introduction to me, and in it he wrote out a verse, in his own handwriting, from Longfellow, which he said, "applies to you people as it does to us." Here is the verse: . . .Sail on, O Ship of State! Sail on, O Union, strong and great! Humanity with all its fears, with all the hopes of future years, Is hanging breathless on thy fate! What is the answer that I shall give, in your name, to this great man, the thrice-chosen head of a nation of a hundred and thirty million? Here is the answer which I will give to President Roosevelt: Put your confidence in us. Give us your faith and your blessing, and, under Providence, all will be well. We shall not fail or falter; we shall not weaken or tire. Neither the sudden shock of battle, nor the long-drawn trials of vigilance and exertion will wear us down. Give us the tools, and we will finish the job.



## CHURCHILL AND FDR

Roosevelt cabled Churchill after the meeting, (August 1941, where Roosevelt and Churchill met for the first of nine face-to-face conferences) "It is fun to be in the same decade with you."

Churchill later wrote, "I felt I was in contact with a very great man who was also a warm-hearted friend and the foremost champion of the high causes which we served."



# God Essentials

G R E G   H A S W E L L

## IS GOD PERSONAL?

### WHAT IS PERSONAL?

Something is personal when it involves relationship—particularly a binding, transactional, or socially acknowledged relationship. This implies the actual presence of, and interaction with, another individual. In this way, a personal relationship is not possible with an inanimate object, an intangible force, or an abstract idea.

We often describe something as personal if it involves our private life, our intimate thoughts, or our emotions—something that touches us at a deep level.

# God Essentials

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## IS GOD PERSONAL?

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

Romans 8:15

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (God with us).

Isaiah 7:14



Truth is held in tension



# God Essentials

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IS GOD PERSONAL?

## GOD IS SOVEREIGN

God is absolutely sovereign, yet his sovereignty does not diminish human responsibility and accountability.

4 The Lord works out everything to its proper end—even the wicked for a day of disaster. . . .  
9 In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps. . . . 33 The lot  
is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord. **Proverbs 16:4,9,33**

"Why do the nations say, 'Where is their God?' Our God is in heaven; he does whatever  
pleases him" **Psalms 115:2-3**



# God Essentials

G R E G H A S W E L L

## IS GOD PERSONAL?

### PEOPLE ARE RESPONSIBLE

We can believe, disobey, respond, choose, and there is moral significance to our choices; but our human responsibility never functions in Scripture to diminish God's sovereignty

He finds no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

Isaiah 30:18; 65:2; Lamentations 3:31-36; Ezekiel 18:30-32; 33:11

Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. . . . But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. . . . But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua 24:14-15

# God Essentials

G R E G H A S W E L L

## IS GOD PERSONAL?

### THE TRINITY, ONE GOD

God is always one substance that is shared by three independent "persons" who each have a unique will and personality—and each is equally God

### WE RELATE TO ONE GOD IN TRINITY

"The very essence of God's reality is the intra-trinitarian love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." His eternal existence is rooted in a shared love experienced within himself. . . . The only possible reason for such a being to create the universe was to extend that love to other, imperfect, beings . . ." - Jonathan Edwards

# God Essentials

G R E G H A S W E L L

IS GOD PERSONAL?

## TRANSCENDENT

He exists before, above and beyond time and space. He is the creator of all that exists. He created all things, sustains all things, knows all things and holds all things together. He is exalted very high and sovereignly rules over the works of His hands.

## PERSONAL

He presents himself to us as a Father, Lord, Redeemer, Shepherd, Brother, Creator, Lover and Friend. All of our relationships with God exist because He has revealed himself to be a person.

Who has God revealed  
Himself as?



# God Essentials

G R E G H A S W E L L

## IS GOD PERSONAL?

### Defining Good

A God who is Sovereign and has made us able to respond to Him

A God who is never lonely but who wants to share His love

A God who values relationships and who keeps His promises

A God who reaches out to those He created

A God who became a man to reveal Himself

A God who removes obstacles

A God who pursues people

# God Essentials

G R E G H A S W E L L

## IS GOD PERSONAL?

### A GOD WHO REVEALS HIMSELF

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God's glory and **the exact representation of his being**, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Hebrews 1:1-3

# God Essentials

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IS GOD PERSONAL?

## A GOD WHO REMOVES OBSTACLES

18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that **God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ**, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

# God Essentials

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IS GOD PERSONAL?

## A GOD WHO PURSUES PEOPLE

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Revelation 3:20



# God Essentials

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IS GOD PERSONAL?

## A GOD WE CAN TRUST

5 be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

Hebrews 13:5

37 All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. 38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

John 6:37-38

# God Essentials

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IS GOD PERSONAL?