

The Infinity or Transcendence of God (His eternity)

Intro: To think of God as a spirit is to think of Him as a living personality with all its implications. But such a view of God does not exhaust who He is or what He is like. God is not only spirit; he is infinite spirit! He is limitless or boundless.

Another term for this infinity of God is transcendence. It is a relative term, relating God to the universe He created including us. God is in no way limited by the universe He created or confined to the universe He created.

God's transcendence is made known in the Scriptures in two powerful ways. One of them is God's relationship to time. He is the eternal God.

And Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God. (Genesis 21:33)

Eternity (Infinity with reference to time)

God is without beginning or end.

Before the mountains were born, or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God. (Psalm 90:2)

Moses wrote this psalm perhaps as a reminder of the transitory nature of our existence. Moses lived to see over a million people die in the wilderness in 40 years; that's an average of 70 funerals a day! But Moses saw God's eternity not only in contrast to man but to the earth on which man lives. Nothing has the greater appearance of age from man's perspective than the earth itself. We've even invest the expression: "old as dirt". But even the great age of the world cannot compare with the God who is "from everlasting to everlasting".

God existed before the world came into being.

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (Romans 1:20)

God will continue to exist when the world has come to an end!

I say, "O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days, Thy years are throughout all generations. "Of old Thou didst found the earth; And the heavens are the work of Thy hands. Even they will perish, but Thou dost endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing Thou wilt change them, and they will be changed. But Thou art the same, And Thy years will not come to an end. (Psalm 102:24-27)

God is the cause of time.

Time is itself the creation of God. For us time is the duration of repeated events (the rotation of the earth on its axis, the phases of the moon, the revolution of the earth around the sun).

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)
God is free from all succession of time

“Who has performed and accomplished it, calling forth the generations from the beginning? ‘I, the Lord, am the first, and with the last. I am He.’” (Isaiah 41:4)

God reveals himself not as “I was” or “I will be”; but “I am”. God lives in the eternal “now”. And he does not have to get in a hurry like we do because time is running out or he does not lose interest in like we do in what he’s doing because it takes too much time.

But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (2 Peter 3:8)

Implications of God’s eternity

God will never die!

Just as we learned earlier that God is essentially life, so also in that life he possesses “immortality”.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:17)

God is always present to save His people.

But Thou, O Lord, dost abide forever; And Thy name to all generations. Thou wilt arise and have compassion on Zion; For it is time to be gracious to her, For the appointed time has come. Surely Thy servants find pleasure in her stones, And feel pity for her dust. (Psalm 102:12-14)

God is always present to rule His creation.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:17)

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (Jude 24-25)

We become so impatient and despairing in our time-oriented world. “Where is God or where was God when I needed Him?” Such statements fail to consider the infinite nature of God with reference to time.

God has offered us a share in His eternity!

He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end. (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

God has placed within each of us who are bounded by time a desire to know something outside those bounds. We instinctively seek something outside the temporal existence God has given us and long to know the whole story.

It is amazing indeed that God offers to temporal man (bounded by time) the experience of living forever with Him! He offers us fellowship in His eternal life!

And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. (1 John 5:11-12)

Conclusion: It is hard for us to fathom the eternity of God; and even more to imagine the eternal life God offers to us. But consider simply the familiar words of this song: “when we’ve been there ten thousand years bright shining as the sun, we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise, than when we’ve first begun”.

All too often we get too focused on this life and forget about eternity.

Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the waters of life; having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity; and in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim. - Sir Frances Drake

Whatever Satan offers you it can only be for a few years at most. What God offers you is for eternity! It’s our choice!