

# The Character of God

what are other  
words for  
undescribable?




indefinable, inexpressible,  
indescribable, ineffable,  
incommunicable, unutterable,  
nameless, beyond words



*God is a being than which nothing  
greater can be conceived.*

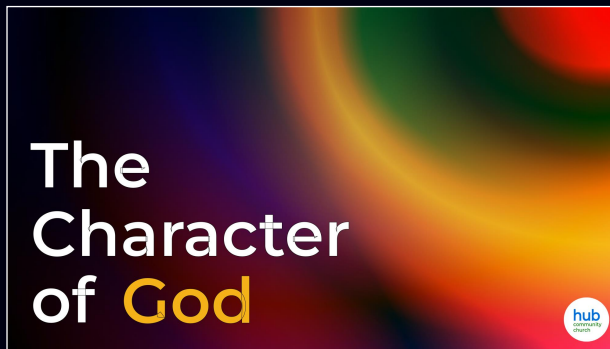
*—St. Anselm of Canterbury—*



**For now we see only a reflection as  
in a mirror; then we shall see face to  
face. Now I know in part; then I shall  
know fully , even as I am known**

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1 Corinthians 13:12 (NIV)



# The LORD is Compassionate

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**Exodus 34:6**



**And He passed in front of Moses,  
proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD,  
the compassionate and gracious  
God...”**

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Exodus 34:6a (NIV)





# What is Compassion?

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**A feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.**

[Dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com)



“  
**Compassion is sometimes the fatal capacity for feeling what it is like to live inside somebody else's skin. It is the knowledge that there can never really be any peace and joy for me until there is peace and joy finally for you too.**  
”

Fredrick Buechner

# See it as...

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- Love in action.
- Fuelled by kindness.
- Driven by empathy
- Motivated by faith and hope of what can be.
- Always based on grace and mercy.
- Made possible by generosity.

# **The LORD is compassionate**

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- **He actively loves**
  - **Is driven by kindness**
- **Motivated by what can be for us**
  - **He is gracious and merciful**
- **He sees our suffering and longs to relieve us of it.**

# Examples from Scripture

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- 1. The story of Jonah & Christ**
- 2. The story of Lazarus' resurrection.**
- 3. The parable of the compassionate Father.**

# Implications:

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- 1. He sees our pain and will act to make it good.**
- 2. Restoration & Deliverance are at the core of who He is.**
- 3. As image bearers we too must be compassionate...Mth 5: 45a**



# **The call for us to be compassionate:**

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- 1. The story of the good Samaritan**
- 2. The parable of the sheep and the goats.**
  - The beautiful examples by Zipporah, Ruth, Boaz, the widow of Zarephath, Dorcas, ?you... me?**

**“Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”**

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Luke 10:37 (NIV)