

God is Self-Sufficient



God has no needs outside of himself. For all of eternity, Father, Son & Holy Spirit have existed in perfect love, joy, and community, experiencing no lack. God does not need you, but the wonderful news of the Gospel is that he has freely chosen you. He has invited you into this eternal relationship of love.

You are not self-sufficient, and you never will be. God has designed you with limits so that you will rely on Him, and He promises that He will supply all your needs out of His endless abundance. He is calling each one of us to live a life of reliance on Him characterised by repentance, prayer, thankfulness, patience and perseverance in trials, generosity to others, and authentic and accountable relationships.

Key verses on the self-sufficiency of God:

Psalm 50:7-12; Psalm 24:1; Job 41:11; Isaiah 46:9; John 5:26; Acts 17:22-25; Romans 8:34-38; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:3a

Key verses on God as your provider:

Deuteronomy 2:7; Psalm 23; Matthew 6:31-33; Matthew 7:11; Luke 12:24; Philippians 4:6-7; Philippians 4:19; James 1:17; 2 Peter 1:3

Questions for discussion:

- Imagine you're standing in front of an attentive audience of people who know nothing about God. What is the first thing you'd want to tell them about God?
- Read Acts 17:22-25. Does it surprise you that Paul begins by talking about God's self-sufficiency (the fact he doesn't need anything outside of himself)? Why do you think this is how he chose to introduce the Athenians to the one true God?
- Is the self-sufficiency of God something you've ever thought about before?
- Read Psalm 50:7-12 and Romans 8:34-36. Do you ever find yourself slipping into relating to God on a transactional basis (that is, trying to earn His favour by your own hard work)? If this is something you do, why do you think you do it?
- God doesn't need you. How does that make you feel?
- Why is it great news that God doesn't need you?
- We've looked at many aspects of God's character over our summer series. Some of these we can (and are meant to) emulate and some will only ever be true of God. Which column would you instinctively put 'self-sufficient' into?
- Do you find yourself wishing or pretending that you are self-sufficient?
- What kind of needs do you tend not to admit to yourselves or other people?
- In His humanity, Jesus faced need. What implications does this have for how we engage with our own needs?
- How much would you say you're relying on God right now?
- What would the signs be if you had slipped into self-reliance?
- What would it look like for you to increase in your reliance on God?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-19. What does this teach us about how we are to rely on other people in the church? Is this how you relate to others at the moment? Why or why not?
- Read Philippians 4:19. Are you facing a need right now? Spend some time praying for one another with Philippians 4:19 in mind.