

The God of ...

**A Little Word in Our Bible Makes a Big Difference in
Our Understanding of Who God Is and What He Does**

What Does "Of" Mean?

- The little word "of" indicates different kinds of relationships between nouns (e.g., "God of peace"). It can indicate any of the following (and more):
 - Possession (Matt 26:51 = "the servant of the high priest")
 - Portion (Luke 19:8 = "the half of my goods")
 - Characteristic (Rom 6:6 = "the body of sin," that is, "the sinful body"; v. 4 = "newness of life," that is, "new life")
 - Material (Mark 2:21 = "a piece of unshrunk cloth")
 - Equivalence (John 2:21 = "the temple of his body")
 - Destination (Eph 2:3 = "children of wrath")

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- The little word "of" indicates different kinds of relationships between nouns (e.g., "God of peace"). It can indicate any of the following (and more):
 - Subordination (Mark 9:34 = "the prince of demons")
 - Producer (Eph 4:3 = "the unity of the Spirit")
 - Product (Rom 16:20 = "the God of peace")
 - The word "of" describes several other relationships (e.g., separation, source), but these relationships are usually translated with other English words (e.g., "from," "for").

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- The phrase “(the) God of” occurs 30+ times in the New Testament and usually describes the **RELATIONSHIP** between God and his people.
 - Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Acts 3:13 = “the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob”; cf. 5:30; 7:32; Matt 22:32)
 - Israel (Luke 1:68 = “the Lord God of Israel”; cf. Acts 13:17)
 - Jesus (Eph 1:17 = “the God of our Lord Jesus Christ”)
 - Prophets (Rev 22:6 = “the God of the spirits of the prophets”)
 - God wants a relationship of mutual belonging (John 20:28).

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- God also refers to himself as "(the) God of ___" to describe his own NATURE (Acts 7:2 = "the God of glory," that is, "the glorious God"; 1 Pet 5:10 = "God of grace").
- Finally, the phrase "(the) God of" sometimes describes what God does in/for his people (i.e., his PROVIDENCE).
 - ENDURANCE and ENCOURAGEMENT (Rom 15:5; cf. vv. 4, 6)
 - HOPE (v. 13; cf. vv. 4, 12; Gal 5:5 = "hope of righteousness")
 - PEACE (v. 33; cf. v. 13; 14:17, 19; 16:20 = "crush Satan")
 - COMFORT (2 Cor 1:3; cf. vv. 4-7; 13:11 = "one another")

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