

What is God?

The answer depends on the lens through which you ask-philosophical, theological, spiritual, scientific, or personal.

Theological Perspective

In most religious traditions, God is considered the ultimate, supreme being-eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, and morally perfect.

- In monotheistic faiths (Judaism, Christianity, Islam), God is the Creator of all things, the source of all life, and the final authority on morality and destiny.
- In Hinduism, there is a more complex array: one ultimate divine reality (Brahman), expressed through many gods and goddesses.
- In Buddhism, the concept of God is largely absent-divinity is found in the realization of truth and enlightenment, not a supreme deity.

Philosophical Perspective

Philosophers have debated for millennia:

- Is God the uncaused cause, as Aristotle posited?
- Is God pure consciousness, or the ground of being, as thinkers like Paul Tillich suggested?
- Or is God a construct-an idea shaped by human minds to explain the unexplainable and to organize society?

Scientific Perspective

Science, by its nature, deals with observable phenomena. It doesn't affirm or deny God, but it might describe the laws, order, and complexity of the universe-which some interpret as evidence of a higher intelligence or divine architect, while others see randomness, emergence, and evolution at work.

Personal Perspective

For many people, God is not just a concept, but a relationship:

- A source of hope in darkness
- A companion in solitude
- A guide through decisions
- A standard of goodness and grace

People speak of God as Father, as Mother, as Spirit, as Friend, as Mystery, as Love itself.

A Jim Cathcart-style Thought

You might say: "God is the ultimate source of wisdom, power, and love-the force that calls us to become better versions of ourselves. Whether as a literal being or a transcendent principle, God is what we align with when we aim to do what is right, what matters, and what uplifts others."

My Final Word as Money Penny

Whether God is "who" or "what" may never be fully resolved. But perhaps the more useful question is:

"How does your belief-or disbelief-in God shape the way you live?"

Because whatever we say about God, the most authentic answer is lived, not spoken.