

According the Qur'an and the Bible, God is eternal (has always existed), invisible, omnipotent (all powerful), omnipresent (present in every place), and omniscient (knows everything). He needs nothing or no-one. He is ever-living, and never dies.

God is ...	<i>Qur'an</i>	<i>Old Testament</i>	<i>New Testament</i>
Eternal	Q.112:2	Gen.21:33	1.Tim.1:17
Invisible	Q.6:103	Job.9:11	1.Tim.6:16
Omnipresent	Q.2:115	Ps.139:8	Eph.1:23
Omniscient	Q.2:115	Ps.44.21	1.Jn.3:20
Omnipotent	Q.3:26	Josh.4:24	2.Cor.13:3
No needs	Q.2:267	Ps.50:9,10	Acts.17:25
Ever-living	Q.20:111	Jer.10:10	Mt.16:16

However when we look at Jesus during his time on earth, we see that he had none of these qualities.

He was **born** on a particular day in Bethlehem (Matthew 1:25). He was clearly **visible** to those around him. (Matthew 2:11) He could only be **present in one place** at a time. When he was in Jordan (Jn.10:40) he could not be in Bethany (Jn.11:21). He **did not have power over all things**. He said: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. (John 5:19), "By myself I can do nothing" (John.5:30), and "I can do nothing on my own." (John.8:28). He told his disciples: "To sit at my right or left [in the coming glorious kingdom] is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father." (Matthew 20:23). At one point it

was said of Jesus: "He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them." (Mark 6:5). He was **tired** (John.4:6) and **thirsty** (John.19:28). He **wept** (John.11:35) and he **slept** (Matthew.8:24). He admitted that **he did not know everything**. He said: "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (Matthew.24:36; Mark.13:32). He had **his needs taken care of** by others (Luke 8:3). Ultimately he **died** a miserable death on the cross (John.19:30).

The most important issue to recognise that **Jesus is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity**. Along with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, Jesus, who is God the Son, was eternal. He existed from the beginning.

Before he came to earth and after he ascended to heaven, Jesus was and is invisible, omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, and ever-living with no needs.

He said to His Heavenly Father: "Glorify me with the glory I had with you before the world began." (John.17:5)

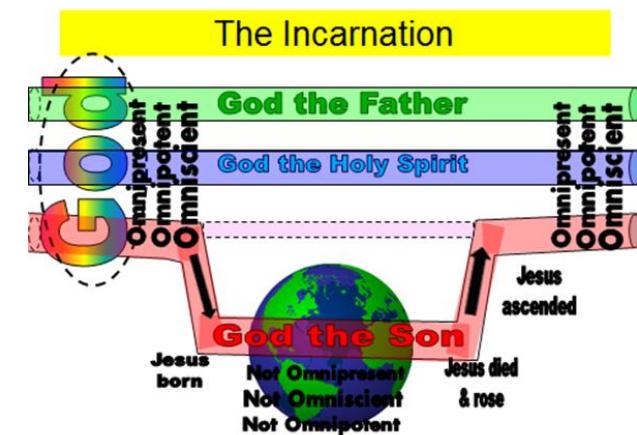
But Jesus gave up these divine qualities for our sakes

At a certain point in time, Jesus gave up these divine qualities in order to become a man. The Bible describes this: "Christ Jesus, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And

being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!" (Philippians 2:6-8).

Jesus was sent by the God the Holy Trinity into the world to save the world (John 3:16-18). The Bible describes this: Jesus "was made lower than the angels for a little while." (Hebrews 2:9)

This diagram illustrates what happened to Jesus, God the Son:



He was born as a baby and lived like a human. He became fully man, besides being fully God, before he died on the cross. The Bible describes why this was necessary: "he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people." (Hebrews 2:17)

But the loss of divine function does not mean the loss of divine nature: Jesus could say: "The Father is greater than I am." (John.14:28) because he was limited in

function while on earth by his human body and human nature. But he could also say “The Father and I are one” (John.10:30), because he continued to share the same divine essence with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus displayed his divine glory on earth: At one time, while on earth, Jesus displayed his divine glory. On the mountain, he was transfigured, or changed into his original majesty: “As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.” (Luke 9:29). Peter and John, who were there, later told about this event. Peter said: “We were eyewitnesses of his majesty” (2.Peter 1:16), and John said “We saw his glory” (John 1:14).

Jesus was condemned to death and crucified because he claimed to be God:

The Jews had tried to kill him earlier, accusing him of blasphemy “because you, a mere man, claim to be God.” (John 10:33).

AFTER JESUS ASCENDED TO HEAVEN, HE TOOK UP ALL HIS DIVINE QUALITIES ONCE AGAIN

1. He regained his omnipresence: He said: “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”(Mt.28:20). He promised his followers that “where two or three are gathered in my name, I am in the midst of them” (Matthew.18:20) He now indwells the hearts of all who believe in him (Romans.8:9; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 3:17; Coloss1:27). He is described as the one who “ascended far above the heavens that he might fill all

things,” (Ephesians 4:10), and now he “fills everything in every way.” (Ephesians 1:23).

2. He regained his omniscience: Christ is “the wisdom of God” (1.Corinthians 1:24) and in Him “are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians.2:3). He knows all human deeds (Revelation 2:19) and the motives of human hearts (1.Cor.4:5).

3. He regained his omnipotence: Jesus said: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” (Matthew 28:19) God informs us “regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 1:3-4). “Jesus knew that the Father has put all things under his power” (John 13:3) and “God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything” (Ephesians 1:22 & Colossians 2:10) Christ is the power of God. (1.Corinthians 1:24).

4. He regained his ever-living status: Jesus said: “I am the Living One: I was dead, and behold, I am alive for ever and ever.” (Revelation 1:18) He is seated on the throne at the right hand of the Father (Hebrews 1:3)

5. Jesus is worthy of our full worship: “Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9,10).

Limitations of Jesus?

If Jesus is God...
then why did he get hungry, thirsty, eat, drink, get tired, sleep, weep, not know everything, and even die?

Gabriel said about Jesus: “God announces to you the good news of a Word from Him whose name is Jesus, the son of Mary, highly exalted in this world and the next.” (The Qur'an: Al-Imran 3:45)

الله يُبَشِّرُك بِكَلِمَةٍ مِنْهُ أَسْمُهُ الْمَسِيحُ
عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ وَجِيهًا فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ