

## **How does one best describe the indescribable?**

When describing God, I like to use the same language as Jesus, who frequently made use of metaphors, similes, and parables. It is grammatically awkward to use generic pronouns to describe God. There is no generic, non-gender specific, substitute in the English language for "His" and "Her." I wish there were. No Christian, not even a fundamentalist, believes that God is limited to the male gender. When I call God my "Heavenly Father," or use the pronoun "He," everyone knows that these terms are not meant to be gender specific. Using the pronouns "she" or "it" when referring to God would be an immediate "turn-off" for most people. If one uses the term "she," as some do, many people would view this as a sign of rebellion or disrespect towards God and/or the Scriptures.

Technically, God is not a person at all, at least not in the way most of us understand the term. God is a genderless Spirit. The "person" we call God encompasses and includes every single thing and every single person in existence. In God, everything lives and moves and has its being. God becomes "personal" to us only when taking the form of an individual person, sometimes male, sometimes female, sometimes bi-gender, sometimes transgender. We are all God's children, created in His/Her/It's spiritual likeness. When incarnated in the flesh, God takes on many different fleshly forms and genders.

When praying, most of us find it helpful to "visualize" God in our minds, most often as a He, because that is the way we have been conditioned to think. It is helpful for some to visualize God as a she. Many visualize a spiritual, genderless being up in the sky somewhere, or within their souls. Some, who have been abused by their earthly fathers, might have trouble with the term "Heavenly Father," while other victims of abuse might be comforted to know that not all fathers are abusive, especially not their loving Heavenly Father. I personally love to visualize God as my Heavenly Father, because that says so much about how God loves and cares for me. Jesus went even a step further and used the word "abba," which corresponds to the English word "daddy." The point to keep in mind is that all descriptions of God are imperfect and incomplete. How does one actually describe the indescribable?