Chapter 5

5. The Attributes of God

It is felt that the study on Greene is incomplete unless one makes an attempt to study the attributes of God. It is absolutely explicit that Greene gives a vivid portrait of the characteristics of God in his novels with a view to inculcating the significance of spiritual experience in to the minds of the readers. Gaining an insight into different attributes of God paves the way for the readers to comprehend the essentials of reliance on God in every sphere of one’s life. A keen observation on how God plays a crucial role in every stage of man’s life is a clear manifestation
of His amazing attributes. By putting God aside there is no way a man can learn the value of spiritual life. If one takes a meticulous look at His Divine attributes, one can understand that there is hope for man even in bleak situation because God’s attributes get operated in everyone’s life irrespective of circumstances.

Greene elucidates that God is an integral part of man’s life. James A. Devereux in his article Catholic Matters in the Correspondence of Evelyn Waugh and Graham Greene says, “Even one who professes atheism cannot be easily settled in that conviction. God is the whole purpose of human existence and somehow even an atheist senses this”(122). The illustrations in his novels serve as an eye opener for the readers to realize that life with God is an endless hope and life without Him is a hopeless end. The lives of Sarah Miles in The End of the Affair and the whisky priest in The Power and the Glory end on a note of hope because they surrender their entire life to God as a mark of submission to His will. But the life of Doctor Fisher in The Bomb Party ends on a note of hopelessness. The reason is that he has faith not in God but in his riches. Since Greene has painted a picture about how one can make a difference in life by having faith in God, it is worth probing into the attributes of God hidden in the novels of Greene. The fact that God plays a vital role in man’s life can be substantiated by highlighting a significant sentence uttered by Sarah in The End of the Affair. In a conversation with Maurice Bendrix, she says, “People go on loving God without seeing Him”(EA 74). Despite the fact that man is unable to see God with his physical eyes, he cannot but trust in Him. The reason is that man desperately needs hope to cope up with the challenges of his life. This hope can only be found in God. As soon as a seemingly difficult situation arises in man’s life, the first thing that he does is to call upon God. The protagonists of Greene such as Sarah Miles, Pinkie, Scobie and the Whisky priest call upon God when life seems to be hopeless. It shows that man has complete reliance on God
whether he explicitly professes to have faith in Him or not. Man knows pretty well that God alone can save him when he is in trouble. When his strength fails, his immediate response is to cry to God for help.

Greene has a penchant for portraying the attributes of God in his novels. The reason is that he himself has personally experienced the goodness of God in his life. According to the historical records which are the most reliable, Greene intended to commit suicide and put an end to his miserable life. At this stage Father Trollope expounded on the love of God. The history says, “In 1925 when Graham Greene met Father Trollope, the latter was administrative of the cathedral in Nottingham. He warned Greene about the terrible consequences involved in his sinful life. He persuaded him to repent of his wicked ways by believing in God. On hearing his instruction a transformation took place in Greene’s life”. The moment he experienced God’s love, his life under-went an amazing change. Therefore, he is passionately interested to talk about God in his novels. He has a strong conviction that the things pertaining to God in the novels is a source of encouragement and comfort to the readers. He has liberally used the names of God in his novels to show that the life of any man without God is absolutely meaningless. It is God who adds flavour and meaning to his life. Tozer in his book The Knowledge of the Holy says, “the mightiest thought the mind can entertain is the thought of God, and the weightiest word in any language is its word for God. Thought and speech are God’s gifts to creatures made in His image”(8). A right conception of God is basic not only to systematic theology but to practical spiritual life as well. When a man has a manifestation of God’s attributes, he is able to find a solution to thousands of problems he keeps facing in day-to-day life.

Greene provides convincing proof that God is not merely a supernatural power. Instead, He is a person with whom every one can maintain a personal relationship which causes him to
experience unspeakable joy with his soul. Some have a very wrong notion about God. They reckon that only the hermits and the sages who have devoted their entire life to keep on meditating upon God on the mountains and the hills can be close to God. But what Greene says in his religious novels is that even the most detestable sinners can have access to God by means of placing their trust in Him. God is not inaccessible to any man under the sun. Apostle Paul says, “God is not far from each one of us”(Acts 17:27). The attributes of God depicted by Greene in his novels enable the readers to comprehend the fact that man can commune with Him and invite Him to reign on the throne of his heart.

God is the central figure in all his religious novels wherein he highlights the fact that the most important thing in life is man’s relationship with God. The life of the protagonists in his novels is like a fish out of water until the time they find God through prayer. For instance, Sarah’s life in *The End of the Affair* is so miserable that she never experiences peace of mind until she acknowledges the attributes of God and makes a commitment. By virtue of trusting in God as one who answers the prayers of his children, Sarah becomes a changed person, getting rid of her immoral activities. In order to give a vivid portrait of God’s attributes Greene has given a large number of illustrations. His skill lies in depicting the characteristics of God in an entertaining manner. The talk about God is indeed a serious matter, which is to be discussed with all reverence. But what Greene does is to use amusing stories in his novels and persuade the attentions of the readers to get an insight into the attributes of God. This is what makes him a unique writer.

The first thing that he depicts in his novels is that “God is love”(I John 4:8). His love is incomprehensively vast, bottomless and a shoreless sea before which man should kneel down in all reverence and worship Him. His love tells the readers that He is friendly and His attributes
assure man that He is his friend and wants him to be His friend. In none of the novels of Greene, God’s wrath comes upon the protagonists. Greene has portrayed God as one who loves man and longs for his love too. In *The Power and the Glory*, Greene shows how people have a strong conviction in his love and worship him in the Mexican state where religion has been abolished after the establishment of a totalitarian government. Obviously, it is dangerous to worship God in such a state wherein religion is strictly prohibited. But people who have tasted the love of God cannot afford to cease to worship Him. Greene says, “It infuriated the lieutenant to think that there were still people in the state who believed in a loving and merciful God” (PG 20). Knowing that God is love can drive one’s fear that may come in any form. The love of God empowers the believers to be steadfast in their commitment even in the midst of tribulations.

Since God is love, He hungers for man’s love. Neil McEwan in his book *Graham Greene* says, “*The End of the Affair* glimpses Greene’s God hungry for human love” (72). Despite the fact that God is the creator of the whole universe He is always with open arms to accept anybody who comes to Him as His child. Sarah Miles is an immoral woman. Though she is married to Henry Miles she has an illegal relationship with Maurice. She is a Christian by birth. She was baptized in the church when she was a child. Yet, there is not an iota of commitment in her to fear God and shun evil. Even in such a situation God who is love, is waiting for her. When a sheep goes astray or get lost, the shepherd cannot remain calm. Instead, he goes out in search of that lost sheep. Similarly God’s love keeps pursuing those who have gone astray from the path of righteousness. In *Brighton Rock* also, one can find the same sort of situation. Pinkie is far away from God. Even at a tender age, he has got his own gang wherein the members are ungodly. Though Pinkie walks in the path of darkness, God’s love chases after him. Neil McEwan also
says, “God comes hunting for Pinkie’s repentance, at the end of his life”(67). The more Pinkie runs away from God, the more He pursues him.

Greene makes it very clear that God wants man to understand that His warmth of love never changes. God earnestly desires that man should come to His loving fold by any means. In order to substantiate it, he makes use of Sarah and Pinkie as protagonists in The End of the Affair’s and Brighton Rock respectively. These two characters are the ones who renounce their spiritual principles for the sake of passing pleasures of sins. They want to live in their own world, attaching no importance to anything related to spiritual values. But God makes their circumstances in such a way that at least they call upon Him when their strength fails. God’s presence keeps going before them wherever they go. This reminds the reader of how God constantly pursues man in The Hound of Heaven.

“I fled Him down the nights and down the days
I fled Him down the arches of the years
I fled Him down the labyrinthine ways
Of my own mind, and in the midst of tears
I hid from him, and under running laughter”(HH 1-5)

In the beginning of the poem the poet flees away from God. But God constantly follows him. And towards the end of the poem, the poet feels that no man can flee from God’s presence.

“But just that thou might'est seek it in my arms.
All which thy childs mistake fancies as lost,
I have stored for thee at Home.
Rise, clasp my hand, and come.
Halts by me that Footfall.
Is my gloom, after all,
Shade of His hand, outstretched caressingly?
Ah, Fondest, Blindest, Weakest,
I am He whom thou seekest.
Thou dravest Love from thee who dravest Me” (HH 73-82).

Greene himself experienced God as one who constantly pursues man. Despite having been brought up by the pattern of worship followed by the Anglican Church, he lost all his interest in religious matters and started leading an irresolute life. This resulted in complete loss of his inner peace. By force of circumstances, he started longing for peace. Francis Wyndham in his book *Graham Greene* says that Greene realized that “God is the pursuer from where whom there could be no escape” (6). Eventually, Greene committed his life to God whose love made a big impact on him and enabled him to find eternal bliss. By virtue of depicting God as one who constantly follows man, Greene highlights the tendency of man. His tendency is to commit sins and go away from the presence of God whereas God’s nature is to go after him, find him and bring him back to his loving fold. This theme is evident in all his novels.

Neil McEwan in his book *Graham Greene* comments, “*The Power and the Glory* illustrates the maxim that one cannot hand in resignation to God” (67). The whisky priest is aware of his spiritual vulnerability. He knows pretty well that he is not worthy to serve God as he is wavering in his commitment. A priest who desires to get involved in God’s mission ought to hate the worldly pleasures and make his ministry as his priority. But the whisky priest is a lover of pleasure to the core. He has an unquenchable thirst for whisky which is absolutely contrary. Time after time he acknowledges his unworthiness to remain a priest. He does not want to wear a
mask thereby deceiving the congregation. He feels like giving up his priestly duty once for all and turn to be a layman so that he does not have to worry about any religious matters at all. As Neil McEwan has pointed out, the priest intends to renounce his priesthood. One can imagine the situation and understand what has really happened in the life of priest. He approaches God through prayer and expresses his wish to give up his religious duty. He even plans to hand in a resignation to God.

When the priest desires to resign his religious job God rejects his impassioned plea for quitting his priestly duty. It has a symbolical meaning that God loves man so much that He cannot leave man to go on his way. His love compels man to stay with Him and experience love, joy and peace under His wings. His love has no boundary at all. The divine love is best explained in *A Burnt-out Case* in which Querry is the central character. “He offered to share his food with Deo Gratias”(BC 21). The young boy Deo Gratias is one who is affected by leprosy. His organs of the body are completely mutilated. The moment a person looks at him, he tends to keep himself aloof from him because his body is untouchable. Leprosy is one of the detestable diseases. Therefore, people intend to look at the lepers with an expression of excessive distaste. But as for Querry, he is happy to spend his time with him. His love for him gets manifested to the readers when he is willing to share his food with the leper.

It is quite apparent that Querry is a highly reputed man who holds an enormous skill in the field of architecture. Yet, he humbles himself to such an extent as to commune with the lowly servant. This kind gesture stands for God’s love. God loves even the most detestable sinners who do not deserve any act of kindness. The fact that God is love, gives courage and confidence to the readers that any man can approach God and find an everlasting peace in His presence. One of the barriers that stops man from drawing close to God is the fear of being rejected by Him. The
fear comes owing to his sins. The fear coupled with guilty conscience does not allow man to come to God’s presence boldly. It so happens that Scobie in *The Heart of the Matter* gets entangled in the sin of adultery. When his wife Louise comes back from South Africa, she asks Scobie to come to the Church and get reconciled with God by virtue of confessing his sins. She also wants her husband to take part in the Holy Communion. But Scobie, being pricked by his guilty conscience, does not want to come with Louise to the church. At this juncture, Scobie has a misconception about God. He has failed to understand that God is love and His loving arms are always wide open. That is why he is hesitant about coming before the presence of God.

The moment a person gets an insight that God is love; he is driven by His love to serve the poor and needy. In *A Burnt-out Case* Father Thomas, Father Joseph, Brother Philippe, Father Paul and Father Jean dedicate themselves to serve the down-trodden. They choose to work in a missionary organization which runs a hospital at a leper colony in the Congo. This sort of commitment can only spring from those who have experienced God’s love. Any man who tastes the love of God cannot remain idle. He wants to express God’s love to others by means of some noble deeds. That is what the priests in *A Burnt-out Case* do. Honestly speaking, working in the Congo is very difficult. Not everyone can afford to work in such a place where there is an enormous amount of risk. They make it a point to give a special care to those who have been afflicted by leprosy. Despite the fact that there are several avenues open to them to live for themselves, they renounce all sorts of worldly pleasures for the sake of serving God. In this novel Greene shows that only those who have been touched by the love of God can develop such a desire to serve the needy.

God’s love inspires very ordinary people to commit themselves for His service. When Pinkie was a small boy, he had a passion to become a priest and thereby he wanted to be a
channel of blessings to the society. This was not a desire that came out of his self-will. Instead, it was a steadfast commitment that he made after being influenced by the love of God. He said, “When I was a kid, I swore I’d be a priest”(BR 166). But when he grew, his interest in spiritual matters began to diminish. Greene shows the readers that God’s call to accomplish His mission is not meant for only those who have been predestined or for only those who are absolutely infallible. He calls even morally weak people to display His love to others. In The Power and the Glory the whisky priest makes it clear that God can use even the most deplorable sinners like him because He is known for His love. When the priest meets a group of people he says, “My children, you must never think the holy martyrs are like me. Oh, I’ve heard you use it before none. I am a whisky priest”(PG 119). The priest admits his spiritual vulnerability and tells them that God can use anybody for His glory regardless of one’s spiritual standard. It reminds the readers of the life of Peter who denied Christ and Thomas who doubted His resurrection. Honestly speaking, they are sinners in the sight of God. Yet, God used these two men mightily for the expansion of His kingdom. Both of them died as martyrs while serving Him. David Pryce-Jones in his book Graham Greene says, “The Power and the Glory is special pleading for the paradoxes of sainthood whereby a man as sinful as the priest is driven against his instincts of self-preservation to die for his faith, and whereby God can utilize so weak a vessel for His purposes”(57).

Greene’s point of view is that if God loves only the morally upright and uses only the deserving people for expanding His kingdom, not all men under the sun will be eligible before God for His mission. Unless God is merciful, man has to reap terrible consequences for each and every sin he commits. And God’s wrath will always be upon man. Since God is merciful any sinful can come to Him and experience His love and peace. When the Yankee is dying, the priest
wants to say one final prayer after uttering some words of absolution. When he prays, the priest says, “O merciful God, after all he was thinking of me, it was for my sake”(180). The truth that God is merciful enables the priest to do at least a bit of ministry for God and press on towards his goal. Thus says Tozer in his book *The Attributes of God: their meaning in the Christian life*, “Mercy is an attribute of God, an infinite and inexhaustible energy within the divine nature which disposes God to be actively compassionate”(97). Since God is merciful, He is compassionate enough to entrust certain tasks into the hands of His children, who are under the influence of instinct, and empower them to carry His mission.

Being merciful, God gives an opportunity for the sinners to get rid of their sins and turn to Him. Since He is merciful one should not take it for granted. When the Yankee delays to confess his sins, the priest tells him, “Don’t depend too much on God’s mercy. He has given you this chance: He may not give you another”(PG 178-179). Through this episode Greene wants to give a word of caution to the readers that the God of mercy will forgive whatever sin one commits. But taking God’s mercy in a light-hearted manner will result in terrible consequences. In *Brighton Rock* Pinkie, who is closely acquainted with the things related to God and salvation, he deliberately commits the sin of murdering Hale. It is obviously a terrible sin against God. To make the matter worse, he marries Rose, pretending to love her. Now both Pinkie and Rose ought to be on the move because they could be caught by the police at any time. Neville Braybrooke in his article *Graham Greene: A Pioneer Novelists* comments, “Even if they escape the police, they cannot escape God”(5). The statement of Neville is true in the sense that the God of justice causes Pinkie to reap the consequences of his committing murder in the end of the novel.
Having depicted God as an embodiment of love and compassion, Greene portrays God as one who brings about a dramatic transformation in the life of sinners. Robert A. Wilchert in his article *The Quality of Graham Greene’s mercy* comments, “God is concerned about the sinners who may turn to be saints”(99). Since God has a great deal of concern for the sinners, Greene weaves the plot of his novels in such a way that the sinners outnumber the saints in his novels. By letting the sinners suffer, owing to their sins, Greene substantiates that God alone is capable of transforming a sinner into a saint. It is a unique attribute of God that He can take off the misery from a sinner’s life and make him joyful. Today as never before there is a tremendous improvement in the field of science and technology. Man tends to forget God and relies on science. Though man has got such an enormous skill to do all these things, he is incapable of finding a cure to his spiritual problems. Greene says emphatically that God alone can change a sinner’s life and fill his empty soul with a transcendental happiness.

Leila Christenbury in her book *Recommended: Graham Greene* says, “When the whisky priest in *The Power and the Glory* is finally captured and executed at the end of the novel, the bad priest, the fallen man, is transformed into a symbol of martyrdom and hope to the local people”(77). What Greene tells in this novel is that when God encounters a man, he will never be the same. He becomes a new creation and a living proof that there is not any sinner in this world whose life cannot be touched by the love of God. Although the priest has committed too many sins, he humbles himself before the presence of God in the end. He places his absolute trust in God who is capable of washing his sins and transforming him thoroughly. After his death, people consider him as a martyr and realize how important it is to be steadfast in their faith even when tribulations assail them. The life of the whisky priest is a source of inspiration for the people to cope with suffering that comes for their faith’s sake. Similarly, Sarah in *The End of the Affair*
also leaves a legacy to the next generation. People regard her as a saint because God brought about a tremendous change in her life and made her a lover of God.

God transforms not only the life of Sarah but also Smythe, who is a vigorous atheist and Bendrix. Smythe distributes pamphlets in which he has given his own argument to prove that there is no God. He had even given his address for his readers so that they could come to him and get convincing proof for the fact that there is no God. He has an ugly mark on his face. God causes him to obtain a miraculous healing. The mark which is obviously seen on his face disappears once for all. As a result he becomes a believer. Bendrix says, “It will be in the Newspaper: ‘Rationalist speaker converted by miraculous cure’”(189). As Bendrix stated, one can visualize that when the news is published, people become greatly astonished at the transformed life of Smythe. His testimonial life becomes a source of inspiration for many people and makes them believers in God.

When the readers keep exploring many important things with regard to the transforming power of God, another person who is to be looked at is Bendrix. His heart is full of hatred. He hates God for having changed the life of Sarah. Soon after being transformed by the love of God Sarah becomes a lover of God abandoning Bendrix. He is exceedingly furious when he reads the diary of Sarah and gets to know that she has surrendered her entire life to God and made Him his lover. But in the end of the novel, the readers are informed that his life has undergone a change. Keshava Prasad in his book *Graham Greene: The Novelist* says, “Bendrix too undergoes a change of heart. He is no more doubting, angry, obsessed lover. He becomes whole through Sarah’s power of love. Bendrix has lost Sarah but he has gained God’s love. His defeat at the hand of his enemy is also his victory. He is purged of his excessive pride, hatred and disgust. He is beginning to learn the value of humility. He has achieved the peace that surpasses human
understanding”(141-142). When God transforms a person’s life, his malicious characters depart from him and his life becomes a channel of blessings to people around him. This is the greatest miracle that God performs. When Greene paints a portrait of the transformed life of the sinners in his novels, he underlines the fact that God is a performer of miracles.

The manner in which God performs miracles is amazing and the human mind cannot comprehend it. Greene points out that human mind is so limited that it cannot understand the miracle working power of God quite easily. Wilhelm in his *Graham Greene: The Burnt-Out Catholic* comments, “Graham Greene expands a great deal of ingenuity to prove that miracles are possible”(64). Greene reveals the fact that God proves his divine power through performing miracles. If a man tries to critically analyze the miracles of God logically, he will end up in failure. The spiritual matters ought to be spiritually discerned. Man cannot rely on his intellectual power to discern the spiritual matters as God’s ways are inscrutable. Elliot Malamet in his book *The Case of Graham Greene’s The Heart of the Matter* says, “God transcends the boundaries of temporal knowledge”(300). In *The Heart of the Matter* there is no need for Scobie to commit suicide at all. The flaw in his character is that he tries to conceive the concept of God with his limited knowledge. This is where he has gone wrong. David Karnath in his journal *Bernanos, Greene and the Novel Convention* says, “Greene may be suggesting that God’s love transcends the jealousy of fallen man that Scobie is shaping God in his own human inadequacy and is mistaken in thinking himself damned”(437). In order to have a right understanding of God man should humble himself and confess his complete trust in him, no matter whatever the situations he undergoes. Spiritual life is one which is lived not by sight but by faith.

God’s intervention in the life of a man takes place clandestinely. As far as Scobie’s life is concerned, he obtains many opportunities to turn to God. The reason is that God had complete
control over his situation in such a way that he would repent and get the experience of salvation. When Louise comes back from South Africa, she is startled as Scobie is romantically inclined towards Helen by betraying her trust in him. It is God who causes Louise to return from South Africa. Elliot Malamet in his book *The Case of Graham Greene’s The Heart of the Matter* says, “The presence of God approaches Scobie as a silent observer”(177). God who watches everything that happens in this world wants to interfere in his life and change him. It is quite apparent that Scobie has failed to understand that God always watches over him. If he had comprehended that he cannot commit any sin and remain unnoticed by God, he would have been strong in his moral life. The readers ought to critically examine as to why Louise returns from South Africa within a short span of time. One can imagine that whatever Scobie does God invisibly observes. God is displeased with the immoral activities of Scobie. In order to bring him back to his loving fold, he causes Louise to meet Scobie in such an unexpected moment so that his relationship with Helen will not prolong. The fact that God is an invisible observer is evident in all the religious novels of Greene.

Another attribute of God that Greene talks about in his novels that he is the one who has given free will to mankind. God did not create man as a machine that is operated by somebody and keeps doing his work continuously. This concept is clearly seen in *The End of the Affair, The Heart of the Matter, Brighton Rock* and *The Power and the Glory*. In all these novels the protagonists are not restricted by any supernatural power in such a way that they would never violate God’s commands. Instead they are given free will to make their own choices. Greene highlights how magnanimous God is. God does not force anybody to accept His love and lead a kind of life that He expects to lead. If a man wants to experience His love, he has to voluntarily surrender himself to God by making a personal choice. Greene is of the opinion that God cannot
enter into a man’s heart by force. The whisky priest, Scobie, Sarah and Pinkie are given absolute freedom to lead their life as per their wish and to distinguish between the good and the evil. This implies that God has laid two ways before man; the path of righteousness and the path that leads to destruction. The choice that he makes determines his destiny. When Scobie is about to get entangled in the sin of adultery, God can forbid him from being defiled by evil thought. When Sarah begins to have an extra-marital affair with Bendrix in *The End of the Affair* God can stop her forcibly from falling in sin. But God does not do so. Instead, He provides them the freedom of choice. When the prodigal son makes a decision to leave his father, the latter does not stop his son by force. Instead, he allows him to act upon his own wish. In the same way God deals with every man.

When people make wrong choices and walk in the path of sin, God causes them to pay the price. He wants people to have a sense of realization that sinful pleasures bring forth irreparable damages to their life. When they make right choices He helps them by empowering them to be steadfast in the way of righteousness. When Sarah enters into an agreement with God that she would put an end to her immoral life, Bendrix makes every possible effort to bring her back under his clutches. When he tries to defile her spirituality, God interferes and protects her. At this point of time Greene depicts God as one who safeguards his believers in such a way that they will not turn back to the former sinful life that they used to lead. After Sarah gets herself separated from Bendrix, they both once again meet each other. Now Sarah has a temptation. Bendrix nears her to touch her. Kulshrestha in her book *Graham Greene: The novelist* says, “Her fit of coughing prevents Bendrix from kissing her when they meet again after their separation”(123). It is an act of God that caused her to cough when he tries to kiss her. This episode implies that God can certainly protect those who have made commitment to lead a sin-
free life. He is capable of changing the circumstances which will be favorable for the believers to overcome the temptation of being enticed by the sinful pleasures.

Greene’s major concern is that people should experience God’s transforming and miracle-working power by inviting into their heart. In order to instill faith on the minds of the people he uses many illustrations in his novels which reflect God’s attributes. It lays a platform for man to gain an access to God. Greene depicts God as one who has been born in the womb of Virgin Mary. The primary purpose of God’s incarnation is to save the sinners. When Mrs. Fellows and her daughter get involved in a conversation the girl asks her mother, “Do you believe there is a God…. I mean the Virgin birth – and everything” (PG 47). Greene uses the daughter of Fellows as his mouth piece to inform the readers about how miraculously God came into this world as a symbol of humility to save the sinners. He was born in a lowly manger with a primary objective of pulling the sinners from the path of darkness and guiding them to the path of light. God’s birth in this world made an indelible mark in history. It is because of His birth that the history of the world was divided into two major components namely AD and BC. Today no man can refer to history without mentioning any one of these two words. The birth of God reminds the readers of His gift of salvation to mankind. The significance of Christmas is giving. God gave himself as a ransom for redeeming man from the clutches of sin. This is the core theme of Christmas.

The story of Doctor Fischer of Geneva came to Greene when he was feasting on Christmas day along with his daughter. He says in the open page of the novel, “it is dedicated to my daughter, Caroline Bourget at whose Christmas table at Jongry this story first came to me” (BP 7). Although Greene does not deal with Christmas elaborately in his novels, he affirms the truth that God’s birth in this world has made man realize the greatness of His love. Giving is
the hallmark of God’s love. In Doctor Fischer of Geneva, when Jones and Anna celebrate their first post-marital Christmas, they recall God’s incarnation and celebrate it with immense joy. Jones says, “Anna-Luise bought a tree and we laid our presents for each other at its foot, gift-wrapped in the shops with gay paper and ribbons” (BP 79). At the old abbey at Saint Maurice, they hear the sermon on Christmas which leaves them contemplating God’s matchless love. It is obvious that Jones and Anna are not financially sound enough to celebrate Christmas in a grand manner by spending enormous amount of money. Yet, they are happy while celebrating the historical event. Here, Greene depicts God as one who gives happiness to all men regardless of their financial status. Jones and Anna are pretty ordinary people. Yet, they are able to lead a happy life because of their faith in God. At this juncture, Greene portrays God as the giver of hope to the hopeless.

According to Greene, another important attribute of God is that He is the one who died on the cross for the sins of every man under the sun. When Sarah in The End of the Affair goes to the church, the first thing that captivates her attention is an image that portrays God as being crucified on the cross. On seeing this, she says, “Dear God, I believe you were born. I believe you died for us. I believe you are God” (EA 120). Confessing that God died for one’s sins has got a tremendous power which is capable of transforming one’s sinful life. The sacrificial death of Christ on the cross should be remembered by everyone. Keeping this in mind, in the churches communion services are conducted at regular intervals. The wine in the Holy Communion represents the blood of Christ which was shed as remission for the sins of people. The bread stands for His body which was nailed to the cross. In The Power and the Glory also Greene depicts God as one who has given His life to ransom man from the clutches of sin. The Whisky Priest, despite being vulnerable to carnal desires shares this truth with everyone whom he
encounters. Even though it is dangerous to talk about religious matter in Mexico where religion is outlawed, he makes it a point to courageously proclaim the truth about God’s redeeming love. Diana Neill in her book titled *A Short History of the English Novel* testifies, “One of the important aspects of *The Power and the Glory* is the acknowledgment of the truth that Christ died for the world that is, at best, disgusting”(391).

In *The Heart of the Matter* also the readers are made to look at the love of God that was exhibited on the Cross. When Louise returns from South Africa she realizes the fact that Scobie’s soul has been defiled because he has committed adultery. She has a strong conviction that her husband Scobie need not live in a state of despair, being pricked by his guilty conscience all the time. He can bounce back to his former righteous life if he believes that the blood of Christ can wash his sins thoroughly. Louise wants Scobie to believe in God, confess his sins and start leading a new life. For this very purpose she asks him to come to the church and take part in the Holy Communion. When he comes to the Church, he looks at the Cross as Sarah did. “Looking up towards the Cross on the altar he thought savagely: take your sponge of gall. You made me what I am….. He did not need to open his Missal to know this prayer ended. May the receiving of Thy body, O Lord Jesus Christ, which I unworthy presume to take, turn not to my judgment and condemnation”(HM 249). Though Scobie takes part in communion, since he has not confessed his sins and made a resolution not to continue to commit sins he used to commit, he does not experience God’s forgiveness. Here, Greene shows the fact that God cannot work in the hearts of those who refuse to confess their sins to Him.

Scobie knows pretty well that he can get reconciled with God by means of confessing his sins to Him. He knows very well that Christ died for his sins too. There is a chance for him to obtain salvation. But he despises the chance. God cannot transform the life of those who harden
their hearts. Here, Greene points out that the mere knowledge about Christ’s death on the cross cannot save a man. If a man wants to obtain salvation he has to voluntarily stoop down and accept Him as his personal God, Lord and Savior. Salvation is a personal experience. To gain this experience one has to personally come to God’s presence and confess his sins. Otherwise, whatever ceremonies he observes will by no means save him from his sinful life. There is a great deal of similarity between Scobie of *The Heart of the Matter* and Pinkie of *Brighton Rock*. Both of them know about the attributes of God perfectly well. The knowledge about God is just in their minds. But they have failed to apply the truth of God to their practical life. Pinkie was born and brought up as a good Christian at the initial stage of his life. He was in the choir, being an active participant in the Church activities.

When he and Rose indulge in a conversation, Pinkie reveals to her how profoundly he was interested in spiritual activities. When she asks about his religious background he tells her that he used to be in the choir. Then he began to sing the song, “Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem. In his voice a whole lost world moved; the lighter corner below the organ, the smell of incense and laundered surplices, and the music” (BR 53). The meaning of the song is that Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world and gives peace. He did not sing the song meaningfully. The words that he sang just came from his lips not from his heart. One cannot experience God’s redeeming power unless one personally calls upon to come into one’s heart. It is a pity that both Scobie and Pinkie are not able to have the assurance of salvation in spite of their sound knowledge in scriptures. The reason is that they are not able to enter into an agreement with God by saying that they will stop committing the sins they used to do. The door of their heart is locked in such a way that God’s redeeming power cannot operate in their life.
The next attribute of God that Greene highlights is that he is the one who rewards those who believe Him. The skeptics are the ones who believe everything after seeing them with their own eyes. Spiritual life is not about believing only the things that are seen. The fragrance of a flower can only be felt. There is no way one can see the sweet smelling fragrance of a flower. God’s presence in each and every aspect of one’s life can be felt if one simply believes in Him. Jesus said to Thomas, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed”(John 20:29). Thomas who is called doubting Thomas believed Christ only after what he has seen. But what is acceptable in God’s sight is that one should have child-like faith in God in all circumstances. It is Greene’s point of view that as long as the human race exists in this world, people will continue to believe in God even without seeing Him. Those who have experienced how good He is can never afford to deny His existence. The believers know very well that God rewards everyone who seeks Him and trusts in Him without any wavering of mind. All the protagonists in the novels of Greene have a strong conviction that God will never put to shame those who trust in Him. They remain firm in their belief that their faith will be richly rewarded by God someway or other. If a man believes only what is seen, then it is not faith at all.

Helen in *The Heart of the Matter* is not at all a staunch believer in God. Yet, she knows that without God her life would end up in despair. Greene gives a vivid picture of her state after the death of Scobie. “She was alone in darkness behind her lids, and the wish struggled in her body like a child: her lips moved, but all she could think of to say the last line of the Lord’s Prayer”(HM 304). Her only hope is that if she seeks God by placing her trust in Him, He will surely reward her by filling her with eternal peace. Her hope has not gone in vain. She has started trusting God even without seeing Him with her physical eyes. In *Burnt-out Case*, Father Thomas, Father Joseph, Father Paul and Father Jean leave all their loved ones to get involved in a mission
work in a faraway place where there is a lot of inconvenience. One can say with a sense of certainty that they love God even without seeing Him. They have an unshakable faith that the reward for their noble deeds will be given by God. So they love God and express His love to those who are victims of leprosy. Today thousands of missionaries all over the world choose the socially neglected vicinities as their mission fields and do all they can for the welfare of the poor and the needy. The missionaries many in number are the ones who have never seen God with their physical eyes. Yet, they have made a decision to do their outreach work. They have fully dedicated themselves for God’s work after experiencing His redeeming power in their own life. As Sarah in *The End of the Affair* pointed out they are the people who go on loving God even without seeing Him.

Greene draws the attention of the readers to the fact that God is the one who is worthy to be trusted regardless of whether one is able to see Him literally or not. The main reason why man should trust in God is that God is the creator of the world. He is the one who gave Himself as a sacrifice to redeem man from his sinful life. He is the one who can give eternal bliss to man. In *A Burnt-out Case* when Dr. Colin and Querry are seated on the steps of the hospital which is run by the missionaries, in the leper colony, their attention is drawn towards the church which is located inside the mission premises. It is a Sunday morning. The superior of the church is found to be conducting the service. After sometime, Doctor Colin hears the superior say, “Yezu is not just a holy man. Yezu is God and Yezu made the world. When you make a song you are in the song, when you make a baby you are in the baby and because Yezu made you, He is in you” (BC 35). In this novel Greene uses the superior as his mouth-piece to proclaim that God is the Creator of the World. Since man is the creation of God, he dwells in Him. Therefore He is worthy to be trusted and worshipped by every man. Another character who is used by Greene as a mode of
communication to convey the truth that God is the creator of the world is Pinkie. Since he attended the church services regularly during his boyhood days, the messages that he heard keep ringing in his ears. At one point of time, “Pinkie thought of the words in the mass: God was in the world and the world was made by Him and the world knew Him not” (BR 243). The verse that Pinkie was reminded of is found in the first chapter of The Gospel according to St. John.

One can get an insight into God’s awesome traits when one believes that He is the creator of the world. Although the protagonists are spiritually vulnerable, they confess their faith in God at least when they are in trouble. The reason is that God is unique in their life. When a man believes that God has control over everything, he can have the assurance that He will take care of his entire life. There is a feeling of security for those who believe in God. If man knows that God rules over the whole universe and His hand is in everything, he need not be anxious about anything. Man can simply leave everything in God’s hand as He is always in control. That is what Greene believes and proclaims in his novels. There is a European controller in the Cargo department of Otraco. When Querry and he get involved in a conversation, the latter says, “God rules the weather, I assure you, M. Querry” (BR 25). The point that the controller makes is that God’s hand is in everything. He rules over the world and so man can stay secured without being anxious about anything. None of the sheep worries about its need because its shepherd provides its needs. The faith that God is in control enables man to lead a carefree life. There is a vast difference between the believers and the unbelievers. The believers can remain steadfast even in the midst of storm-like situations that assail them because they believe that God will take care of their lives whereas the unbelievers are always under hopelessness and despair in life. They seem to be in constant fear because of their anxieties in life.
Maria Couto in her book *Graham Greene: On The Frontier* says, “the narrative work of *The End of the Affair* illustrates the actions which are directed invisibly by God”(83). What Maria Couto says is that God’s invisible hand is in everything pertaining to a man’s life. Sarah is the wife of Henry Miles, he projects himself as a well wisher of their family. Henry is a man of integrity. He is morally upright. He remains a faithful husband to Sarah in all respects. But when Bendrix develops an intimacy with Sarah, there forms an illicit affair. Henry is absolutely unaware of the fact Bendrix is a deceiver. In this episode Greene gives a vivid picture about how beautifully God interferes in Sarah’s life and destroys the unhealthy relationship. God’s mighty power operates in the life of Bendrix in such a way that he gets entangled in a bomb explosion. If this incident had not occurred, Sarah Miles would not have got rid of her immoral deeds. One of the core themes that Greene deals with this novel is that God changes the circumstances according to His will and plan. The primary purpose of God in controlling the circumstances of man is to lay a platform for him to get an access to Him. In this novel Greene has given a convincing proof as to how God uses circumstances as an instrument to change a man’s life.

Another important attribute of God depicted by Greene is that He is the one who hears the prayers of man. The Psalmist says, “O God who hears prayer, to you all flesh will come”(Psalm 65:2). By means of prayer the finite man is able to draw near to the infinite God. This concept gets revealed in all the religious novels of Greene. The point that Greene makes is that God is not far away from man. He is just a prayer away. Prayer is nothing but a language that is spoken to God. One can feel God being very close to him when one offers his prayer. Even the unbelievers have a tendency to call upon God when they are not able to find a remedy to their problems. What Greene shows is that prayer is not an act which is to be performed if only somebody every day, both in happy and sorrowful moments.
Prayer is a form of worship through which a man can talk to God, express his feelings, confess his sins, give praises and eventually submit himself fully to Him. Prayer is not just a ceremony. Instead it is an act by which man can develop a love relationship with God. When a person prays to God, God reveals to him the impurities of his inner mind. When Scobie in *The Heart of the Matter* prays to God, he is made to realize his sinful deeds. He prays as follows “O God…. I can’t go on giving You pain. If You love me, help me to leave You. Dear God, forget me” (HM 296). He says this prayer to God towards the end of the novel after being guilty of having committed adultery. His prayer reminds the readers of the prayer of Simon Peter in the New Testament. In *The Gospel according to Luke* Jesus tells him to launch out into the deep and let down his net for a catch. When Peter does according to the instruction of Jesus he catches a large quantity of fish. Then he says to Jesus, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man O Lord” (Luke 5:8). What one can learn from the prayer of Scobie and Peter is that as soon as a man comes to God’s presence through prayer God makes him realize his unholy deeds which he has done. Thus, God enables everyone to set right his life.

In *The Power and the Glory* the Whisky Priest is equally sorrowful about his sins as Scobie did. When he prays to God, God convicts him of his sinful deeds. So he laments and says to God, “O God…. damn me I deserve it” (PG 197). His prayer is one of the significant components of the novel. When he prays, tears roll down from his cheeks. He knows for certain that God will accept him as his child if he confesses his sins. Greene brings it to the notice of the readers that the prayer which is offered with tears has a power to find favor in the sight of God. The best thing about the Whisky Priest is that he prays even on the day when he is about to be shot dead. The believers can pray to God in both good times and bad times because God does everything for their own good.
The prayer of Pinkie in *Brighton Rock* implies the fact that man cannot but call upon God when he is in trouble. Pinkie has completely been away from God ever since he played a key role to murder Hale. After the murder of Hale, Pinkie never shows interest in any Godly matters. All he wants is fame. So he has earned the company of a gang. They assist in all his evil schemes. When he sees the police nearing him, he says, “My God, have I got to have a massacre?” (BR 245). Even those who reject God are bound to call upon Him because God is a very present help in trouble. Apart from Him there can be no other hope for man in this world. Without prayer and worship man can never be able to experience joy and peace. Only those who believe in God and pray to Him daily will be able to find Him as the God of hope, the giver of peace and eternal God. Doctor Fischer in *The Bomb Party* never confesses his faith in God and makes an effort to pray. Therefore he never finds God as the giver of peace. Though he possesses abundant riches, he does not know what peace is. The reason is that he never practiced the habit of praying to at least when he is in trouble.

In *The End of the Affair* Sarah Miles has a strong conviction in the power of prayer. She is of the opinion that if she seeks God sincerely by praying to Him her prayers will be heard. When she is a small girl she is baptized in the Church. This is an indication that she is a Christian. But during her adulthood she is completely away from God. Greene weaves the plot of the novel in such a way that Sarah is made to realize that God who is in heaven listens to the prayers of His children. When Sarah writes a letter to Maurice, she says, “I am praying to God all the time” (EA 146). It implies that she has experienced God as one who can be approached at any time through prayer. The more she prays, the closer she draws near to God. The prayer of Sarah, Whisky priest, Pinkie, Rose and Scobie exhibits the truth that it is God’s plan that man should express his need to Him through prayer. Since God is rich in His mercy, He can give all
that man needs even without his asking for it. But He does not do so because He wants the believers to come to Him as a son who comes to his father and expresses his needs.

In *A Burnt-out Case*, Greene depicts God as one who expects man to be grateful to Him for all the good things that he enjoys in this world. In the mission field the priests have arranged a get-together. Before they have their food, they have a thanksgiving service to take time to bring to their remembrance all God’s benefits. “Before the feast there was a service. Father Thomas traipsed round the new hospital, supported by Father Joseph and Father Paul, sprinkling the walls with holy water, and several hymns were sung in the Mongo language. There had been prayers and a sermon from Father Thomas” (BC 165). The priests know very well that God takes great pleasure in the sacrifice of thanksgiving. They want to acknowledge that it is because of God’s grace that they have been able to run the dispensary at the leper colony in Congo. They do not want to take any credit to themselves for having established the mission hospital here. Through this episode, Greene brings it to the notice of the readers that whatever man is able to achieve in this world is because of His grace. It is God who provides wisdom, it is He who gives strength and it is He who directs every step of man. Therefore, man should take ample amount of time to express his gratitude to God just like the missionary priests who arranged for thanksgiving service. Man has got nothing to be proud of anything he has achieved.

Greene also depicts God as one who treats everybody without any prejudice. Rycker says, “We are all equal in the sight of God” (BC 182). The fact that every man born in this world is equal in the sight of God is a piece of good tidings. Whether a man is rich or poor, white or black and slave or king he has to remember that he is just one of the members in God’s family. Every man in the family of God is unique and distinct. Today there are a large number of divisions among men because of social status and financial background. If the people of two
nations live in harmony by believing that they are equal in the sight of God, there will be peace and prosperity everywhere. There will not be any bloodshed. There will be no need for nuclear bombs. Today the feelings of over confidence are prevalent everywhere among men. Because of ego clash, wars breakout which result in complete chaos around the world. Therefore, peace is seldom found in the contemporary world. The knowledge that every man is equal in the sight of God cannot create walls of division among men. Instead it can build bridges that link two different ethnic groups of people as one family.

Another important thing that Greene talks about is that God is infinitely creative, and the variety in man’s personality, senses of humor, abilities and preferences in music are all handcrafted by Him. This truth is beautifully depicted by Greene. Pinkie in *Brighton Rock* is a renowned singer. He has the gift of singing melodiously. The moment he sings it is highly appealing to those who hear him singing. The Whisky priest in *The Power and the Glory* has the gift of preaching. That is why he has made a commitment to being a priest. Whenever he preaches the love of God, the hearts of the people are greatly moved. Even when he is imprisoned he is able to pray and share the message of God’s love to his fellow prisoners. Scobie in *The Heart of the Matter* possess a distinctive quality to sacrifice himself for the welfare of his wife and others. He is least bothered about his own well being. His primary intention is to make others happy. Querry in *A Burnt-out Case* has got a tremendous skill in the field of architecture. By virtue of using his distinctive skills, he builds beautiful Churches. The wife of Doctor Fischer in *The Bomb Party* is talented in music. She has a penchant for Mozart. Her daughter Anna Louis has a virtue of self sacrificing nature. She is a replica of Scobie. In all these novels the readers are able to know how a diversity of gifts still has a common bond and can work together for
God’s purposes to bring Him glory. The talents may differ but it is the same God who works all in all.

One of the amazing creations of God is the differences that He has purposefully made among men. Each and every man created by Him is strikingly significant in His sight. Yet no two are identical. The talent of the Whisky priest is entirely different from that of Scobie. Both of them are equally treated by God’s mercy. They both become the recipients of God’s mercy. Greene is of the opinion that since all men are equal in the sight of God, people should respect one another and live in harmony. God has given everybody a unique role to play. If every man sets his mind on his own role to do his best his life will be meaningful in all respects. In A Burnt-out Case there is a mission field wherein religious and social activities take place simultaneously. Doctor Colin’s role is to give good care to the patients. The role of Querry is to construct new buildings for the dispensary. The primary responsibilities of Father Thomas, Father Joseph, Brother Philippe, Father Paul and Father Jean are to provide spiritual food to the people. There is no way the role of Querry is less important than those of others. In this mission campus, God has distributed different responsibilities to different people according to His plan. Since everyone carries out his own responsibilities perfectly well there is a constant progress in every aspect of the mission work. Like these characters in A Burnt-out Case if every man minds his business and makes earnest effort to do his best this world will be a better place to live in.

The next attribute of God that Greene shows is that God is the one who does not put out a dying flame. The prophet Isaiah says in The Old Testament, “A bruised reed God will not break and smoking flax He will not quench”(Isa. 42:3). None of the protagonists of Greene is blameless. Everyone has his own shortcomings. Despite the fact that they are spiritually weak, not being able to overcome the temptations of being enticed by the sinful pleasures, God’s wrath
does not come upon them. The reason is that His mercy is boundless. He just looks at their positive side and approves of it. In *A Burnt-out Case* the missionaries in the leper colony are not absolutely perfect. Querry himself has pointed out some of their shortcomings. Yet God honours their life and their work. What is notable in their character is that they have renounced all sorts of worldly pleasures to do service to God in such a difficult place. Though they are imperfect they are not rejected by God. Pinkie in *Brighton Rock* is the one who was instrumental in the murder of Hale. Despite having committed many other sins he never speaks any words of blasphemy against God. He has faith at least as a mustard seed which is to be recognized by God. Therefore, he is not denied of salvation. Sarah Miles is not a holy one at all. Her immoral activities are obviously seen in *The End of the Affair*. Her only positive point is that she has a little faith in the power of prayer. So she spends quite a lot of time in prayer. Even her weak faith is duly rewarded by God. As for the Whisky priest, he is hypocritical in each and every sphere of his life. Though he is an ordained priest, he does not remain loyal to God. He has an affair with a woman called Maria, which results in causing her to conceive and give birth to a baby girl. His only noteworthy trait is that he has zeal to get involved in the mission work. By all means he wants to share the message of God’s love to the people. Because of this recognizable deed, God gives him the privilege of dying as a martyr.

In the sight of God all these protagonists are a dying flame. God in His mercy does not reject them by looking at only the negative side of their life. He just looks at their innermost being wherein they have a bit of faith in Him and honours it. Greene distinguishes the nature of God and the nature of man in this regard. The nature of man is to find fault with others by all possible means whereas God’s nature is to stretch His loving hands towards the unworthy people. Somehow He expects them to hold His hands and become His children. It is Greene’s
point of view that man should not hastily judge anyone who may seem to be an unpardonable sinner. In *The Heart of the Matter* since Scobie committed suicide his wife jumps to a wrong conclusion, thinking that Scobie would spend his eternity in hell. But Father Rank asks her not to have any negative idea about Scobie. His argument is that Scobie could have repented before his last breath. One should not misjudge Father Rank, thinking that he has justified the act of committing suicide which is against the biblical ordinances. What Father Rank tells Scobie’s wife can be assumed by the readers. Father Rank would have told her that God who does not quench the smoking flags could have accepted Scobie’s eleventh hour confession.

Greene uses Father Rank as his mouth-piece to convey many truths about the attributes of God. God is the one who looks at the inner mind of a man. He never looks at the external appearance of a man and judges him. He does not see as a man sees. God says in the Book of Isaiah, “My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor your ways my ways”(Isa. 55:8). The members of the church may be under the impression that Scobie is eternally damned and there is no way he can go to heaven. But Father Rank’s view is that man has no right to judge anybody at all. God alone has the authority to judge man. Both Scobie and Pinkie are worthy to be condemned. Strictly speaking, the life which they have led is completely against the biblical pattern. Therefore people tend to have a misjudgment that Pinkie and Scobie will spend their eternity in hell. But Greene’s conviction is that the manner in which God deals with man cannot intellectually be understood. If God approves of an unholy person as his dear one, man has no right to put an accusing figure towards anybody. No man has the right to accuse God at all.

Another attribute of God as discussed by Greene is that he is the one who receives the believers with open arms at the time of their death. For the believers, death is not an end in itself. It is the gateway to heaven. In the subplot of *The Power and the Glory*, there is a young boy
whose life resembles the whisky priest in terms of dying as a martyr. His name is Juan. When he is going to be shot dead for the sake of his faith in Christ, he is not frightened at all. He encounters his death with exceedingly great joy. The reason is he believes that he is going to spend his eternity in heaven with Christ and He will be waiting for him at the gate of heaven. Greene says, “In that moment a smile of complete adoration and happiness passed over Juan’s face. It was as if he could see the arms of God open to receive him”(PG 210). Today man is scared of death alone. Apart from the fear of death, he has no other fear. The financial position of man enables him to remain cool even in most frightening circumstances. But the very word death threatens him a great deal. But Greene’s point of view is that the believers in God do not have to be scared of death. They can breathe their last in this world, closing their eyes and open their eyes in a new world called the celestial city where there are neither tears nor sorrows. It is a place where there is an inexpressible joy that flows like a never ending stream.

The hope of heaven is something that provides enthusiasm for man to get along with this earthly life which is full of trials and tribulations. If there is not such a place like heaven which is an embodiment of hope, there will be no need for man to be mindful of morality at all. God has promised hope of eternal life for all the believers who strive hard to lead a godly life by renouncing the worldly pleasures. Being a strong believer in God, Greene gives a vivid picture about the beauty of the glorious heaven by using the whisky priest as his mouth-piece. The priest says, “Heaven is where there is no jefe, no unjust laws, no taxes, no soldiers and no hunger. Your children do not die in heaven”(PG 65). If you put all that the whisky priest has said about heaven in a nutshell, it is a place where man enjoys an unending life coupled with endless happiness. The more a man has the hope of heavenly life, the more he tries to keep himself from being defiled by the sinful acts while living in this world.
Though Greene shows that the believers’ ultimate destiny is heaven where God will dwell among men forever, he also asserts that God is present with men at all times even in this earth because He is omnipresent. God is everywhere and is infinite. This means that His being knows no limits. Therefore, there can be no limit to His presence; He is omnipresent. The fact that God is everywhere gives a lot of comfort to man because he can approach God at any time and everywhere. There is no need for man to feel lonely as God is always with him. The knowledge that the believers are never alone calms the troubled sea of their lives and speaks peace to their souls. The Whisky priest in *The Power and the Glory* has one last desire that he should confess his sins to God before the presence of a priest prior to his death. Being sympathetic with the Whisky priest the lieutenant tries his level best to persuade Padre Jose to accompany him to the prison for hearing the confession of the Whisky priest. But he refuses to do so. Thus, his last wish is denied off. Probably it has made him terribly upset. Now he is inside the prison. Within a short span of time, he will be shot dead. One can assume that he has been engulfed by a bleak situation. At this juncture he realizes that God is omnipresent. Therefore he revives his faith that God is with him even in this seemingly hopeless situation. Since he is able to believe in God’s omnipresence he prays to God from the dark prison.

Greene makes it pretty clear that there is not a place where God is not present. You can contact Him from anywhere. His presence is never too far away from anybody. The Whisky priest prays to God from the prison and says, “I have been drunk- I do not know how many times; there is not a duty I have not neglected; I have been guilty of pride, lack of charity” (BC 197). This episode calls the readers to believe that one can pray to God from any place because God is present everywhere and listens to the prayer of His children. According to Greene the fact that God is present everywhere should cause you to have a fear that He watches over you at all
times. Since He watches over you, you have to be holy wherever you are. Greene points out that nothing can be hidden from God because He is omnipresent. His eyes are constantly watching what is being done in secret. When Scobie’s wife in *The Heart of the Matter* leaves for South Africa he is attracted towards Helen. He has forgotten the fact that God can watch even what is done in a secret place where no one is present. He deliberately gets indulged in immoral activities with Helen. He is under the impression that his wife is far away and so she cannot see what he is doing with Helen. But God who is omnipresent watches over his sinful acts and causes his wife to return home at an unexpected time. Sarah Miles in *The End of the Affair* also is completely unaware of the fact that she cannot hide any of her sins from God. Whenever her husband is away from her home, she commits adultery with Bendrix. But God who is present everywhere sees whatever she does and provides her an opportunity to give up her immorality and turn to him.

Querry in *A Burnt-Out Case* acknowledges God as omnipresent. Though he has not openly expressed his faith in God, he knows pretty well that man can call upon God at anytime from anywhere for He is present everywhere, whatever the situation is. He says, “Men have prayed in prison, men have prayed in slums and concentration camps”(BC 136). Even when the situation is weak for a man, man can still find hope in God through prayer. No circumstance can keep man too far away from God whose presence cannot be restricted by any means. According to Greene, that which God is omnipresent is a piece of heartening news to man since he can obtain help from God from wherever He is. Despite the fact that God is present everywhere and helps man in times of trouble, He also allows him to face disappointments at times. In such situations man tends to be dejected and live in a state of despair. It doesn’t mean that God has
forsaken him. He allows sufferings only for his good. The more a man faces disappointment, the more he can experience God’s presence with him. Tagore in Gitajali says,

“This frail vessel though emptiest

again and again, and fillest it

ever with fresh life.”(1)

What Tagore says is that when God empties you by causing disappointments, He does so only to fill you with new blessings. Similarly, Greene makes the readers understand that God allows certain unpleasant realities of life to assail man to give him something better. Humanly speaking, the whisky priest in *The Power and the Glory* does not want to be killed by lieutenant that is why he is always on the move. But it is God’s plan that he should die as a martyr so that he will be called a saint by the next generation. Keeping this in mind Greene purposefully presents the plot of the novel in such a way that he is eventually caught and shot dead. If he had not died as a martyr, he would not have left a legacy for the next generation.

Another important attribute of God that gets reflected in the novels of Greene is God’s omniscience. To say that God is omniscient is to say that He possesses perfect knowledge. He knows everything. The fact that God knows every person thoroughly can be a cause of shaking fear to man. Pinkie in *Brighton Rock* is engulfed by a constant fear. His conscience keeps pricking him that he has played a vital role in the murder of Hale. Being a Christian, he knows pretty well that God knows whatever he does and nothing can be hidden from Him. He is sure that his crime will come to light somewhere or other. Therefore, he keeps moving from one place to another. He is found to be restless all the time. He knows that God is omnipresent and has watched what He has done. In *The Heart of the Matter*, the untimely death of the daughter of
Scobie and Louise does not leave them to live in constant hopelessness. They are not found to have asked any question to God as to why their daughter’s life has come to an end at such a tender age. They accept and believe that God knows everything that happens in their life. He always has a fair deal with them. In this episode Greene shows that those who believe in God’s omniscience alone can keep their faith alive in the midst of hopelessness.

The omnipotence of God is also seen in Greene’s novels. The literal meaning of the word ‘omnipotent’ is ‘One who is able to do anything’. It implies that nothing is too difficult for Him. In *The End of the Affair*, Richard Symthe has a hideous mark on his face. “His face has been cured”(EA 189). What this episode tells the readers is that God is able to perform fabulous miracles which ordinary people cannot understand with their limited knowledge. Scientifically speaking, it is impossible for Richard to be healed from hideous mark. But God who is able to do everything miraculously heals him. Tozer in his book *The Knowledge of the Holy* comments, “Sovereignty and omnipotence must go together. One cannot exist without the other. To reign, God must have power, and to reign with Sovereignty, He must have all power. And that is what Omnipotent means”(8).

God possesses what no creature can: an incomprehensible plentitude of power, a potency that is absolute. Richard Symthe and Bendrix had not even an iota of faith in God in the beginning of *The End of the Affair*. But when the omnipotence of God operates in their life they undergo an amazing transformation. Greene shows that what is impossible with men is possible with God. When a bomb explosion occurs it is absolutely impossible for Bendrix to survive. But the prayer of Sarah which was offered in faith brings about a tremendous miracle. Bendrix is saved. It is a proof for God’s omnipotence. Greene underlines the fact that people can experience healing from their physical infirmities and spiritual problems since God is omnipotent. An