

## Psalm 139

**Read Psalm 139:1-4:** Psalm 139 is probably one of the better cross-references for God's *omniscience*, *omnipresence* and *omnipotence*. Here are those definitions:

**Omniscience**-Knowing everything. Infinite awareness, understanding and insight.

**Omnipresence**-Present everywhere at the same time. Not limited by time and space. Present in multiple places and multiple times.

**Omnipotence**- Almighty power; infinite power as an attribute of deity; Infinite resource; unbounded power.

When the apostle John wrote Revelation he was caught up in the future. We could wonder, what if something changed...affecting the future? That is a *non-starter* because John was actually in the future, and in the present. God is equally present before the creation of the world, and in the new heavens and new earth. We cannot grasp time travel, because we are stuck in time. God is not. Prophecy is either based on dreams or visions of the future.

*For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past, (Psalm 90:4)*

*I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, I am the Alpha and the Omega (the beginning and the end) , the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches (Revelation 1:10-11)*

We can fear that God does not see our peril; or our dilemma. We do not want to entrust our lives to anyone. We are mistaken to think that there is any thought, intention or desire that we have; that God does not see in advance. In fact, God saw it before we were born. The best we can do is just bring it to light, and hand it to him. We cannot hide anything; so intellectual honesty is critical to walk with God.

Perhaps the issue is not so much that God knows me.

*Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" (John 1:48-49)*

A good place to start is: "*Do I even know myself?*" There is a difference between who I am and who I want to be. The Bible is not just about God. It is also about

me. The lives of Christians are very different; not because has differing natures to different people.

*Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:4-5)*

David is freely discussing his innermost thoughts and motivations. He is bringing all his stuff to light. Sin is like the urge to vomit, to the believer. We have to get it out. Seekers of God want to identify and remove any incongruities in their life. Unbelievers think that they can hide things from God. They cannot. Many times Christians are called hypocrites. We obviously aspire to be something more than what we are. How well do we really know our true self? Here are a few questions to carefully consider:

What are my beliefs? Do my actions really reflect them; or am I living in a *hybrid state of conflicting desires*? Do I ask God to drive the bus; but still feel like I am holding on for dear life? Are my mind and heart even on the same page? What are my stated desires? Does my checkbook reflect that? How am I sabotaging my own dreams with *incongruent actions*? Is the weakness of the moment overcoming long term objectives and efforts? Who would I like to become? Am I doing things the same way as always, expecting to arrive someplace else? How much effort am I making to *create evidence* of who I want to be? Am I chasing results or am I addressing the fundamental character issues?

We can end up going down a *rabbit hole of endless introspection*. It is far better to take our self-definitions; and definitions of God from the bible. David knows that God sees right through him. Perhaps that is why David was so free to express himself. God knows what makes David tick. God also sees how far David has denied his innate fears to be obedient to God. Faith includes the denial of self.

*Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. (Matthew 10:29-31)*

Sometimes we need to make some effort to understand *our fickle ways* to be able to understand God better. The bible gives insight into my personal issues and baggage. I may have to stop asking why God is letting me experience these difficulties...and ask "Why am I being such a baby; and being doubtful about

things I always get delivered from? If I believe it, why do I still have moments of doubt?

*Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:23-24)*

God not only knows what I have said and done. He also knows why I have done what I have done...and thought what I have thought. Doing good works with mixed motives is something that God sees through.

**Read Psalm 139:5-10:** David knows that he is well protected. God has dispatched angels to carefully watch us and protect us. We need to wait on his direction to make the most of this alliance.

*So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. (Job 1:9-10)*

*Therefore David inquired of the LORD, and He said, "You shall not go up; circle around behind them, and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees. And it shall be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall advance quickly. For then the LORD will go out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines." And David did so, as the LORD commanded him; and he drove back the Philistines from Geba as far as Gezer. (2 Samuel 5:23-25)*

Am I being pushed around by friends or foes? Job knows that he is surrounded by God; but he is blind to what is specifically happening to him.

*"Look, I go forward, but He is not there, And backward, but I cannot perceive Him; When He works on the left hand, I cannot behold Him; When He turns to the right hand, I cannot see Him. But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot has held fast to His steps; (Job 23:8-11)*

There have been things that I have tried to accomplish unsuccessfully in the past. It seemed like it was straight uphill. I really do not know if I was being resisted by angels or demons. I do know that God was with me. It was spiritual resistance, without a doubt. Do I feel like God is protecting me; or that I am exposed to hazards? Sometimes I will have a restless night, as I contemplate what needs to

happen. Perhaps that is forcing me to pray, or forcing me to change my trajectory to avoid damage.

*For a dream comes through much activity, And a fool's voice is known by his many words. When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed. Better not to vow than to vow and not pay. (Ecclesiastes 5:2-5)*

*Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." (Matthew 2:12-15)*

*For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)*

*Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. (Luke 10:19)*

**Read Psalm 139:11-12:** We fear things that we do not see. Things at night scare us from our childhood on up. It is more of a fear of the unknown. It can be a projection of the worst-case scenario. There is a dark force out there who stalks us; waiting for a weak moment. Even so, we do have protection, and a way out.

*If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." Genesis 4:7)*

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8)*

These malicious forces only have controlled access to our lives. God controls and restricts all spiritual activity.

*Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." Then the LORD said to*

*Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?” So Satan answered the LORD and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!” And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.” (Job 1:6-12)*

*And the LORD said, ‘Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?’ So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, and said, ‘I will persuade him.’ The LORD said to him, ‘In what way?’ So he said, ‘I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.’ And the LORD said, ‘You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so.’ Therefore look! The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the LORD has declared disaster against you.” (1 Kings 22:22-23)*

*When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, “What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?” (Matthew 8:28-29)*

When we are walking with God; we do not have to fear anything. There is a boldness doing what is right. Loving God is to do what is right.

*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us. (1 John 4:18-19)*

**Read Psalm 139:13-18:** It is not just that God sees everything. He also is hugely focused on every small detail of our lives. Our fears can be about wars and outward things. They also can be about inward things, like cancer and bodily functionality. There are unlimited things that can go wrong. It is comforting to know that God is as involved with each molecule in our body as he is with the stars in distant galaxies. In fact, you can see the same manufacturer’s pattern on the universe as the atom.

**Read Psalm 138:19-24:** After having contemplated how perfect and grand and loving God is, David defends God's honor. David hates the things that God hates.