

“Omniscience of the Lord”

Taken from Psalm 139:1-6
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Our Father God, we do thank You for Your Word. It is so precious. I don't know where we would be without it, Lord. It truly is a light to our path, and a lamp to our feet. It's a revelation of Jesus Christ. It's guidance for our lives. God, we thank You for Your faithfulness, for not leaving us as orphans, but giving us Your Spirit that would live and reign and reside in each one of Your people. A house not made with hands, but one that You could dwell in. We thank You, Lord, for entering our lives, and we thank You for Your faithfulness, transforming them, calling us home. God, I pray that You would go before us tonight, Lord, that I would hide behind Christ, that Your Holy Spirit would do the teaching, that You would deposit within our soul and our spirit that which You would have us to receive, Lord, we need You. We need Your Spirit to teach us. God, we pray that You would meet each one of us, Lord, where we are and I pray, Father, that we're able to grasp the things that You want to reveal to us. So, Lord, we do seek Your face. We ask that you would bless Your Word, that Your anointing would be upon it and that it would have eternal value. We ask these things in Christ's name. Amen.

You can open your Bibles to Psalm 139, please. I titled this message “Omniscience of the Lord”. It's interesting, there's some theological terms that are used in the “omniscience”. The psalm focuses on the character of God. The Lord is omniscient in verses one through six. That means that He's all-knowing, He knows everything. He's omnipresent in verses seven to twelve. Omnipresent means God is everywhere all the time. When we were praying before church tonight, I was mentioning how the Lord was already here waiting for us, but yet He was going with us. He'll be here when we leave, but yet, He'll go with us again because He's everywhere. In verses thirteen through eighteen He's omnipotent. That means He's all-powerful. We're going to see the power of God in ways, I hope, that we possibly have never seen them before. Then verses nineteen to twenty four, I never saw this, but one of the commentaries had this, and I thought I would run with it...it's omni-righteous, God is all righteous! He's the only righteous One and it's His righteousness that matters. So we're going to take those the way it is in the outline that I just shared, and we'll do six verses. There are twenty four verses, and we'll do six verses a service, and we're going to see the Lord, I pray, perhaps in ways that we have not seen Him.

Psalm 139 is probably my favorite psalm. God's Word is new every day, and it just blows me away. It really does. It's almost a continuation of Psalm 138. It's a psalm of David. Psalm 140 is almost going to seem like a continuation of 139. It's a Psalm of

David, and we understand the heart of David. We looked at him and his life last week and how he just fell short so often. Yet the Lord was right there for him all the time. The last verse in 138, verse 8, the “Lord will accomplish what concerns me.” David's saying that because that's what the Lord did in his life. He accomplished what concerns him. Then it says, your loving kindness, O Lord, is everlasting, do not forsake the works of Your hands. What's the works of His hands? When we looked at Isaiah 1, it's everything. Everything is the work of His hands. Do you know what else is the work of His hands? All of us! We're the work of His hands. God's hand is upon us, and we are the work of His hands. We are the sheep of His pasture.

So, his first meditation is on God's knowledge that every aspect of his life was searched out and controlled by God, by what the Lord knew. Now grasp this, because people go one of two ways. If God is all-knowing, then He already knows, and what difference does it make? Then I can just sit back, because God already knows. Well, yeah... He knows that you would sit back and have that attitude, too. He knows all that! Or they take the attitude of, God knows, and they put themselves under all this pressure, and it's like, “He knows everything that I think? He knows everything?” Then that freaks them out, and they're afraid to live their life. I hope the message sets us free. I hope that when we see the hand of the Lord, the works of the Lord, the mercy of the Lord, the fact that God still loves us even though He knows all our sin, and that He's still pouring Himself out upon us, that it draws us closer to Him and not further away. That we don't feel pressure in our Christianity, but realize we have a freedom in our Christianity because of what God does, because He does know everything.

I'm glad I have a God that knows everything. Who knows me better than I know myself, as if that was possible. Oh, it's possible! The hand of the Lord being upon us? It's so awesome. God has such control over David and us because of His power, because He created us. He secretly planned our lives with great care. In other words, the theology is, “The right knowledge of God is essential to a fulfilled life in the world.” It should set us free, not put pressure on us. Does God see all your sin? He sees all your sin, but here's a newsflash. He knew you were going to sin before you sinned! Oh, whoa!... whoa, wait a minute. Oh, yeah, He knows all of it. I find comfort in that; I find peace in that. There's solitude and freedom in that.

Omniscience is defined as the state of having total knowledge, the quality of knowing everything. Everything. His omniscience is not restricted to any one person in the Godhead. The Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, they all by nature are omniscient. All of them are all-knowing. I'm only going to read the first six verses because there's so much there that we don't need to go any further. Follow along in Psalm 139, verse 1. Remember, it's David. David who, we know all his sin. Thank God, that God didn't put all our sins in a book. Or just taking the worst of our sins and putting those in a book. Can you imagine? Gazillions of people have read it, and it's written in heaven? Thank you, Lord! All right, verse 1. It says, “O Lord, You have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down.” That means You winnow my path. It's like when you're sifting wheat. And then my path is a journey. It says, and my lying down? You're intimately acquainted with all my ways. Isn't that awesome? He's intimately acquainted with most of your ways? No, all your ways. Every single way. Every single point.

Verse 4. “Even before there is a word on my tongue, behold, O Lord, You know it all.” You know when you have that word on the tip of your tongue, and you can't think of it? God already knows it. So next time that happens, just go, Lord, just give it to me, You already know it's there!

Verse 5. “You have enclosed me behind and before and laid Your hand upon me.” Are you picturing that? And then David said, such knowledge, it's too wonderful for me. It's too high. I cannot attain to it. I guarantee David was sitting there going, God, I'm just, I'm overwhelmed. I'm overwhelmed. I can't... to know that You know all, to know that You care for me that way. To know that you have me covered in the front and from behind and there's so many illustrations in the scriptures for that. Your hand is upon me, You're protecting me, You're guiding me, You're leading me, You've ordered my steps according to Your Word. You've taken care of my enemies, You discipline me when I need it, but yet, Lord, You show Your lovingkindness and Your mercies, and they are new every day. Goodness and mercy follow me, grace overwhelms me, and Your love is immeasurable in my life. Lord, I can't attain it. I can't even fathom it, Lord. Your ways are so much higher than our ways and so beyond what we can possibly comprehend. Yet You love me, You care for me.

David, later on in life, is writing this and he looks back and he sees how God's hand was upon him. Guiding him, leading him, to where? To the greatest office that was known to man at the time, to be the king of Israel. David knew he couldn't do it. He was the youngest in his family. He was the least of all of them that Samuel would have laid hands on to anoint king. He was the least. “Is there one more son?” he asked. Is there another son? Oh yeah... he's out tending to the sheep because he's the youngest. That's what they do. “Go get him, he's the one.” I love seeing the heart of David in the Psalms because when you read Kings, you read all about David the warrior. He's running from Saul and he's killing all these men. He's has three mighty men with him and then he's has thirty men on top of that. They're like mighty soldiers and they're out there killing three hundred men at one time just with one of them. It's just amazing that they were true soldiers, and they were under David's command. He was calling them out to battle and yet he knows that God's hand was on him the whole time.

David wasn't afraid to say, search me, Lord, search me. Oh, Lord, You have searched me and know me. The word “search” means to examine with pain and care. Not pain as in,

“it hurts”, but painstakingly caring, searching. It's a familiar psalm because I used to pray all the time, “Search me O Lord and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts. If there be any wicked way in me, lead me in the way everlasting.” Search me Lord and know my heart. When's the last time you asked the Lord to search you? God, search me. I want the Lord to deal with those things that are not of Him so that He gets glorified in the things that are. He knows our actions, our location, our thoughts, our words, our ways, our motives, our intent. He knows it all. He knows when we want to do the right thing, but we end up messing it up. We're doing the wrong thing, but our hearts are right. He sees our heart. Listen to Hebrews 4:13. It says, “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.” It's all laid open and bare to Jesus Christ. He sees it all. He knows it all. He knows what's best for us. Romans 8:28, God works all things out for what? “For the good. For those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.” What is the good? To conform us into the image of His son, Jesus Christ. He's doing that work. You can't, we can't! It's He that works in us both to will and to do for His good pleasure. For His good pleasure. Listen, how well it is to know the God who knows us? It's not just that God knows everything, He knows me. He knows me, He goes everywhere with me.

He created me. It says in verse 13, “You formed my inward parts, You moved me in my mother's womb.” Mom and dad, they didn't know yet that she was pregnant. They didn't have all the tests back then. Back in the 20s, you know, when I was born. All of a sudden, it's like, hey, something's growing... I think I'm pregnant! And then, oh, it's Donat. Well, we don't know it's Donat yet because they don't know if it's a male or a female. Those things weren't announced back then. So they're waiting, and God was doing all the forming. Can you imagine that? He's intimately concerned with every detail of your life, and it started at conception. That's my God! He didn't just have a plan that I would be born. His hands were in it. They were in the pot; they were making me. He was weaving me, putting me together. It wasn't like a scarecrow, just throwing some more hay in there. He was intricately weaving every part of my body together and then He made a plan. In Jeremiah 29:11, it says He had a plan for Israel. I have a plan for you to prosper, for you to do well. If you keep your eyes on Me, this is going to happen. When God created us, when He wove us, when He made us, He had a plan. The plan was whether we were going to walk with Him or not. He chose us in Ephesians 1:4 “before the foundations of the earth.” He knew all those that were His. He knows everything. There's nothing He doesn't know. When I sit down and when I rise up, You understand my thoughts from afar. God doesn't just know tomorrow. No, God knows next week. God already knows next Wednesday. He's already read the message, He's already seen the message. He knows what it's going to be. I don't know. I don't know what Sunday's going to be, but God already knows. In His eyes, He's already seen it. It's already played out. My whole life has been played out before the Lord. When it says that we are seated, in Ephesians 2:6, in heavenly places, I'm seated there with Him because Christ is there, and He knows the beginning from the end. So, He sees the ending, He

sees it through the beginning and He's already seen our lives all the way through. That's comforting for me. That's liberating for me. That gives me peace. That's why I say, I am not afraid to die. I know I say it all the time, but I'm really not. God's going to test me on this one... watch, I'll be suffering. This is why, though, because God already knows. He knows the end from the beginning. There's nothing hidden in His eyes. I mean, what you think about is nothing that He doesn't know. Nothing? Nothing.

He uses these two opposites, sitting and rising. They represent all the actions that we have. It's a figure of speech known as merism. It basically gives two opposites, the highs, the lows, and it basically means everything in between. When we say that He's the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end; Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, Omega is the last letter of the Greek alphabet. It means that in the Greek, which it was written in Koine Greek, He's everything in between. So, if He's the first and He's the last, He's everything in between. Everything. He's our all in all. He's omnipresent and He's omniscient. God knew not only David's actions, but He knew his motivation. Isn't that awesome? That's when He knows the heart, the intent of the heart.

Now, you can even take this a step further and look at the providence of God. The providence of God says, this is the path that I have for Donat. God knew that I was going to be a preacher. Not on my radar! He knew that this would be a comfort zone for me when I get older... Couldn't make this up! Anybody that knew me back then couldn't have made this up. God's providence didn't just have the path that I would be on, but He's seen every possible path that I could have been on, and He chose a path. I think most of us can look back in our past and see God intervene, (whether we knew it was God or not) where it changed the direction that we were going in. For me, preaching. No, not going to do it! Then one little thing led to another. You get involved in ministry. You're sharing God's word, little devotions, ten minutes. You're sharing God's Word and it causes you to start it, you're looking into it. I hated reading and now I find myself reading all the time... reading my Bible every day. I'm like, all right, this is strange! And then one thing led to another. Then someone said, hey, you know, we have this ministry at a group home. We thought you'd be good to go in there and share with the kids. I thought a group home? Kids that are underprivileged? That's my heart. I wouldn't mind doing that. I was raised in the project, we were all underprivileged. I said, yeah, that's my thing, I'll go. I loved it! I love the kids, I love sharing Christ with them, and God stirs me up and gives me a burden for it. Then God would open this door. Hey, we want you to open up at a Bible study and just share a few things. Okay... then it was just one step and God opened this door. That's weird... Then I went through that door and then He opened this door. And then I knew, that I knew, that I knew. I knew! I look at what God has done and it's all God. It's so easy for me to say it's all God. Trust me when I tell you it's all God!

It's His omniscience. God knew, God knows. Don't be afraid to step out of the boat. Don't be afraid to go into places or to do things that you're not comfortable in. Don't be

afraid. If God's calling you to do it, step out, and you'll be amazed because the Lord will never call you anywhere that He has not equipped you. The Lord's grace will always go with you, it will always go with you. If it's not of God, He'll let you know quick. He won't let you drown. You know, Peter walked on water. Really? If you said, Pete, what do you think about walking on water? He would say, that's impossible. Nobody can walk on water. What are you, crazy? But in the Spirit of the moment, and I do mean Spirit of the moment, when Jesus is coming and they think He's a ghost and they realize He's the Lord... Peter says, Lord, call me out. Peter knew it was only by the power of His word that he would be able to do it. He says, call me out. Peter gets out of the boat and walks on water. I'll bet after he started sinking and he asked for the Lord to help him and God picked him up, Jesus picked him up, put him in the boat, I'll bet they all were thinking, I wish I would have said, Lord, call me out. I wish I would have walked on water. They didn't, but Peter wasn't afraid. Peter knew it was by the Word, that God was going to do the work.

Verse 3, he says, “you scrutinize my path and my lying down, and you are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it all.” Intimately acquainted with all my ways. I always say, the Lord cares about things that you've never cared about. Things that never entered your mind, they had already entered His. This should fill us with awe. It should. So that we sin less. It should fill us with courage so that we don't fear. It should fill us with delight so that we don't mourn. When you realize that God is in control of all of it, what are we fretting? Like, what are we worrying about? What is it that overwhelms us, that brings us down, that we can't sort out? That just takes us into a tizzy that we just can't figure it out. God's already figured it out. God already knows the answer. God already knows what He's doing. And He's like, don't worry. Don't worry. I tell people, oh, don't worry, I go, “no, I don't worry. It's a sin to worry.” It's a sin to worry. God knows our words before we speak them, there's nothing hidden from the all-knowing Father. Nothing. It's just amazing that He's so intimate with our lives. Intimately concerned. You know, I think too many times we read passages like this, and we take it to the extreme, in our sin, if you will, and we think, oh no, if God saw that, He'll never forgive me! He already has, He died for that sin. There's not a sin that He has not died for. When the Lord looks down upon you, He doesn't see you anymore. He sees the blood of Jesus. It's Christ. It's all him. It's all him. It's truly all him. I don't think He could be more intimate for David and for us than He states in this Psalm. I don't think it's possible. I don't... Intimately acquainted with all your ways. How do you even... it's too high. It's too much. I can't fathom that. I can't reconcile that in my finite mind. How God cares for me that much.

Verse five, “You have enclosed me behind and before and laid your hand upon me.” Enclosed means to guard a valuable object. So, God's knowledge and guidance are for our protection, to reveal His love. His hand is laid upon us, shielding and protecting us. When our children were small and they begin to walk, the first thing you want to do is you want to catch them before they fall. Especially if your wife's not around. You want

to make sure that there's no bruises and no blood, we want to protect them. We want to go before them, and we want to go after them. We're guiding them this way. Seeing a kid riding a bike and the parent let the bike go... I remember those days. When they're finally riding a bike, then you're like, whoa! they're riding a bike! You have to catch up with them and make sure you're there to guide them, but I can't put my whole hand on them.

The Lord, He goes before us. He's making the path and then He's going behind us. He puts His hand on us. It's almost like a picture of the Lord hugging us and then just covering us. He's hedged us in before and behind. A hedge is a protective barrier. We have no idea what the Lord keeps us from. We have no idea. If you were raised in my generation, you've done a lot of crazy things. We look back and we go, oh, you know, I can't believe God spared me, and I'm still alive, and... True story. It's because God was intimately concerned with every detail of your life even before you knew Him. He created you; He made you, He fashioned you, He's kept you. Nothing could come to David unless it passed through the sovereign hand of God. Nothing. So, wherever we are, whatever we've done, wherever we're going, God's hand is upon us. His constant knowledge of us is a comfort, not a curse.

Psalm 34:7 says, the angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and rescues them. That's Jesus. He's the angel of the Lord. He encamps around those who fear Him. That's like, that's a hug. That's a protective hug. Listen, nobody penetrates that hug... Nobody. Certainly not the devil certainly not the world, and not your flesh either. It's God. I just see the picture of Him just, hugging. We're so small in his arms... I mean, He's God. He holds us and then He puts His hand above us, on top of us. You know what happens? We disappear. It's no longer I, but Christ. Psalm 125:2. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people from this time forth and forevermore. If we needed a description for the mountains to surround us... our Heavenly Father has folded His arms around us and laid His hand upon us. Psalm 27:5 says, "for in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle," (which means shelter), in the secret place of His tent He will hide me." That's Colossians 3:3, "You have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God." No more you. You died. Heaven is His throne, the earth is His footstool, and you're hid in Him. The omniscience of God; it's not an occasion for terror, but for comfort.

He saved me, and yet He knew me. That's the amazing thing about it. God knew David, and David let him down. We know. We went over David's life, and not all of it. But God knew something about David's faith that we could not see. He could see his heart. Beneath the faith that failed, was a faith that never failed because of his heart. Did he fall short? Yeah. But his heart was always for the Lord. Do I make the right decision all the time? Heck no. Does my mouth work quicker than my brain sometimes? Yeah. You better hope it ain't contagious! I think we all suffer from that, and you can't take it back. But my heart, I'm okay with anybody judging me for my heart. For anybody, especially

my loved ones...Know my heart. I know I pour my heart out to this church and to each one of you, know my heart. You know, people want to attack, or they want to say things, and it's like.... you should know my heart. You should know that by now. If you don't, that's on you.

Say what you will. The Lord knew Peter's heart. He called Peter. He desired Peter. He said, Peter, you're going to be a rock but you're going to deny me three times. Peter denied denying him. I mean, he denied that he would deny him. No, Lord, not me, here's no way! Yet He chose him, and Peter denied Him. What was the plan there? Let me tell you something. The plan was grace. Peter, do you love me? Lord, you know I love you. Peter, do you love me? Lord, you know, you know I love you. Peter, do you love me? Feed my sheep, tend to my lambs. It made Peter who Peter was. Peter became the man of God because of that time. We look at that and we go, oh, how could he? Judas. Judas was chosen by the Lord. Knowing that he would betray Him and God gave him grace till the end. He didn't get saved. He had no remorse; He didn't have repentance. The Lord's not surprised. Nothing surprises the Lord. Nothing.

A few verses. In 1 John 3:20, it says, "God is greater than our heart and knows all things." He knows not only the minute details of our lives, but everything around us. Matthew 10:29 and 30. It says this, "are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your father." A sparrow! I like Spurgeon. Spurgeon says that God attends the funeral of every sparrow that falls. Isn't that awesome? Verse 30. It says, but the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Now listen, it's not that God's numbering the hairs on our heads. It's how intimately concerned He is with every detail of Your life. It's how intimately He knows you, that He knows you that well. You can't know anybody that well. It's impossible. Not only does God know everything that will occur at the end of history itself, in Isaiah 46:9, it says, "Remember the former things long past, for I am God and there is no other. I am God and there is no one like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all my good, for all My good pleasure.'" From the beginning, He says this. From the beginning, He knows what's in our heart. He knows the words that we're going to speak. Solomon expressed it this way in 1 Kings 8:39. He said, "for you, you only know the hearts of all the children of mankind." He knows all our hearts, everybody's heart. Such intimate knowledge baffles human thought. We've got nothing to compare it to. How do we reconcile it? How do we fathom it? On the meaning of wonderful, it's extraordinary or surprising. In other words, divine omniscience is too high for humans to comprehend. Such knowledge not only surpasses my comprehension, but even my imagination. It's too high. Can't attain it. David understood that God knew him better than he knew himself, and it humbled him. As with the hedge, this is an expression of God's love and care for David. This was not the hand of oppression; it was the hand of grace and David knew it. David knew it was the hand of grace.

I'll close with this. Finally, God knew you and me, where we would appear in the course of time, and whom we would interact with. God knew it all, even foresaw our sin and all the ugliness and depravity. Yet in love He set His seal upon us and drew us to that love in Jesus Christ. Listen to Ephesians 1:3-6. It says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ. Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love. He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the beloved." Oh, that's so good! Listen, we shall see Him face to face. We shall, but our knowledge of Him will never be complete. Never be complete. Our wonder, love, and praise of Him shall go on for all eternity as we bask in the rays of His heavenly love, learning and appreciating more and more the omniscience of Almighty God. Amen?

Let's pray. Our Father God, we do thank You, Lord. You know us that well, Lord, and You love us that much. You chose us for that love, Lord. We cannot fathom it. We can't comprehend it. It's so difficult to understand, but we know it to be true because You said so, it's in your Word. We thank You, Lord, the way You love us, care for us. You surround us. You give us that bear hug with Your hand upon our heads, protecting us, keeping us safe, going before us. So much there, Lord. Thank You that You care. Thank You for the way You care and the way You continue to minister to our hearts. Lord, I pray that we're drawn closer to You, that we see You with a clearer light, and that we're able to give You greater worship because You are worthy. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen.