

“Formed By God”

Taken from Psalm 139:13-18

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Our Father God, we do commit ourselves to You this night. We thank You Lord for Your amazing grace. Where would we be without amazing grace? It's that grace that opened our eyes, opened our hearts, washed us clean, and put new clothes on us. It gave us a new name, entered us into a new kingdom and gave us a new Father. God we just stand in awe, You're an awesome God. I want more of You Jesus. We want more of You tonight. Set that fire in our hearts Lord. God, we pray that Your Holy Spirit would teach, guide and reveal truth through Your Word, exalting Your Son, conforming us into the image of Jesus. Transform our minds and renew them so that our focus is upon You and You alone. God, I pray that I would hide behind Christ, that we would hear tonight the Word of God and not the word of man. Lord, I pray that I would not get in Your way whatsoever, Lord, that Your Holy Spirit has full reign upon Your Word. God, we pray that we would enter into what You reveal to us tonight. We thank You for this psalm, we thank you for how precious it was to David, but even more so to us here now thousands of years later. Truly it is everlasting, Lord. So, God, we commit our time to You. We pray that You would minister to our hearts and to our souls, and that we would receive it Lord God from Your hands. It's in Your name we pray. Amen.

Open your bibles to the book of Psalms, Psalm 139. I titled this message, “Formed by God”. Omnipotent simply means “all powerful”. It means that God Almighty is all-powerful. As with the attributes of omniscience and omnipresence, it follows that if God is infinite and if God is sovereign, which we all know He is, then He must also be omnipotent. He has all power over all things, at all times, in all ways. There's nothing outside of the power of Almighty God. So anytime we look at whatever happens in this world, and there's plenty of catastrophes that we can look to, God is all-powerful. God could stop it, change it, or allow it. Psalm 33:6 says, by the Word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of His mouth. Think of that. We know He spoke all of this into existence and all the host by the breath of His mouth. There's no struggle there, there's no striving there, there's no works there. It's just there. It's just the Lord.

As God incarnate, Jesus is omnipotent as well. His power is seen in all the miracles He performs, and how nature itself could not thwart the power of God. If the Lord wants to walk through a wall, He'd walk through a wall. If He wanted you to do it, you'd do it. If He wants you to walk on water, you can walk on water. Whatever nature may bring, it's not a hindrance but something that will exalt the Lord and not keep him back. It will

exalt His power. There's a verse in scriptures that talks about the heavens, and the glory of the heavens hides His power – I think it's Habakkuk, I'm not sure. It hides His power, think of that. We look at the heavens and we see the planets, we see the pictures and they add color to it, and it looks so cool. We look at it and we go look at that, it's marvelous! How big, how vast, how amazing. That's hiding His power. We think it's revealing His power. No. In other words, it's not that God doesn't want us to see His power, He's saying, my power... this is nothing compared to that. It's nothing. I spoke that into existence. His power will be proclaimed by all the hosts of heaven.

Revelation 19:1. After these things, I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven saying, Hallelujah, salvation and glory and power belong to our God. It's all God! I'm never going to get tired of saying that. I'm never going to get tired of saying it's all about Him, it's not about us. You know, man has made Christianity about themselves because they want to feel good about themselves. I died. I know I look alive today, but I died 2,000 years ago. I have been co-crucified with Christ. Therefore, it is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me. So, the life that I live now in the flesh, I live by faith through the Son of God who died for me. It's not my life, it's exchanged. It's His life for mine in this. He's transformed who I was, gave me a new nature, and says, you're now covered by the blood of Jesus, and you are Mine. It all began in Psalm 139.

It began when God began to form me in my mother's womb. Think about the hand of God. We looked at it a couple of weeks ago or last week on how God just covered us, I love it! I know you want to hear it, so I'm going to give it to you. In verse ten, it says, even there, Your hand will lead me and Your right hand will lay hold. I just see Him carrying me. He knows if I'm walking on my own, I'm just like a scarecrow, I'm just all over the place. I can't walk, He just carries me. He leads me, He does the work. He knows I can't do it. I like verse three also where it says, You scrutinize my path and my lying down and are intimately acquainted with all my ways. We know what **all** means... He's intimately acquainted with **all** your ways. He's acquainted with things in my life that never even entered my mind. Things that I don't even care about, I don't even give it a second thought. Yet the Lord is acquainted with that. He knows what's going on. Psalm 139:13-18, "for You formed my inward parts, You move me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well." I love that, I love that!

Verse 15, He says, "my frame was not hidden from You when I was made in secret." That's in the womb... "and skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth." That's in the womb. He says, "Your eyes have seen my unformed substance and in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me. When yet there was not one of them." He ordained your days and wrote them in a book before you were born.

Verse 17, I love this. This is the omnipotence of God. "How precious also are Your thoughts to me oh God, how vast is the sum of them. If I should count them"... take this

in... “they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I’m still with You.” This is one of the greatest passages in literature about the miracle of human conception and birth. “In the presence of birth,” says Eugene Peterson, “we don’t calculate, we marvel.” There’s no greater miracle physically than the birth of a child. You can look at acorns. Acorns, I mean, come on, really? It ends up an oak tree? I mean, that’s pretty massive! That’s a miracle. It may take one hundred years, but that’s a miracle. When God said to Job, “where were you Job? Where were you when I created? Where were you when I did this? Where were you when I was forming you in your mother’s womb?” David looked at everything that God had to do.

He's all knowing, He knows everything. There’s nothing He does not know. He knows the beginning from the end, so there isn’t anything in between that He doesn’t know. He knows every move, every word, every thought, every hair upon our heads in Matthew 10:30. He knows every path we have taken, every path we will take, and every path we could take. His providence has mapped out our whole lives.

We had dinner with a couple, they traveled, and they lived in this state and then that state. They looked at me and said how about you guys? We’re like no, we have lived in Fall River our whole life, but that’s what God has for us. That was the path that God had. He didn’t open up a door for me to live in another state or country, it’s where God has me. I look back at my life and I know that God in His all-knowingness, knew exactly where I would be. He was guiding my steps along the way. He has all knowledge.

I love that He knows everything about us, every thought that we’ve ever had, and He’s still loving on us. People think oh my gosh, He can read my mind! Yeah, all the time! Wait, He can’t only just read your mind, He knows what you’re going to think before you think it. Woah! That’s one of them like woah!... really? Yeah, really! That’s our God, yet He is still loving us. His omnipresence, He is always there. It goes beyond “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” That sounds like God has a choice and His choice is to be with you. He’s saying I am committed to you, and I will never leave you, and I’ll never forsake you. When I look at His omnipresence, He can’t leave me. Even if I was the rottenest kid around, He’s not going to leave me.

Then He keeps me, and He wants to show me all His power. Oh, what’s that like? That’s like God making you release your grip, and just taking whatever He wants to take. (removed next sentence) It’s amazing. God formed us as He wants us to be. We must accept His will no matter how we feel about our genetic structure, our looks, our abilities, our unfortunates. We look at whatever the quirks are in our own bodies, and we think oh God, why do I have this? You have it because He gave it to you, it’s part of the unique plan of God. What blows me away is God is intricately involved in all of our lives. He wove us in the womb, He took care of us before anybody was aware that we were even there. He was already working on our lives.

When a baby is born, there's just no greater joy than that. Your child is born, and it's really cool, especially if you're there. You know, you get to cut the cord and bring it into life, it's an amazing thing. The parents are all smitten over them and they're loving on them... Jesus had fellowship with that baby before it was born. Jesus was intimately involved in the making of that child, before the parents saw it. That's God's choice. That's not you and I saying oh, I hope God's in it, I hope He's there. No, that's God's choice. The sad thing is abortion disrupts the process. Listen, if God is all-knowing, if God's everywhere (and He is), if He's all powerful (and He is); He could have stopped it, but He didn't. I believe there's a place in heaven for every one of them children. Every one of those babies. Every one. So, if you're looking for a babysitting job in heaven... I know where you can find one, just saying! There's going to be a lot of kids. But God. The thought that darkness cannot conceal anyone from the Lord, brought to David's mind the meditation in verses thirteen to eighteen. God knew all about him when he created him in his mother's womb. Since God can create a person, He certainly knows him intimately and is with him everywhere. Everywhere.

It's as though David just describes the intimacy. For You, that's God, capital Y. You formed my inward parts. You wove me in my mother's womb, and I will give thanks to You. I'm fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderfully made. God knew exactly what He was doing. That's a physical birth and it's a beautiful picture. What is a greater miracle though I think, is the spiritual birth. As we look at this and you see everything that God did prior to the birth of this child, is that not everything He does in our lives spiritually before we become born again? There's that conception of how we begin, our spirits quicken. We may not be born again yet, we haven't entered into that place yet, but we know God is moving. God's doing something, we can feel it, we know it. We can't say for sure that we know, that we know, that we know, but we know that we're in a process. Then God is still moving, He's moving parts all around, He's still working in our lives. He's still removing things in our lives. He's giving us desires, and then we come forth in light. All that time we're in the womb. It's dark, you can't see. Even if the babies could open their eyes, they can't see. There's nothing to see but they come out and its light. That's our birth!

“My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in secret. Skillfully wrought, in the depths of the earth. Your eyes have seen my unformed substance and in Your book were written all the days that were ordained for me.” God has a blueprint of His members before they came into existence, and they're all different. You wonder why we have these things, these physical qualities... because we're all different. I remember Ed saying, and I love this quote, he said “God could make ten thousand more worlds and never repeat a shape, a color, or a word.” Yeah, let that sink in! That's God, He's the Almighty. He could do that a million times over. We're limited in what we see and what we know. He's not limited at all, whatsoever. In the womb, He's woven us together. It means embroidered or knit. It sounds as though He was hands-on. I don't think that's

literal; I think it's figurative, but He's certainly watching over the process. Absolutely. In view of verses 1-4, it's more likely that it's about detail. God's amazing plan for our lives. He planned and He determined our days, that includes the length of days.

In Job 14:5 it says, since his days are determined, the number of his months is with You and his limits You have set so that he cannot pass. See, that's because God knows. He's all knowing. God knows, He knows, I say it all the time. God knows the day that I breathe my last breath. Then my eyes are open so hallelujah for that day! God knows that day and He knows how I get there. I've always liked the Woody Allen quote. He says, "I'm not afraid of dying, I just don't want to be there when it happens." That's something he would say, but for us it's all about what God wants to do in our lives.

Ephesians 2:10, "for we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." When did He prepare them? Right from the beginning. He knew those that would be His, He set us apart from birth. He called us out in Him and Jesus, He knew. Philippians 2:12-13, He works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Even when he was in the form of an undeveloped embryo, God had his future mapped out in his book of providence. People go, then we're like robots, God already knows! I've never felt like a robot... when it asks me on my computer, I never say I'm a robot. Do you? Do you ever say you're a robot? I never say I'm a robot, I'm not a robot! I have flesh and bones; I know I feel pain. I get hungry, I get cranky (very rarely), I sleep... all these things, I'm not a robot. Listen, God knew David before his birth, and the greatest miracle in the world is the birth of man, outside of salvation.

God's perfect knowledge did not only extend to the past before David was born, but it also extended to the future. God knew David's days as if He had written them in a book. His life was written in the book of life and each one of his days were numbered. Philippians 4:3, together with Clement, also and the rest of my fellow workers whose names are in the book of life, Paul said. Revelation 21:27, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. It's Jesus' book, and we're in Him, so we're in the book. It's the Lamb's book of life, it's Jesus' life. God doesn't need a record of your life on earth. You're a sinner. What would He do with that book? I'm going to keep track of all of those sins... are you kidding me? No. I'm forgiven, I'm cleansed, I'm purified. His blood has cleansed me, purified my life. I have no sin. So what book can I possibly be in? I'm in the Lamb's book, it's His book. God writes our name in there because it's no longer I, but Christ. It's not you, it's Him. I'm not sorry... it's not you, it's Him! It's all Him, that's the beauty of the psalm.

David... we know David's sins. They were written so millions and millions of people have read about David's sins. If you say "tell me about King David," nobody's going to start off with this unless they're spiritually minded... David was man after God's own heart. David had a heart of devotion for Almighty God that I wish I had. Instead, people

say, oh he was the adulterer. He committed adultery, he committed murder, he couldn't keep his house in order.

Our sins don't define us. What we've done is not what we are. If you're a child of God, that changes everything. Everything you've done, all your past, all the sins, all the weights, everything... let it go. Today is a brand-new day. Look to the Lord, look to His power. He created you. He was with you the whole time while you didn't give Him the time of day. When you couldn't care less, when you were mud. When you were in the mire and you didn't give God any time, any thought, anything... He was with you.

Growing up in our generation with the crazy things and how we lived life, and it was normal for us. That was normal. Then you look back and you go, man, gee, I remember... no wait, I don't remember, that was the problem! You look back and then God saves you and you go, why me Lord? Why? I'm not worthy of Your salvation. The Lord would look you in the eye and say yes, yes you are. You were always mine and I want to show you things. I don't want to show you miracles so that you can say that you've seen a miracle. I want to show you my Son so that you know you're His. When the vessel is on the potter's wheel, the potter already sees the finished product. He already sees it. That's the thing about sculptors and painters. Have you ever seen the guys that just throw paint on the paper, they just start marking it up and there's no rhythm or rhyme to it? Like, what are they doing? The next thing you know, it's a picture of the crucifixion and you're like, how did that happen? They've seen it. Eddy is a builder. He looks at a blueprint and he sees the building. He sees the thing already constructed; he sees it. God's forming us in the womb, and He sees our life. He doesn't just see when we're born, He sees all the way through until we are with Him and the whole time, He is with us.

Verses 17 and 18, "how precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God. How vast is the sum of them. If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You." How often do you think God thinks of you? How often? All the time, He never stops. He never stops thinking about you, ever. Every detail of your life, He is intimately concerned with. When you have a baby and the baby starts to grow, you worry about everything. I said to my dad, "Dad when do you stop worrying about your kids?" He said, "never. The older they get, the more you worry." That's not true... I stopped worrying about my kids! Tre is in Ireland right now, he flew across the ocean. Hello? Across the ocean! It's probably the safest plane ride you could take, but as a parent... we were with Tara holding her hand. No, we weren't holding her hand, Tara, I'm only kidding! You can understand the concern for that though, but yet in my prayer I knew God was all over that. God went with him. When I was a kid, we'd play with planes and army men. We could make that plane do anything, it never crashed, not my planes! You just put faith in the Lord, and you trust in His power, His ability, and His sovereignty.

Now how often does He think of me? The sand. It doesn't say the sand at Horseneck Beach, and it would be quite hard to count the sand at Horseneck Beach. He says the sand. That means the desert sand, the ocean sand; that means all the sand. If you could possibly count all of that, He said it's beyond that so you still wouldn't understand. It's beyond that. How vast is the sum of them? It's like He takes all of this in for us of us, continually, all the time. Do you feel the intimacy in this? He knows your thoughts; He knows the places you go. He has full knowledge of everything in your life. He follows you everywhere you go. You cannot shake Him; He's going with you. His presence is everywhere.

I said last week, He was here before we got in the building, He was here when we were in the building, and He'll be here in the building when we leave, but He's also coming with us. He's going with you, with me, with all of us as we all go in different directions. As if that's not enough, He's just thinking about us all the time. Jeremiah 29:11, "for I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord." He knows the plans because He made the plans. He knows us because He created us. He made us and He committed Himself to us, never to leave us.

David wasn't alarmed at the fact that God knows everything about him. On the contrary, he was comforted. That's what it should do to us. I'm comforted to know God knows everything about me. He knows everything. He knows me better than I know me. He numbers the hairs on our head, and He knows all the stars by name. Nobody knows how many stars there are, yet He knows them by name. How great is the sum of them. When we remember that God's thoughts upon us are from old all the way to eternity, He continues to think upon us every moment, and He loves us. He just keeps on loving us. He's all-powerful.

David used a powerful image to illustrate the idea of how often God thinks of us. You know that people are very proud if a king has merely looked at them. Or when you're a kid and you get an autograph, or you see somebody famous, and you get excited. They don't recognize you, but they acknowledge you're there and you get excited about that. How about this? The God, the Almighty who created everything... made you, was intimate with you, and thinks about you all the time. All the time! You and I can rejoice that God, before whom kings are as grasshoppers, actually thinks of us and thinks of us often. There's no greater king than Jesus. He lives in me, He has residence in me. An amazing thing.

In verse 6, again, it says, "such knowledge is too wonderful for me, it's too high. I cannot attain it." To think the Lord is all-knowing, everywhere, and all-powerful should give us comfort and peace. We can rest in this, meditate on it, draw closer to Him and know this... that we were formed by God. Amen? Let's pray.

Our Father God, we are, I am, in absolute awe of all that you have done, Lord. How you

spell it out in Your Word. God, “Your thoughts are for me.” “Who is man that Thou was mindful of him?” Yet Lord, You’re mindful of us. You know us better than we know ourselves. God, I really believe that by looking at this psalm, I know it brought David comfort. I know when he had the revelation of Christ in it, that he was set free from his past, from his thoughts, and that he knew that You were always there. He knew that Your power could guide him, lead him, and protect him. Lord, I know that You do this for us as well. I pray, Lord, that it would remove any fear, anxiety, any struggles or thoughts, that it would truly set us free. Lord, that it’s more than what the disciples had when they walked on the earth with You. Lord, we have You living in us. We have Your Holy Spirit teaching us, guiding us, empowering us. We get to see Your works, and we get to see Your miracles. Lord, may it always, always draw us closer to You so that we may give you all the honor and all the glory. It’s in Christ’s Name we pray. Amen.