

In the last few months I have spent much time meditating on Psalm 139. I have shared it again and again in home and hospital visits, in counseling sessions, in preaching services in nursing homes, in prison, and in emails. The more time I spend considering David's amazed response to God's omniscience, omnipresence and omnipotence, the more amazed I myself become. To come to grips with the reality that I live in God's knowledge, in God's presence, in God's hand, in God's eyes, in God's ordained time, and in God's limitless thoughts truly is "too lofty for us to attain!" Let us rejoice with trembling before the God in whose eyes we live every moment unto eternity!

Psalm 139

I live in the knowledge of God

- 1 O LORD, **you have searched me** and **you know me**. 2 **You know** when I sit and when I rise; **you perceive** my thoughts from afar. 3 **You discern** my going out and my lying down; **you are familiar** with all my ways. 4 Before a word is on my tongue **you know it completely**, O LORD.

God never learns, never discovers, never gains new information. He knows all things even as He knows Himself, His plan, His purpose, and His decree. I live in the knowledge of the one, true God who knows everything there is to know about me from before my existence until the endless ages of eternity yet to come. God's knowledge includes our words, and deeds, but also our thoughts and motives, and all before they ever could be called "ours." Embracing this reality removes any possibility of trying to avoid the truth God brings to us. Let us be still in the face of the One who needs no information, yet desires our fellowship. Someone has said that a "best friend is someone who knows you really well, yet likes you anyway!" Christ Jesus is the friend "who knows us infinitely and yet loves us anyway!" Amazing grace!

I live in the Hand of God

- 5 **You hem me in-- behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.** 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

We are never "away" from God, in that God is where we were (behind), where we are going (before), and where we are (laid Your hand on me!) The startling imagery is that we are surrounded by the Lord Himself, and His hand is continually on us! We live in the very hand of God. (John 10:27-28) This reality will be brought up again in later verses.

I live in the Presence of God

- 7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from **your presence**? 8 If I go up to the heavens, **you are there**; if I make my bed in the depths, **you are there**. 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, 10 even there **your hand** will guide me, **your right hand** will hold me fast.

Having expressed his amazement that he is known by God, surrounded by God and in God's hand, the psalmist now considers any potentiality of ever being out of God's presence. The answer is clear. No matter where he could go, God is already there. In the farthest heavens... God is there! In the depths of the grave, God is there! The farthest point on earth, God is there... being, holding, leading. Think of it: There is no place of which God can ever say "over there", since God is there too. Everywhere is "here" to God. There is no place "distant" to Him, since that place is the place of His presence! To God, there is always here!

I live in the Eyes of God

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," 12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. 13 For **you created** my inmost being; **you knit me together** in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; **your works** are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was **not hidden** from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16 **your eyes saw** my unformed body. **All the days ordained** for me were written in **your book** before one of them came to be.

Night is day, darkness is light, hidden is open, not yet is already... to our God! That which hides things from the eyes of men is wide open and fully seen by God. Everything in all creation exists fully known and clearly revealed before the eyes of God. This is the obedient believer's joy, comfort and confidence, even as it is the evil-doer's greatest nightmare. We are the object of God's intense observation because, wonder of wonders, we matter to Him. Because we matter to Him, what we do matters to Him. In common language on the street, when we hear someone say "God knows" this or that, it means "nobody knows!" But God truly knows, and knows actively, intimately, and responsively. To live "in His eyes" is to live Christ-like in motive, thought, and deed.

I live in the Thoughts of God

17 How precious to me are **your thoughts**, O God! How vast is the sum of **them**! 18 Were I to count **them**, **they** would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, **I am still with you**.

This is not speaking of David's thoughts about God, but of God's thought about David. Notice, it does not say "how precious to me are *my* thoughts.." but it says "how precious to me are *your* thoughts, O God." We live in God's knowledge, hand, presence, eyes, and thoughts. God thinks about us, with an infinite number of thoughts, and stays close continually. The attention He gives to us is beyond comprehension. Every moment of every day, in the life of every creature, God is bringing to pass His purposes. God is at work! We may not always see what He is doing, but we are certain it is constant, purposeful, right, personal, and ultimately best. Every morning we awake in the presence of our God.

I live in a wicked world and am weary of it

19 If only you would slay the wicked, O God! Away from me, you bloodthirsty men. 20 They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. 21 Do I not hate those who hate you,

O LORD, and abhor those who rise up against you? 22 I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.

These words may seem strange in the context of all we just read. But it fits perfectly. When we live in the presence of God, and yet live in a world that defies, despises and blasphemes Him, we are weary of it and long for home! The believer who lives in the fear of God, that constant awareness that he lives in God's knowledge, hand, presence, eyes and thoughts, loses his earthly longings as he finds himself more and more a misfit in this world, and filled with longings for heaven. As our heart becomes more and more like the heart of God, we see the world more and more as He sees it, in all its hellish antagonism to the God of perfect love and justice. It is not that the believer has no compassion for lost souls, but that his passion for God reigns supreme. (Consider that glorified souls in heaven long for justice: Rev 6:9-11)

I live with a wayward soul and am wary of it

23 **Search** me, O God, and **know** my heart; **test** me and **know** my anxious thoughts.

24 **See** if there is any offensive way in me, and **lead** me in the way everlasting.

Search...know...test...see...lead me! The result of living in God's presence is the desire that we would be altogether pleasing to Him. We realize that while God's knows us perfectly, we are often self-deceived. So we plead with God to let us see ourselves as He sees us, intimately, honestly, accurately. Like David, with a heart after God, we want to know if there is any leaning away from God, any start of straying in the heart, any tiny movement off course in pursuing Him. We are in desperate need of knowing ourselves truly, and only God can make that known to the heart. This is a prayer that needs much use among us.

SELF CHECK:

- 1) Are you living in the constant awareness of God's presence? How does that affect your outlook, choices, stewardship, desires, and direction in life?
- 2) Which of these realities most amazes you? You live in God's knowledge, hand, presence, eyes, or thoughts.
- 3) How weary are you of this world? How eager are you for being with the Lord in heaven? Is there anything that causes you to hesitate praying: "Even so come, Lord Jesus!"

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Revelation 2-3 Note the imagery of Christ's presence, knowledge, hand, and activity in each of the churches.

Hebrews 4:12-13 Phil 2:13 Psalm 121 1 John 1:5-10

"Lord God, cause me to know, deeply and continually, that I live in Your knowledge, in Your hand, in Your presence, in Your eyes, and in Your thoughts constantly, fully, intimately and actively. Cause me to pray with David the unceasing prayer that I might know myself as You know me, and walk in the

light of Thy presence in honesty, humility, and faithfulness. Cause Thy Spirit to reveal Christ to me, and me to myself, that I might not stray from Thee in thought, motive, word or deed. I long to please Thee and honor Thee, and to delight in Thy presence. Thanks be to You, O Jehovah Shammah, that Thou art The God Who Is Here. Lead me in Thy will, O Christ Jesus, for Thou art with me, to the end of the endless ages of eternity. In Thy name alone do I pray, Amen.”

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.

Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 Ron & Val

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable,
changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible
with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows,
spending our time on eternity,
owning nothing yet possessing everything
that matters and lasts.
We are Pilgrims in Paradox.
Welcome to THE JOURNEY