

What is like? Really!

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PART 3: GOD IS IMMANENT



God's immanence refers to his presence within his creation. (It is not to be confused with *imminence*, which refers to the timing of Jesus' return to earth.) A belief in God's immanence means that God is present in all of creation, while remaining distinct from it. In other words, there is no place where God is not. In Psalm 139 King David reflects on just how much God cares for him, and the degree to which God is immanently involved with his life.

A. God knows who I am

Psalm 139:1-6 "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. 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."

1. What does God know about you based on these verses?
2. How do you think most Christians feel about God's total knowledge of them?
3. How does Matthew 10:29-31 relate to this?
4. Since already God knows what I'm going to say before I say it, why should I pray?

B. God knows where I am

Psalm 139:7-12 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ⁸If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. ⁹If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, ¹⁰even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. ¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," ¹²even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

1. What do these verses tell you about God?
2. Even though we cannot hide from God, why do we do to sometimes hold him at a distance?
3. Have you ever felt that God hears your prayers only when you are in church, or some other special place? What do verses 7-12 about this?
4. How does John 4:20-24 relate to these verses?

C. God knows what I am

Psalm 139:13-18 "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ¹⁵My 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, ¹⁶your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. ¹⁷How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you."

1. What words are used to describe God's work and artistry in making us?
2. At what point in David's life did God refer to him as a person? What does Psalm 51:5 say about this point in time?

D. God knows my weaknesses

Psalm 139:19-24 If only you would slay the wicked, O God! Away from me, you bloodthirsty men! ²⁰They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. ²¹Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD, and abhor those who rise up against you? ²²I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies. ²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

1. What is David asking in verses 23-24 to ensure a close, intimate relationship with God?
2. How can verses 23-24, affect your prayer life?