



The Presence of God Psalms 139:1-16, 23-24

Introduction:

- The Lord's Prayer and the Psalms.
- There is a flow to the Lord's Prayer. Not vain repetition, incantation, ritual. This is a model:

Matthew 6:6-9 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. **Pray then like this:**

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Today -- Our Father In Heaven -- The Presence Of God:

- How majestic He is. And why you should want to be with Him.

Psalm 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore

Psalm 139:1-16

He knows me.

Psalm 139:1 O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

- If anyone knows you, God does.
- Human desire--to be known.
- He cares for you. He is interested in you. He is personal. He is concerned.

How does He know me?

Psalm 139:2-4 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. 3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

- He knows where and when you move.
- He knows your wants, desires, pains.
- He knows your history.
- Thoughts -- every one of them.
- Ways.
- Words.

His knowing me is good.

Psalm 139:5-6 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- Good fence.
- All knowledge is from Him. Good/evil, science, creation, archaeology, quantum physics, medicine, marketing, human psychology, molecular biology, astrophysics...
- Yet some of you CONTINUE to insist on your way. You DON'T submit. And it's not submission until you disagree.
- Will you submit to the protection and knowledge of God?
 - People wanting God to bless their relationships -- yet living in sin.
 - People wanting to dedicate their children to God -- yet living in sin.

God is everywhere

Psalm 139:7-12 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! 9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," 12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

- No place where He does not see my sin. He is everywhere--Heaven and Sheol; East (where sun rises) and West (end of Mediterranean). And everything in between. We hide when we sin. Why the Bible speaks of things done in the dark. But God is in the dark.
- And He is leading, and holding your hand. (Sometimes we throw His hand down).
- Knows my thoughts. My words, before I speak them.
- You cannot hide from his presence.
- You are not alone in the dark.
 - Letting kids sleep through the night.
 - Dark for us, but not for him. "Darkness is as light with you."

God is creator of all things

Psalm 139:13-16 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in

secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

- Made everything. 4D sonogram (photo)
- Bible talks of foreknowledge -- not just that God knew things before they happened.
But that He knew YOU specially. He was working on your behalf before creation.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."

Imago Dei. This is why life is so important--you and I are dealing w/ people made in the image of God.

- Created with purpose.
- Creation never by accident.
- Wonderfully made. Wonderfully: The word *apla* meaning distinguished, marvelous, miracle, separate. You. Not just the other people. Made in His image. Imago Dei.
- Your days not by accident. The TOUGHEST days we have ever experienced. The days that have caused us to know, and SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE THE MOST!

Summary:

- God is everywhere.
- This is God. His presence is all around. And it is good.

Psalm 16:1-2 Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.

- So why would you not want to be in His presence?

Psalm 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

- THIS is how we start our prayers off. How we start our day off. Begin by acknowledging God's presence in the heavens and in your life.