

God is always with Us – Psalm 139

God is always with us – this is either Good or Bad.
This is either Comforting or Scary

In fact the Psalm begins David saying:
'You have searched me LORD and you know me'

You have looked into my heart and the scariest thought of all – you know what I'm thinking.

There are things in my life I only share with my wife – I couldn't bear that others knew.
There are things I don't even tell her.

But God knows. He knows everything. He knows my public life but also my private thoughts.

God knows everything about us

Look with me at the Psalm, look at how comprehensive his knowledge is.
From verse 1:

You have searched me, LORD,
and you know me.
²You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
³You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
⁴Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.
⁵You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.
⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.

Illustration: I had a freaky feeling, two days ago I was talking about getting a haircut, I didn't search for it, I just talked about it and for two days now every ad on Facebook is for hair trimmers. I feel exposed and I feel targeted.
Yet here David is saying it is too wonderful, too overwhelming because God knows what I will say even before I say it.

It's right to feel humbled, to feel fear as we contemplate who the Lord is.

The Lord who knew that David the shepherd boy would become the King of Israel.

True for David and also true for us.

God knows everything about me? This feels too much, too overwhelming – how about I just avoid God, I run away from Him...which is the story of humanity, running away from God,
But...

We can't run away from God

God exists everywhere at once. And he is always with us.
Now we see how comprehensive his presence is.

Look with me at verse 7:

- 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.
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.

I can't even hide in the darkness. The Lord is present there and knows David. It's so crazy to think you could ever run away from God.

Illustration: Remember the prophet Jonah, he tried to run away from God, he went in the opposite direction, travelling in a ship, thrown overboard in a storm and finds himself in the belly of a whale – and God is with him. You can't run away from God.

The Lord who knew that David the shepherd boy would become the King of Israel. Also knew that he would be.... Both 'a man after God's own heart' and a Sinner who commits adultery and is complicit in Murder.

David couldn't hide by running or fleeing, or by covering up his sins.

True for David and also true for us.

God knows me, he is present with me, I can't run from Him – So then what do I do?

God provides a way for us

For David we see that God is intimately involved in his life. God ordains his days and amazingly David can know God's thoughts. Look at verse 13:

- 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.
- ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, 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.

God is intimately involved in David's life, there is a precious connection

Illustration: Every year my kids have a dance concert at the school and I love it. They learn all the steps and the moves, we practise at home and I hear the song they use over and over. And we go and watch and it's amazing. I take a video and show some others and they're like 'meh', their polite but it's 'meh'. But to me it is amazing, because I am intimately involved.

David is God's handiwork. God ordains his days and amazingly David can know God's thoughts.

True for David and also true for us.

The Lord who knew that David the shepherd boy would become the King of Israel... Also knew that he would be.... Both 'a man after God's own heart' and a Sinner who commits adultery and is complicit in Murder. But God has plans for him and David is known by God and loved by God.

But God had a greater plan. From the beginning of time he had ordained that another King would come. This is Jesus – The Son of God who is the Incarnate Word of God.

Who was with God at the beginning of time and yet was knit together in Mary's womb. Who God ordained would go to the cross for us. Who was the way that we could truly know God's thoughts as we truly could know God.

Jesus says you can know God through me. **Look at Matthew 11:27.**

²⁷ "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

God provides a way for us to know him – through his son Jesus.

So what do we do about it?

God leads us

God promises that he will lead us now away from evil and into eternal life with Him but first the psalm takes a shocking turn to talk about hate, look at verse 19:

- ¹⁹ If only you, God, would slay the wicked!
Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!
- ²⁰ They speak of you with evil intent;
your adversaries misuse your name.
- ²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, Lord,
and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?
- ²² I have nothing but hatred for them;
I count them my enemies.

Do I hate the enemies of God?

Illustration: When my kids start fighting they'll escalate things and one will say, "I hate you". It's emotional and a reaction to something that seems unjust. And to be honest that's what I do. I am so flawed and I have so many agendas.

As it is with me, it is with David.

So we must look to a righteous king, a greater king who is perfect and who can perfectly hate evil. Only in Jesus do we see someone who holds the name of God to be so precious, he does something about the enemies of God.

On the cross Jesus Christ takes the punishment for sin and so destroys the power of temptation, sin and even death itself. He comes back to life and in a public display to all God's enemies, even to Satan, that he has done it. Through him there is an end to Evil.

And so David says, and prays in Verse 23 and 24:

- ²³ Search me, 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.

God promises that he will lead us now away from evil and into eternal life with Him. We have assurance because of what Jesus has done. And we take hold of it by placing our faith, our life into Jesus' hands.

So what does this mean for us?

Those who are believers, known by God through Christ.

1. I can never be separated from the love of God, because of Jesus.

The Coronavirus cannot separate us from the love of God.

I know I talk fast but I want to read Romans 8 slowly, as the Apostle Paul says:

Romans 8:31-39

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Do I really believe it?

Search Me and Know Me.

Illustration: Do you know who will disappoint you? Your leaders at church. They haven't called or visited. Your bible study leaders? It's nice to be part of a group but they don't know me, they don't love me. And what about caring for your leaders? Have you made a phone-call to them?

But nothing can separate us from the Love of Christ. Not Coronavirus, not lockdown, not disappointment.

2. I am God's handiwork and more than that – he has plans for me.

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Do I really believe it?

Search Me and Know Me.

Illustration: I suspect God has plans for you to share the love of Jesus with those in your church and those in your neighbourhood. Things have paused, things are being re-set and things are ready for you to take action. God is not surprised. In fact, this is his plan. These are the works that he has prepared for you. And as we do those things, he will be with us always.

Pray:

Dear Lord,

Thank you that you know everything about me and you know me personally and relationally. Help when I face temptation to run away or hide from you. Thank you that you provide a way for me to know you and be known by you through Jesus Christ. Search me and lead me from temptation and into the true path. I long to be with you for eternity. Amen.