

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Text: Psalm 139

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'Too wonderful for me'

A. Samuel was told by God to anoint the King of Israel from Jesse's sons...

1. But each son of Jesse, Samuel would think, "Surly this must be the one."
2. "But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)

B. Finally Samuel asked Jesse, Do you have anymore sons?

1. Yes, just a boy in field (David)
2. David was a young man and had no idea God knew all about him

C. So it is with us—when we were young we didn't understand God's attributes

1. And even as we learned the Attributes of God—they were impersonal / Distant

God is All-Powerful: He didn't just create all things—He created You!

God is All-Knowing: He doesn't only know All Things—He Knows You!

God is All-Present: God isn't only Everywhere—God is with You!

I. PRAISING GOD FOR HIS OMNISCIENCE (v.1–6)

A. GOD IS ALL KNOWING

1. **He is All-Knowing...Nothing is hidden from God—Past, Present, or Future**
 - a) God knows every sparrow that falls...
 - b) He knows the number of hairs on your head...
 - c) He knows the number of the stars and calls each one by name...

He knows "all thoughts, all mysteries, all enigmas, all feeling, all desires, every unuttered secret, all thrones and dominions, all personalities, all things visible and invisible in heaven and in earth, motion, space, time, life, death, good, evil, heaven, and hell (A.W. Tozer)

2. **His Understanding is Infinite! (Psalm 147:3–5)**

B. GOD KNOWS YOU! (v.1–4)

1. **But God is Not Only All Knowing—He Knows You!**
2. **God Knows Every movement and action—from sun-up to sun-down**
3. **He Knows Every thought and motive... Every Activity, Every Word**

C. GOD'S PURPOSE IN KNOWING YOU (v.5–6)

But Why God is So Intensely Interested in Knowing Everything about you

- NOT So He Can Control You—He Gave You Free-Will
- NOT Just to Catch You in Some Wrong Doing—Although He's Aware of every sin

1. **To Protect You (v.5a) "You hem me in behind and before" (ESV, NIV)**

- a) Your Life is in the Palm of God's Hand

2. **To Be With You (v.5b) *and you lay your hand upon me.***

- a) Like a father puts his hand on the shoulder of his son or daughter

3. **To Open the Eyes of Your Understanding (v.6)**

- a) Our knowledge and understanding is limited, God's is unlimited

II. PRAISING GOD FOR HIS OMNIPRESENCE (v.7–12)

A. GOD IS ALL PRESENT

1. The Awareness of God's All Knowing Nature May Cause Some to Hide
 - a) Adam and Eve Hid after they had sinned in the Garden
2. But God is Spirit—He is Not Limited by Time or Space
 - a) (Jeremiah 23:24) Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says the Lord; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the Lord.
3. But God is Not Only All-Present...

B. GOD IS PRESENT WITH YOU

1. DEATH does not remove us from God (v.7–8)
Our Spirit Actually Returns to God
2. DISTANCE does not separate us from God (v.9–10)
3. DARKNESS does not hide us from God (v.11–12)

C. GOD'S PURPOSE IN PURSUING YOU

God's Purpose is Not to Harm You but to Help You!

1. To Guide You (v.10a) *Even there Your hand shall lead me*
2. To Support You (v.10b) *And Your right hand shall hold me*
3. To Protect You (v.11-12) *Even in the dark He is protecting us!*

How Comforting to Know that Wherever we are—God is There! (Isa. 43:2)

Even in the Darkest Times—God is With Us—You Are Never Alone with God!

III. PRAISING GOD FOR HIS OMNIPOTENCE (v.13–18)

A. GOD IS ALL POWERFUL

1. The most powerful computer in the world was the IBM BlueGene/L, housed at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California.
 - a) It can perform 280 trillion calculations a second.
2. The super computer at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico
 - a) fills a room the size of a hockey rink and consumes as much power as a small town
 - b) It processes a quadrillion calculations a second. How fast is that?
 - c) It is roughly a billion times faster than your desktop computer at home.
3. But The Worlds Fastest Super-computer is actually—YOUR BRAIN!
 - a) Scientists estimate your brain carries out 10 quadrillion operations /sec.
 - b) 10 times faster than the Los Alamos super-computer the size of a hockey rink!

B. GOD CREATED YOU

1. But God didn't just create all things—He created You!
You are fearfully and wonderfully made!

Augustine observed, “Men go abroad to wonder at the heights of mountains, at the huge waves of the sea, at the long courses of the rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motions of the stars; and they pass by themselves without wondering”

2. God Created You in His Own Image (Gen 1:26)

- a) If you don't like what you see in the mirror, you're judging yourself by worldly values.
- b) God made you for Himself. He gave you a personality, innate abilities, spiritual gifts, and a spiritual and eternal purpose.
- c) You are His treasured creation, made in His likeness.

C. GOD'S PURPOSE IN CREATING YOU

1. For His Glory and Our Good! (v.14)
2. For God's Divine Plan and Purpose (v.16)
3. For An Eternal Relationship (v.17-18)

IV. PRAISING GOD FOR HIS INFINITE HOLINESS (19-24)

A. GOD IS INFINITELY HOLY

1. God is light, in Him is no darkness (1 John 1:5)
 - a) His Holy Righteousness is not in degrees—it is infinite! (1 Timothy 6:16)
2. Reflecting on God's Holy Attributes—It's almost like David is returning to the earth's atmosphere and is disgusted by the evil of men.
 - a) The enemies of God curse His holy name—and rebel against God for their own gain
 - b) They suppress the truth in unrighteousness
 - c) They can't sleep unless they've done evil—they enjoy leading others astray
3. They Think They're Smarter than God—but their time is coming...
 - a) God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. (Gal 6:7)

“I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways” (Jer 17:10).

B. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU—TO LEAD YOU IN THE EVERLASTING WAY

David Knows the End of the Wicked....

So he doesn't only recognize the evil around him...

he faces the evil that may be within him...

1. Search me: O God, and know my heart;
2. Try me: and know my anxieties;
3. See me: And see if there is any wicked way in me,
4. Lead me: in the way everlasting.

The Wicked Try to Hide From God...

The Righteous Want to be Known By God and Be Right With God

CONCLUSION:

Because of His Omiscience - God is All Knowing (and He Knows You!)

Because of His Omnipresence - God is All-Present (Even with You!)

Because of His Omnipotence - God is All Powerful (He Even Created You!)

Because of His Holiness - God is of Infinite Righteousness (He Offers His Righteousness to You!)

This Righteousness is offered through the blood of Jesus Christ (Phil 3:9)

God asks us to step into the light of His Infinite Holiness (Prov 4:18-19 NIV)