

The Wonders Of Psalms 139

**“O Lord,
You have searched me and known me.
You know my sitting down and my rising up;
You understand my thought from afar off.” Verse 1&2**

Just think about it! There is not a thought that we have ever generated or one that we will ever generate but that God wasn't aware of it ahead of time. Every thought includes not only the good ones, but the evil ones as well. Every thought also includes every decision we make, the wise ones and the ones that aren't so wise. Isn't it silly of us to think about something while we are praying to God, but decide not to share it with Him, because we feel embarrassed about it being so trite or trivial?

The fact that God created us with the capacity and freedom to have thoughts is in itself a great revelation about us, and God, and how He created us with a free will. He could have made us without the capacity to think. We could have been pre-programmed to serve Him and obey Him and follow Him perfectly for all of eternity. If God had done that, would there have been sin on the earth? Would there have been love in the earth if we didn't have the power to think and to choose? Could we even experience love if we did not have the capacity to think?

Every part of ourselves He knows and understands, even when we don't know or understand ourselves. How many times do we seek help from someone or something, in the search to satisfy our yearning for better awareness of ourselves? Some of us spend our whole lives trying to find ourselves, and yet, God already knows all about us. How much energy and time do we spend in asking God for understanding of ourselves?

**“You comprehend my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.
For there is not a word on my tongue,
But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.” Verse 3&4**

Likewise as with our thoughts, God knows our every step, the paths we will choose to follow and the steps we will take each day. The steps that lead to righteousness, and the steps that lead to destruction. He knows our rising up and lying down, when and where it will be each day of our lives. Even more inspiring and confronting, is the declaration that God knows every word that we have ever said or have yet to say before we die. It's good that God is infinite, because some of us never seem to run out of words!

**“You have hedged me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is high, I cannot attain it.” Verse 5&6**

Those who choose to follow a path that leads toward God have His promise that He will surround us as with a hedge, both before and aft, and that His hand will be upon us. That doesn't automatically mean that we will never have tragedy, trials, or troubles in life, it means that God will be surrounding us as we experience life with all its trials. Even Jesus, God's only Son, faced a life of tragedy, trials, and troubles, yet without sin. God's own people, the Israelites directly, and the rest of us indirectly through our sins, killed him.

The knowledge of God's presence surrounding us when we can't see Him or touch Him is very deep. The Psalmist said, “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, it is high, I can not attain it.” It is a life long journey. Sometimes, the more thought and energy we exert contemplating about something, the less clear it becomes. **There are times when faith is a must and the only answer!**

**“Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
If I ascend into heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.” Verse 7&8**

This verse substantiates the Omnipresence of God, as He is everywhere. Not one of us, the righteous or the unrighteous can escape from God's presence. We may not choose to abide with Him, but that does not preclude His being present. God is like the air we breathe, clean air anyway, we can't see it but it is there. As soon as it's gone, we die! It wasn't by accident that God breathed the "breath of life" into Adam's nostrils before he became a living being.

So, as we make our journey in life, whether our own selfish thoughts and desires lead us or whether we allow God through His Holy Spirit to guide us, He is always present, in our midst. He doesn't force Himself upon us, but rather, He allows us to make the choices. The downside, however, to our freedom, is that God's Laws of Creation and Physics are always at work. His continuous presence likewise invokes these "natural" laws, with the basic one being "For every action there is a reaction". Therefore, unwise decisions bring about unpleasant consequences, even when God is present.

**“If I take wings in the morning,
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there Your hand shall lead me,
And Your right hand shall hold me.” Verse 9&10**

I can't speak for David the Psalmist when he wrote these verses, but if he was like me, he felt that the sea is a most foreboding place, one of mystery, one of very deep and vast uttermost parts. The Lord said through David, wherever, even in the uttermost parts of His creation we could find ourselves, that He would lead us and that He would hold us with His right hand.

So let us assume the "uttermost parts of the sea" is both figurative and literal. Imagine the uttermost part of your mind where all of your worst fears reside. Can the Lord be there holding your hand and guiding you? Yes, He can and will be. The challenge remains, will we let him lead us, or will we choose not to follow His lead? Even while His right hand is holding us, we may choose to relax in its comfort, or we can fight it and reject His hand. He gives us a choice.

**“If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall fall on me,’
Even the night shall be light about me;
Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You,
The darkness and the light are both alike to You.” Verse 11&12**

Sometimes when we realize our foolishness and our sins, we want to hide from God. The cover of darkness sometimes allows mankind to be undetected when doing wrong. In the light of God's Word through the Psalmist, it doesn't matter whether it is day or night. The darkness and the light, they are both the same to God.

God was the originator of "night vision" capabilities. I wonder how many times we deceive ourselves into thinking there is a difference before the Lord? The more time we spend reflecting on this Psalm and all that it says, the more we can find ourselves acting like a self-correcting guided missile. As soon as we become aware of an erroneous thought, if we share it with God, we can seek to get back on course. I marvel and rejoice that, even though God knew our erroneous thoughts before we think them, He allows us to have them anyway; but then, He enables us to address the situation with Him and to correct it. **Thanks are to be unto God for His Forgiveness, Grace, Love and Mercy!**

**“For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother’s womb.
I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows quite well.” Verse 13&14**

These two verses and the next two are possibly the most profound in all of Scripture, at least for me. Someone could probably write a book on all of the meanings and ramifications of these verses. I am not a scholar in the Hebrew or Greek used in the original texts, so I only know what I know from my own language and thoughts. That in itself is enough to cause me a lifetime of marvelous wonderment and praise.

Pause and think about these verses. The inward most intimate parts of our being God formed when we were in our mother’s womb. That includes our entire specific genetic DNA that we inherited from our ancestors. It also includes each unique part of our personality that makes us different from each other; not only in our DNA and physical appearance, but also in how we function and relate to circumstances, life, and others. Likewise, it includes our God-Consciousness that we are all born with, and to what degree we will activate it as we live our life.

Just the wonderment of our bodies and how we are woven together to work is astonishing. Phillip Yancey wrote a splendid book about this titled “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made”, that I highly recommend to all.

**“My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.
Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written,
The days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.” Verse 15&16**

This is the section of Psalms 139 that really blows my mind. I would like to think I have a better understanding of it after studying and contemplating on it for years. The truth is, I’m not sure that mankind or I will ever be able to fully understand the mind of God and all that He means while we are here on earth.

It says, that our body, frame, and substance were not hidden from God while we were made in secret. There certainly are no surprises for God when we are born and grow up. It says that we were skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. I’m not sure what that means, except to be wrought is to be made, fashioned or formed. God says that we were skillfully wrought, not sloppily any old way, but skillfully. It gives me pause to reflect on my body and the things I don’t always like about it. Did God get lazy or sloppy when He made me, or am I, the clay, critical of the potter?

Now for the really fascinating part! God says that His eyes saw our unformed substance and yet, before we had experienced even one day of life, that God knew and had fashioned all the days of our lives before we had known any of them, including today. Whether we live for 1 day or 365,250 days (100 years), today is the day the Lord has made, and God already knows about today. He knew about today before we woke up this morning and he knew about today before we were born. **This is absolutely mind-boggling!**

So, how do we assimilate our knowledge of God’s knowing about today before today comes? How does our awareness of God’s knowledge of our life today alter or change how we approach life today, with all of its blessings, challenges, opportunities, and problems? The choice is ours to make. We can fight it or enjoy it.

I can’t answer for you, but as for me, the awareness of Psalms 139:16 impacts my life as never before. I find myself spending more time during my day consulting with God through prayer about everything. What I should think, what I should do, how I should react to a given situation, how I should respond to a challenge, how I should proceed with my plans and goals for today and my life, how I can be a blessing to others, even about how I should relate to God Himself. **The list is endless, but the bottom line is this: I have more hope for today than ever before! I think this verse is the OT basis for Romans 8:28.**

**“How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God,
How great is the sum of them!
If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
When I awake, I am still with You.” Verse 17&18**

These verses seem to imply that God has thoughts about us and thoughts that are directed toward us. They are so numerous, in fact that they can't be numbered. What a blessing it is to lie down and go to sleep with God in our thoughts, knowing that we are in His thoughts too, and when we awake, we are still with Him. This interpretation may not correspond with the original text, I don't know, but it certainly is possible. Why wouldn't God have thoughts about His created beings, ones that were created in His own image?

**“Search me O God, and know my heart;
Try me, and know my anxieties;
And see if there is any wicked way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting.” Verse 23&24**

Wait a minute, where did this come from? The Psalmist said for God to search him and to know his heart, to try him and to know his anxieties? Why did the Psalmist have anxieties? After all of the wonderful verses of encouragement in the previous 16 verses, why did the Psalmist talk about his anxieties? The Psalmist said, “see if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting”. Were his anxieties wicked?

Maybe the Psalmist knew he was human. Maybe he knew that, we the readers in later generations would be human. In our human condition, we, in fact, are filled with anxieties as we experience life. In spite of God's knowing us and having us in His thoughts, there is wickedness within us because we are human, and we have all sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God. Anxieties are a consequence of life here on this earth. They are a reality that can't be denied, no matter who we are.

So now what? We have the power to choose. We may choose to allow God to lead us in the way of life everlasting, or we may choose to do it on our own. God's knowledge of our thoughts and decisions does not prevent us from choosing. We are free to choose to follow the Lord, or we are free to reject His ways and go our own ways. The choice is ours.

I hope that all of you who read these thoughts will be blessed, and have the courage and presence of mind to seek God's forgiveness of sins, through faith in Jesus' shed blood by His death on the cross for our sins, and choose to walk in fellowship with God. If you choose to think or feel differently about these things, it is still my hope that you will be blessed by these thoughts, and not be offended. It is never my desire to offend anyone.

The choice is yours. It is a life-long journey, one that is never too late to start. As long as we are still alive in the flesh, we may choose to begin the journey.

Blessings, With Thoughts of Wonder!

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