God is Everywhere!

(The Omnipresence of God)

Psalm 139:7-12

2-24-2021

God knows all (Psalm 139:1-6) because He made everything, sees everything, and is everywhere!
God does not merely look at His creation from a distance; he is in the midst of it.

Take comfort in the Omnipresence of God!

I. God's presence is spiritual (v.7)

II. God's presence is actual (v. 8)

III. God's presence is total (vv. 8, 10)

IV. God's presence is universal (vv. 7-10)

A. God is present in Heaven above (v. 8a)

B. God is present in hell (sheol) beneath
(sheol literally refers to a "deep pit")

C. God is present in earth ("sea") below

1. His presence is inescapable (Ps. 139:7-12)

2. His presence is not confined

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How would you answer this question: "Where is God right now?"

God is "not far from everyone of us: for in Him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:27, 28).

The <u>DEFINITION</u> of God's Omnipresence

The word "present" means: here, close to, next to; and the prefix "omni" gives it universality. God is everywhere here, close to everything, next to everyone (Tozer, p. 121).

God is everywhere present!

SEE: Psalm 139:7-12

God's omniscience (v. 1-6) and omnipresence are closely related.

God knows all because He made everything, sees everything, and <u>is everywhere</u>!

God does not merely look at His creation from a distance; he is in the midst of it.

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The <u>EXPLANATION</u> of God's Omnipresence

I. God's presence is <u>spiritual</u>

Psalm 139:7 -- "Thy Spirit . . . Thy presence."

NOTE; The connection between God's "Spirit" and God's "presence."

God is spirit (Jn. 4:24); therefore, His presence is not material in nature.

Important Note: God is present in all of creation; but He is <u>not</u> a <u>part</u> of creation.

II. God's presence is actual

Psalm 139:8 - ". . . Thou art there. . ."

Though God's presence is spiritual, it is nonetheless actual (real) in essence.

God's omnipresence is not a mere potential. That is, we are not saying that God can be every place at one time, but that He is every place at one time.

God is not merely in a place in thought, but in reality.

(Contrast this with the example of someone who knows about California, may even see a live ball game in California via satellite and TV; but is not present in California.)

III. God's presence is total

Psalm 139:8, 10 - "Thou art there . . . Thy right hand shall hold me."

It is important to note that God in His totality (whole being) is everywhere present at the same time.

--God does not have to be extended ("stretched out" or expanded) to be everywhere.

--God does not have to be multiplied or divided to be everywhere.

God's omnipresence is not a part of God in every place, but is all of God in every place.

--God fills heaven and earth! (SEE: jer. 23:23-24)

--God sits in Heaven and rests His feet on earth (Is. 66:1; cp. I Ki. 8:27; Ps. 11:4). "Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool."

The omnipresence of God is as the sea is to the fish and the air to the bird. "God is over all things, under all things, outside all, within but not enclosed; without but not excluded; above but not raised up; below but not depressed; wholly above, residing; wholly beneath, sustaining; wholly within, filling" (Tozer, citing Hildebert, p. 122).

IV. God's presence is universal

Psalm 139:7-10 - He is in "heaven . . . hell (sheol) . . . the uttermost part of the sea."

A. God is present in Heaven above (v. 8a)

God's glory is visible in Heaven (Rev. 4:2, 3), not on earth.

Though God is present on earth, no one sees His glory today. We see Him only through "eyes of faith."

B. God is present in hell (sheol) beneath (sheol literally refers to a "deep pit")

--Sheol often refers to the grave (Sol. 8:6)

--Sheol often refers to a place of destruction for the wicked (Deut. 32:22; Ps. 9:17; Prov. 15:11; Is. 14:9, 15)

*SEE Rev. 14:10 - ". . . he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb (Jesus Christ). Contrast with 2 Th. 1:9

(Those who die without Christ will be forever set apart from the presence of God in terms of His power to save, but not in terms of His watchful eye.)

C. God is present in earth ("sea") below

(No one is ever away from God's presence - There is actually no desolate, secluded place on earth, or in the universe!)
E.Since God is universal:

1. His presence is inescapable Ps. 139:7-12)

SEE: Jeremiah 23:23, 24.

The most foolish attempt in the world is to run or hide from God! (EX: Adam, Achan, Jonah - Jonah tried to flee from the presence of the Lord, but he couldn't [Jonah 1:3]).

2. His presence is not confined

a. God is not confined to any object

--such as an idol

"Canon W.G.H. Holmes of India told of seeing Hindu worshippers tapping on trees and stones and whispering, "Are you there? Are you there?" to the god they hoped might reside within" (Tozer, p. 124).

One reason why idolatry (object worship) is such an abomination is because it not only is a substitute worship for the true God (Rom. 1), but it also discredits the omnipresence of God and confines Him to an object, building, or some other "holy" site.

--such as a building (I Ki. 8:27; II Chron. 2:5, 6; Acts 7:47-50).

b. God is not confined to any location

(SEE: Jn. 4:20-24)

Deut. 4:39 - "Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else."

(Cp. Josh. 2:11)

EXCURSUS:

Christ's use of His omnipresence was surrendered while He was on earth.

When Christ was incarnate on earth, He was limited in His omnipresence.

It is in this sense that the Father is said to be "greater" than the Son (Jn. 14:28).

Conclusion:

The APPLICATION of God's Omnipresence

The truth about God's omnipresence should be applied to your life. In other words, we need to "practice the presence of God."

A. God's omnipresence has application to the unsaved (Acts 17:22-29 *v. 27-28)

He is only a call away (Rom. 10:13).

B. God's omnipresence has special application to the saved

(Though God is everywhere, He dwells with the Godly in a special way - Is. 57:15 - "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.")

"Enoch walked with God . . ." (Gen. 5:22).

When you "practice the presence of God," the following blessings will be enjoyed:

1. Knowing God's presence with you brings joy (Ps. 16:11).

2. Knowing God's presence with you brings comfort (Acts 18:10).

3. Knowing God's presence with you brings confidence

    a. Confidence as you pray (Mt. 18:19-20)

    b. Confidence as you witness (Mt. 28:19-20)

    c. Confidence as you serve

        1) Christ fills all believers (Eph. 1:23)

        2) God works in all believers (I Cor. 12:6) (Phil. 2:13)

4. Knowing God's presence with you brings an end to loneliness (Heb. 13:5). (You are never alone - Acts 17:27-28)

5. Knowing God's presence with you brings a fear of God (Gen. 28:15-17; Josh. 2:11).

    God is always with us . . . Are we always with Him?

Illustrations of God's Omnipresence:

Your iPhone tracks your location and stores it in a hidden file, whether you like it or not. So does your iPad 3G. That's the recent revelation of British researchers Alasadair Allan and Pete Warden.

The devices have been recording latitude and longitude as well as time of day since the introduction of iOS4. It has been speculated that the devices capture the locations through cell-tower triangulation

To make matters worse, the information is not encrypted, which means it is available on any computer that you synchronize your phone to. Anyone who has access to those computers or your phone could learn where you've been and when you were there. Because the information is not protected it is also subject to hacking.

Application:

Does the idea that someone might be able to track your every movement bother you? If so, then here's something that will probably really freak you out. God not only tracks your every movement, He tracks your every thought!

In most of the United States there is a policy of checking on any stalled vehicle on the highway when temperatures drop to single digits or below. About 3:00 am one very cold morning, Montana State Trooper Allan Nixon responded to a call about a car that was off the shoulder of the road outside Great Falls, Montana. He located the car, stuck in deep snow but with the engine still running.

Pulling in behind the car with his emergency lights on, the trooper walked to the driver's door to find an older man passed out behind the wheel with a nearly empty vodka bottle on the seat beside him. The driver woke up when the trooper tapped on the window. Seeing the rotating lights in his rearview mirror, and the state trooper standing next to his car, the man panicked. He jerked the gearshift into "drive" and hit the gas.

The car's speedometer was showing 20, 30, 40,and then 50 MPH, but it was still stuck in the snow, wheels spinning. The trooper having a sense of humor, began running in place next to the speeding (but stationary) car. The driver totally freaked out, thinking the trooper was actually keeping up with him. This went on for another 30 seconds before the trooper yelled, "PULL OVER!" The man nodded, turned his wheel, and stopped the engine. Needless to say, the man from North Dakota was arrested and is probably still shaking his head over the state trooper in Montana who could run 50 miles per hour.

It seems that a burglar broke into a certain house and things were going well for the burglar. He was able to get into the house without setting off any alarms, and he didn't hear anybody stirring in the house. He had been surveying it and he thought there was no one there. As he went about his business methodically ransacking the house, he was quite surprised after about five minutes when he suddenly heard the squawking of a parrot. The parrot squawked at him and said, “Jesus is watching you.” The burglar was quite surprised to hear a parrot talk about Jesus, but like most people he just ignored that message and went about his business when he realized it was only a parrot. The parrot said again, “Jesus is watching you.” The burglar was a little bothered by that. His conscience began to bother him, but he went on about his business. The parrot said again, “Jesus is watching you.” This happened about four or five times and the burglar was just trying to ignore it, when all of a sudden the parrot said, “Sic 'em, Jesus,” and he turned around to be face to face with a big Doberman lunging at him.

Sightings of religious icons are rampant in today’s headlines. Whether it’s the face of Jesus on a Walmart receipt, the Cross of Christ in a cut potato, or Mother Theresa’s visage in a cinnamon bun, people are seeing spiritual images everywhere [click here for pictures of 13 of the most popular].

“You might have scratched your head in wonderment when a 10-year-old cheese sandwich sold at auction [in 2004] for a cool $28,000 simply because people thought they saw the face of the Virgin Mary in the folds of the stale food.