

God's Greatness  
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Psalm 139

Opening: *"You see me! You REALLY see me!"* Why might someone say that? What would they mean? Why might we NOT want anyone to see the real us?

A recent article in Psychology Today described what the writer called a "mattering deficit" in our society. They describe "mattering" as "...the feeling of being significant to others." <sup>i</sup> A 2018 survey of over 20,000 U.S. adults found that 54% feel that no one knows them well and nearly half report feeling alone or left out. <sup>ii</sup>

Followers of Christ can feel that way too. Thankfully, God's Holy Spirit inspired the Psalmist David to write a song of thanksgiving to remind us that we always matter to our Heavenly Father. We know it as Psalm 139. To paraphrase David, *"It blows my mind to realize that the God of the universe created me, knows me, is with me, and will guide me every day of my life. I matter to Him!"*

The point: Psalm 139 reminds us: God is so great, yet He loves me so much. His overwhelming greatness deserves my unending worship, abiding gratitude, and joyful obedience. Let's begin with verses 1-6 – God's Complete Awareness.

**(ESV)** — **1** O Lord, you have searched me and known me! **2** 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. **5** 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.

- God is OMNISCIENT – He knows everything about everything including me.
- The Hebrew word for "searched" isn't passive. God actively observes me.
- He knows my thoughts before I think them and my words before I say them.
- Verse four: Even if I can't put my feelings into words, He already knows them.
- How does that knowledge make you feel? Based on verse six, how did it make David feel? Though it can be intimidating, how can it be very liberating?
- Here is another liberating thought. Do you know the initials, "T.M.I.?" Do you avoid those people? Are you ever one yourself? *"Why didn't I just stop talking?"*
- We don't have to worry about TMI with God; He already knows everything, so we never need to feel ashamed when speaking with Him about anything.
- He knows everything about us, and STILL, He loves us unconditionally!
- That is God's Complete Awareness. Now look at His Constant Presence.

**7** 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.

- God is OMNIPRESENT. He is always everywhere.
- We need to wrap our minds around two seemingly conflicting ideas.
- God "...is **transcendent**...He exists outside of the universe, beyond the scope of space, time, and the laws of physics. He is immensely greater and more powerful than all of the mass and matter of the universe combined. Yet, God is also **immanent**...He relates intimately and personally with each and every person."<sup>iii</sup>
- At times we will feel lonely, but we are never out of God's presence.
- In addition to His Continual Presence we have His Consistent Guidance.
- In verse 10 David wrote, "...your right hand shall lead me" and "hold me." God spoke through the prophet Isaiah, "For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you." **Isaiah 41:13 (ESV)**
- Also in Isaiah, God promised: "...your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it..." **Isaiah 30:21**. We have God's Consistent Guidance.
- David was also amazed and grateful for God's Creative Understanding.

**13** 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.

- God understands me because He created me! David didn't have the modern medical knowledge we have, yet he understood we are "fearfully and wonderfully" made by God who "wove" us together in our mother's womb.
- Ethel Waters became famous for singing the song, "His Eye is On the Sparrow." She also famously wrote, "*I am somebody cause God don't make no junk.*"<sup>iv</sup>
- **Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)** - *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*
- At times we feel that no one understands us. God does – because He made us.
- When you were born did your Mom have a "baby book" to track your infancy?
- Before you were born God authored the book of your life, every day of it. He has sovereign knowledge of our days and yet he gives us free will to live them.
- That verse also reminds us that "God is deeply involved in the day-to-day details of our lives from conception onward, watching over us with eternal knowledge and care."<sup>v</sup> God is involved with every day of my life and never takes a vacation!
- We are also the object of God's Continual Thoughts.

**17** How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! **18** If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

- A loving parent thinks a lot about their kids but what a comfort to know the God of the Universe is thinking about you and me every minute of every day!
- He is also willing to share His thoughts with us through His word. (1 Cor. 2:16)
- Now when we read verses 19-22, it seems like David had a moment of ADHD.

**19** Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me! **20** They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain. **21** Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? **22** I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies.

- What is up with that? ☺ We were basking in our Heavenly Father's loving presence and suddenly David is venting to God about those who hate God.
- The consensus of scholars is: "The psalmist's love for God is so deep that the rebellion, wickedness, and blasphemy directed toward God cause intense frustration and indignation." One day in Heaven let's ask David about that!
- In the last two verses, David speaks of God's Compassionate Conviction.

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

- Because God knows our every thought, word, and deed, we can be totally transparent in asking Him to point out where we have fallen short.
- Because Christ died for our sins, we can be forgiven and with the help of His Holy Spirit we no longer need to be a slave to sin. (Romans 6:15-23)

So, What's the Takeaway?

- There may be a "matter deficit" in society but not with our Heavenly Father.
- He created you. He knows you. You matter to Him.
- Does your family track each other on the "Find My Friends" app? We do. We regularly check to see where each one's "dot" is on the map.
- The God of the Universe does more than just see your "dot."
- He sees you. He is always with you. He is always thinking about you.
- Because He created you, He understands you in ways no one else can.
- In his book "The Search for Significance," Robert McGee writes: "Our value is not determined by the opinions or approval of others, but by the unconditional love of God."<sup>vi</sup> In God's eyes we ARE SIGNIFICANT.
- The Life Application Study Bible reminds us, "*God is all-seeing, all-knowing, all-powerful, and everywhere present. God knows us, God is with us, and his greatest gift is to allow us to know him.*"<sup>vii</sup>
- God's knowledge, creation and presence are a reality for every human being (saved or unsaved), but the full spiritual benefits of Psalm 139 —peace, comfort, and assurance—are most deeply experienced by Christ followers.
- An old gospel song said it well: "*When He Was on the Cross, I Was on His Mind.*"
- As strong as the title is, listen to the words of the chorus:

*He knew me, yet He loved me  
He whose glory makes the heavens shine  
So unworthy of such mercy  
Yet when He was on the cross  
I was on His mind*<sup>viii</sup>

- If you only remember one thought from this study, remember that one. He KNOWS us as we are and YET He loves us. We matter to Him.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-power-of-mattering/202506/our-hidden-crisis-too-many-of-us-feel-like-we-dont-matter>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/news-polls/us-loneliness-index-report>

<sup>iii</sup> Swindoll, Charles R.. Living the Psalms: Encouragement for the Daily Grind (pp. 270-271). Worthy Books. Kindle Edition.

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/322619-i-am-somebody-cause-god-don-t-make-no-junk>

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.thenivbible.com/blog/feeling-the-presence-of-god-in-your-life/>

<sup>vi</sup> McGee, Robert S. The Search for Significance: Seeing Your True Worth Through God's Eyes. Thomas Nelson, 2003.

<sup>vii</sup> Tyndale. NKJV Life Application Study Bible, Second Edition . Tyndale House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

<sup>viii</sup> Songwriters: Ronnie Hinson / Ronald Michael Payne  
When He Was On The Cross lyrics © Wind In Willow Publishing Company