

# How To Seek God's Face - Omniscience

OPENING: VIDEO: Psalm 139

REVIEW: We are in a series on "How to Seek God's Face." The base of what we are saying is simple: to seek God's face means to know God. We have been working hard at making sure this is not simply a theology class on the attributes of God. I can certainly teach that, and I encourage you to read on your own so you better understand the God that we worship. In fact, being a book freak you know I have to recommend a book for you to read. Charles Swindoll's *Growing Deep in the Christian Life*. It is a great introduction to understanding theology. It really is a plain english book about understanding God.

We have looked at God being personal. That means, God knows us, and He loves us. Not in some general statement, but in a grand fact that God is personal with us. Yet too often we treat Him impersonally. We talked about how we can build a much more personal relationship with God. Next we looked at God being present everywhere, and how we don't always see it that way. We get too comfortable with sin when we don't think of God being present everywhere. We also miss out on an intimate relationship with our Savior because we confine Him to church, or our devotion time, rather than seeking a relationship with Him at all times. Last time we talked about God being all powerful, and how He has power over every area of our lives.

INTRO: Today we are going to look at God's omniscience, or the fact that God knows all. To do so, we will look at our base text in Psalm 139, as well as one other main text in John 10. Let's start with some general understandings about God's knowledge.

- I. God knows all things
  - A. God never gets caught unaware, nor does God forget something
  - B. Because of this, God's knowledge has no limits
    1. God knows about the impending storm on a planet millions of light years from earth
      - a) He knows what the results will be when the storm settles
      - b) He knows if we will ever find out about that planet or the storm that took place
    2. God also knows about the little microscopic elements of the universe
      - a) If it will cause disease
      - b) Will it help build into something much larger and grander than itself alone

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- c) The viruses and bacteria that infect our bodies, God knows what the cure is for those things - if we have discovered it yet, if there will be time enough to discover it
- 3. Speaking of time, God knows what will happen tomorrow
  - a) God knows all the possible outcomes of tomorrow
  - b) God knows how the history of time will run its course
  - c) To stretch your mind a little farther, tomorrow is not a place in which God will arrive at as we think of it - it is a place that God already is
- 4. Not only that, but God knows what some of the outcomes would have been like, if things had gone differently
- 5. God has perfect knowledge of Himself
  - a) There is not one of us here that can say that we have perfect knowledge of ourselves
    - (1) I astound myself sometimes and how weak and frail I can be in making some decisions
      - (a) Choices about sin
      - (b) Choices about doing difficult things
      - (c) Just when I think I know what I would do, a situation arises that proves me wrong
    - (2) I have no doubt that you are the same way
  - b) Yet God knows Himself perfectly
    - (1) Which means that God is the ONLY ONE qualified to tell us about Himself
    - (2) All the attempts that man makes to describe God fall short of what God has revealed about Himself in His Word
- 6. Simply put, there is no knowledge that God does not have
- 7. He expends no energy in knowing - nor does He have to seek anyone's idea or advice about anything
  - a) In what is one of the funnier, and impressive parts of the Bible is God's exchange with Job
  - b) When God answers Job, He basically says, "Stand there like a man and I will ask you questions. Where were you when I hung the stars in place? How did I create these animals?"
  - c) God's point was simple - man did not help God in these things, and this was an area of knowledge that only God has
- C. This is so helpful when we think about the enormity of God's knowledge
  - 1. There is not one of us in here that have not faced circumstances at which we scratch our heads or want to curl up into a ball sometimes
    - a) I have had those moments - where I would rather go to bed than try to figure out how to deal with some issue

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- b) No doubt many of you have too
  - 2. When we understand that God has all the knowledge, the ne we understand there is no circumstance that we face with Him that He does not know what to do
  - 3. You want to know a definition of God's will that I heard that is ridiculously practical
    - a) God's will is what you would do if you were acquainted with all the facts
    - b) If you knew all that God knew, God's will is a response to all those facts
      - (1) Yet we are not God
      - (2) So cultivating a deep personal and intimate relationship with God is vital for life and making choices
- II. On to Psalm 139:1-6 (p. 621), because this is where God's knowledge becomes more personal to us
- A. It says that God searched us - like He has to figure out who we are
    - 1. This is the Bible speaking in terms that we would understand
    - 2. It is terms of a relationship
      - a) Every relationship we have is one in which we have to learn and become more intimately involved in the life of the person
      - b) However, God does not need to do that, He already knows us from before we were born
  - B. Think about the nature of the relationship this describes
    - 1. This is written like a love letter back to our Creator about how intimately He knows us
      - a) It's almost like a letter from a parent to a child talking about how deep their relationship runs
      - b) Listen to this letter from a mom - I will only read part of it: "What It Means to Be a Mother"
    - 2. The reality is that most of us crave this kind of relationship
      - a) A relationship in which we trust that we are accepted perfectly - no matter how weird we are
      - b) A relationship in which you are known so completely
        - (1) For all your strengths
        - (2) That all your weaknesses are known - and still you are loved
      - c) Most of us would probably say that we have only a very small handful of relationships like this
        - (1) No matter how close our friendships are, there are only a few relationships that rival this in our lives
        - (2) And the fact is, God desires this relationship with you

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## C. God knows everything about us

1. From when we sit down and rise up (our movements here)
2. To our thoughts
3. He knows the words we are about to say before we even say them
4. This is a God that is so intimately familiar with us, that if any human being knew this much about us, it would be creepy

## III. There is comfort in God knowing us this well

### A. There is the comfort of God in fellowship

1. God sees when you are lonely, when you have heartache, when you are misunderstood
2. He sees you when you are full of joy, having a great day, or enjoying a gift to you that He provided
3. Look at Psalm 139:17-18
  - a) God never takes His mind off of you!
  - b) David is declaring that God's thoughts about Him are precious! He loves the fact that God is thinking about Him all the time
  - c) There is a comfort in knowing the we have a God that cares that much for us that He knows us that intimately, and that we are never out of His thoughts!

### B. There is also comfort in God's guidance

1. ILL: One friend invited another to fly across central Florida in his private plane. He says, "during my friend's 50 years of experience as a pilot he flew all over the world and faced every possible condition. On our return trip the airplane began to shake and the engine started coughing and losing power. As I looked down from an altitude of a few thousand feet, terror gripped me. I felt an incredible urge to do something. But there was nothing I could do. I had no experience in flying, landing, or fixing a plane. Then I looked at my friend at the controls. He was utterly calm as he adjusted knobs and switches and continued to pilot the plane to a safe landing. There are times in life when I desperately want to grab control. My experience in the plane reminds me that if I take control I will ruin or destroy my life. At those moments, I must resist the urge and trust the one who has seen it all before, and who knows what he is doing."
2. How did I define God's will before, "What you would do if you were acquainted with all the facts."
3. God is acquainted with all of the facts
  - a) God's guidance cannot be rivaled
  - b) Because He knows far more than we ever will, God will always land the plane safely

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- c) It comes down to a question of trust
  - (1) When we look into the pilot's seat, do we see a frazzled, out of control pilot that looks as if He can't handle things?
  - (2) Or do we see a calm, in control God, One that has perfect knowledge, One that has it all under control?
- 4. Because of God's guidance, He is able to "shuffle the deck" to answer prayers
  - a) He is intimately familiar with you
  - b) He has perfect knowledge of the rest of the world and its people
  - c) He is able to combine those to help you be the answer to someone's prayer
    - (1) There may be a godly single guy out there praying for a godly single woman - or vice versa
    - (2) You might be God's answer to someone's prayers for laborers on the mission field
    - (3) You might be the answer for your own family member that God is directing you toward
- 5. Because of God's perfect and complete knowledge, He is able to give guidance to life for those that seek that intimate and personal relationship with Him
- C. We get comfort from God's instruction
  - 1. Because God is all-knowing, we need to look to Him for instruction
  - 2. While the Bible is not a textbook with instruction on every subject under the sun, God made it complete for us to know the truth
    - a) The truths about man's true spiritual condition
    - b) The truth about God's incredible love that would die for us while we were still sinners
    - c) The truth of how we could have our lives reconciled to God
  - 3. Then there are the truths of how to treat one another in the world
    - a) That is really what a lost and dying world is looking for
    - b) Does God's Word change us into the people that will sacrifice for others, that will love unconditionally, that will be little Christ's here on earth
- D. We also get comfort from the fact that God sees our work and efforts, and will reward us one day
  - 1. The Washington Post conducted an experiment. They wanted to see if people would appreciate a world renowned musician in an out of context situation.

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- a) So they had a man named Joshua Bell dress in jeans and a long sleeved t-shirt, wearing a Washington Nationals Baseball Cap. He was in a busy Washington subway station close to rush hour.
    - (1) Joshua Bell has been a phenom since he hit puberty
    - (2) Three days prior to this he was playing to a sold out crowd at the Boston Symphony hall - he is a violin player
  - b) He played for about 45 minutes and had over a thousand people pass by in that time.
    - (1) During that time he played works of art from Mozart, and others
    - (2) And during that time he collected \$37 and change
  2. The fact that God knows all brings great comfort because many of the greatest masterpieces ever played get the same kind of fanfare that Joshua got
    - a) For the single mother working three jobs to provide for her kids
    - b) To the dad that works hard through the week to make sure he can be with his kids on the weekends
    - c) To the church nursery worker, the office worker, the person seriously underpaid, and all kinds of other servants in this world
    - d) We all want to know that what we do is making a difference in the world, and that someone appreciates our efforts
    - e) The reality is, we have a God who knows
      - (1) He knows our hearts as we serve others
      - (2) He knows the times we go without so our kids, or someone's kids can have
      - (3) He knows the extra hours we slave away that no one ever sees, and no one ever appreciates
      - (4) This is another of the comforts of serving a God that knows everything
- IV. One final area that God's perfect knowledge touches on in our lives - our sin
- A. It follows through that if God knows everything, God knows our sin as well
1. John 4:13-18 (p. 1066)
    - a) Jesus is talking with the woman at the well about the water that wells up to eternal life
    - b) She is intrigued so she asks for this water
    - c) Then Jesus hits her with something she is not expecting - "Go get your husband so we can talk more."
      - (1) Perhaps Jesus was wanting to observe propriety in talking not just with the woman, but also with her husband as the head of the family
      - (2) Perhaps Jesus was wanting her to face her sinful lifestyle

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- (3) Because it is Jesus, He probably was using propriety as a way to have her face her sinful life
- d) Jesus tells her plainly, "You are right when you say you have no husband - in fact you have had five husbands, and the man you are with now is not your husband."
- 2. So here is the point, God knows our sins
- B. So if God knows our sin, how do we react to that idea
  - 1. Sadly, many of us do one of two things
    - a) We either rationalize our sin
      - (1) We try to say that it is not really sin
        - (a) A lot of times we think of others that we feel are "real" sinners - "Oh those gays try to say that it is okay to engage in homosexual activity, and that God is okay with it - you're right pastor"
        - (b) However we don't think of ourselves
          - i) Too many Christians give a mild wink to boyfriend and girlfriend living together - "That's just the day we live in, what can you do?"
          - ii) Divorce is taken lightly, coveting (materialism or the American dream), playing loose with taxes, the list could go on
          - iii) Christians need to come from a position of "I will follow God's will and God's Word" rather than a position of "how can I rationalize things, or how far can I push this without it really being sin"
      - b) Or we try to hide our sin as if God cannot see what we are doing
        - (1) We talked at length previously in the series about how God is present with us everywhere we go
        - (2) Which means that He can see everything we do
        - (3) VIDEO: I Have a Confession to Make (LEAD IN)
          - (a) We are going to watch a video that talks about this very phenomenon
          - (b) The video itself will lead us to the solution as well
  - C. The solution for our sin:
    - 1. Understand that God sees it all anyway
    - 2. God knows it all anyway
    - 3. And God paid for it all anyway
      - a) I love the guy in the video as he talks about grace
      - b) Grace is really this 800 lb gorilla of the faith and yet we treat it as the little kid that few pay attention to as we sin

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4. The solution the man mentions is twofold
  - a) The first is God's gift of salvation
    - (1) The gospel - the good news
    - (2) God paid the price for us
    - (3) That is the greatest news we could possibly hear
  - b) The second solution the man in the video alludes to is God's gift of the church
    - (1) Over and over he talks about how he has something to confess
    - (2) It is a practice that the church in America needs to get real about
    - (3) We are all so easy to make the statement that "I'm not perfect"
      - (a) Yet we struggle so much with confession
      - (b) To drag those sins out into the light like little Gremlins and let them die
- D. In seeking God's face we understand that God is all knowing
  1. It led the woman at that the well to come face to face with her sin
  2. It should lead us to confession
- E. These are the kinds of things that will happen when the church becomes serious about seeking the face of God
  1. We learn more and more of who He is
  2. We see more and more of how that affects our lives
  3. And we become more and more obedient to His desire for our lives