

The God Who Searches For Us

A question that children often ask, who made God? An interesting question and one which no one has the answer to. God, as far as we are aware is eternal – no beginning, no end but not us, we are finite, we have a beginning Gospel and an end.

So, naturally we think in those terms – beginnings and endings, and we think that everything should reflect this.

But can we know God? Can we know anything of him?

The Bible is our reference book for God. It is God's story and how God has connected with human beings.

If you asked me the question, who is God, there is no better place to go than Psalm 139 and in fact, let's do that for the next few moments, consider the question, Who is God?

Verses 1-6

The psalmist begins by laying himself bare before God. He begins, *you have searched me God*. The Hebrew word for search, is one who digs for precious metals.

God has examined him thoroughly. God knows everything about him. God knows his exact circumstances, his needs, his sorrows, and the precise time when to relieve him.

The first six verses of the psalm say that God is all knowing. He knows everything about us. He can say, "Lord, you have searched me and you know me."

Whatever he experienced, he experienced the searching eye of the all-knowing God. Perhaps there have been times in our lives, when we have felt like the psalmist, when everything has been stripped away, and we are left standing in God's spotlight.

The psalmist wrote, "He knows when I sit and when I rise" He knows every word that I will speak before it is on my tongue. The psalmist finds this incredible, this is too much, too wonderful for him, he can't take it all in.

Stop for a moment and think – God knows everything about you!

How does that make you feel?

Vulnerable – I don't want anyone to know all my secrets.

But God does.

Secure. That someone greater than you, knows everything about you – your strengths and weaknesses and loves you as you are!

To believe in an all-knowing God can be challenging, but when we come to understand the character and person of God, it becomes easier.

For God came to us in Jesus. Jesus is the image of the invisible God. Before Jesus, people didn't have a clear concept of God. But God came in human flesh and said, this is what I'm like – you don't need to fear me, just trust me, and so the God who knows everything about us, is a God who cares for us, and loves us and only wants to do what's best for us. A God who forgives and reconciles, a God who feels our pain and weeps with us. This is our all-knowing God.

He is a God who is on your side and yes, he knows everything but he will never harm you, and wants you to trust him and let him lead you in life.

The second thing the psalmist tells us that God is always present. V7-12

The psalmist asks the rhetorical question, "Where can I go from your spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?" The answer is nowhere, even in the highest Heaven and the darkest deep, God is there.

Why?

Because he is Spirit. God is not like us, with flesh and bone, made from the dust of the earth. God is Spirit. He is here and everywhere at the same time. There is nowhere that people can escape from him. Nowhere we can hide from him – even darkness can't hide us from God, for God knows no darkness, darkness is a light to him.

Jesus said that he would send his Spirit when he departs and true to his word, the Spirit came upon the first group of bewildered disciples at Pentecost and transformed their lives, from frightened individuals; the Spirit emboldened them, and gave them purpose and direction.

The Spirit of course is God within us. The Spirit of God is our strength and our comforter. There is nowhere that God is not and the wonder of it all is that he is closer to us than breathing, because through Jesus, he comes to live in our hearts and in our lives.

This is such a reassuring truth for us to meditate upon, and to take time to reflect on. God will guide us, even if we go to the furthest part of the earth, even if we settle on the far side of the sea, what will He do, His hand will hold us and He will support us and He will be with us.

When you are going through troubled times, have you thought, *God is with me*; When you have faced darkness and felt alone, can you turn your mind to hold

onto this amazing truth that the God who created the universe, is the same God who is holding you in the palm of his hand.

You see this psalm is not just theological, nor merely academic, it is totally and utterly practical.

But again, we understand something of the mystery of God when we look to the cross and see Jesus. Jesus goes to the darkest place on earth, to die our death, to take our sin, and to open Heaven, simply because he loves us, and wants to be ever present with us.

The third and final piece of the jigsaw for the psalmist, is that God is all powerful. V13-18

To highlight the power of God, the psalmist points out that it is God that creates the embryo, and forms the child in the mother's womb. The psalmist takes us to the heart of our creation as a human being.

God is at work in our innermost being. Creation is not an accident but the work of God.

God has woven us together in our mother's womb, as a weaver who makes a basket – each part is designed and put together with incredible ingenuity.

This psalm was composed before the study of human genetics and yet the psalmist has this amazing understanding of the workings of the human body and he is in no doubt that there is an intelligent creator.

Take the human eye for instance. It is characterised by a staggering complexity. Furnished with automatic aiming, automatic focussing, automatic aperture adjustment, the human eye can function from almost complete darkness to bright sunlight, see an object the diameter of a fine hair and make about a 100,000 separate motions in a single day. All of this is performed usually without complaint, and then while we sleep it carries on its maintenance work.

The human eye is so complex and sophisticated that scientists still do not fully understand how it functions.

Of course, the human eye is only one part of the amazing complexity of the human body.

Such is the human form, flesh and bones, sinews and muscles, arteries, veins, nerves, skilfully woven together by the divine hand, and all this in the silence of a mother's womb, as secret and dark as the lowest parts of the earth.

The psalmist knew that the embryo as yet imperfect and unformed, was known to God, since he was the maker.

What is his response to the marvel of the human body? It is simply one of praise, v14, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." I praise you!

So we conclude today with the thoughts of the psalmist.

How amazing are your thoughts concerning me. It is a comfort to the psalmist, as it is to every believer, that the thoughts of God are gracious towards him.

It is precious indeed to trust and believe that God thinks graciously upon his people always. God's thoughts are not only precious but they are vast, "How vast is the sum of them". They are as innumerable as the grains of sand. By night and day, morning and evening, God thinks of his people. The psalmist knows that the living God has only but the best intentions for his creation.

So, we come to the end of this glorious psalm, the psalmist began with confessing that God has searched him, and he finishes with inviting God to search him again, "Search me God and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

What a glorious end to this wonderful psalm. What a challenging end, to pray that God will search us and test us.

It finishes the way it began, with the searchlight of God. It is an invitation to God, to bring to the attention of the psalmist his faults and his failings and by doing so, he will be able to see himself as God sees him, and live a life that is worthy of being created by the Almighty God.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, came to this world, to seek and save the lost. He came to bring us back to God and to help us live in the way of everlasting life. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, and by walking in his footsteps, living in his Spirit, we will know the love and presence of God, and know him, not just to be our Creator but also to be our friend.

This is our Christian faith and today for little beautiful Anna, she begins her journey of faith, a journey into the love and mercy of God and we pray that she will encounter him, to be a God who knows her personally, to be a God who is always with her and to be a God who has created her and will lead her always in the path that leads to eternal life.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

Amen.