



## WOULD IT SURPRISE YOU TO KNOW THAT GOD KNOWS YOU?

God has created a place in your life especially for Himself. We refer to it as your “heart” – the center of your life – your soul, to be precise. God tries to get your attention in many ways; sometimes through blessing, more effectively through suffering. He sent Jesus to be the sacrifice for the sin in our hearts because a Holy God cannot be where sin lives. Jesus died on the cross and He rose from the dead having complete victory over sin and death. If you believe what He did and ask God to forgive your sin and come to live in your heart, He will do exactly that. And not only will He come to live in that place He designed for Himself, but He will never leave you.

So, what if you have not invited God into your life yet – where is He now? The answer to that question is that He is right beside you. He walks with you long before you walk with Him. Psalm 139 is overwhelming insight into God’s intimate understanding of you. Verses 1-4 say “O Lord, you have *searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise. You perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down. You are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue You know it completely O Lord. You hem me in behind and before. You have laid your hand upon me.*”

It is a bit overwhelming to first realize that God knows you so well, even when you don’t really feel like you know Him. But He does know you – He has not just looked at you and maybe knows your name. He has searched you and He knows you like no one else knows you.

He knows when you sit and when you stand, the part that comes before learning to walk. When God was first forming the nation of Israel, He spent a good deal of time seeing if they would rise when He told them to and sit at His command. Why? It is the first steps of walking with God – to be obedient even when it makes no sense to me; To trust God’s wisdom, protection and love for me, and to place myself in His hands.

God also perceives your thoughts. Perceive is more than just seeing something – it is seeing or hearing something absolutely correctly. We are complex creatures who can think one thing and say something completely different or act as though we didn’t understand what was said. God cuts through all of those things – He sees and hears our thoughts exactly as they are. What does this mean to us? I can deceive others...I can deceive myself...but God is not deceived. Gal. 6:7 says “*Make no mistake about this: You can never make a fool out of God.*”

Discern is another armor-piercing word. To discern is to know the actual, real and truthful intent of something. God knows the actual, real and truthful intent of your going out and your lying down, even when you don't really know yourself. Sheep only lie down when they are full and satisfied. If you see sheep standing and walking, they are dissatisfied, hungry. God knows when you sit and when you stand...He discerns your going out and your lying down – He discerns your satisfaction, **the depth of your dissatisfactions**. When you don't know what is making you go out and stand or wander about, He knows you completely and has the key to unlock contentment in the deepest parts of you.

### **What does all this have to do with learning to walk with God?**

Phil. 1:9-10 says, *“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight so that you may **be able to discern what is best** and may be pure and blameless ...”*

Heb. 5:14 *“But solid food is for the mature, who **because of practice** have their **senses trained to discern** good and evil.”*

1 Cor. 2:15 *“But he who is spiritual **discerns all things**, and he himself is judged by no one.”*

There is a parallel between maturity in Christ and the ability to discern what is best, discern good and evil, discern all things. When we are new at walking with God, we are not proficient in any of those things. We have to learn to trust Him.

God is familiar with all your ways. The word “familiar” comes from the word “family”. It only makes sense that God would be familiar with all your ways – you are made in His image. Of all of God's magnificent creation, only people are created in the image of God. We are His family.

God knows the words you say before they make the split second journey from your thoughts to your tongue... completely knows them. I don't even know what I am saying *completely* sometimes! It is said of God that He has been from the end to the beginning. It is said that way because God knows the end of all things before the beginning of them...the end of civilizations, the end of cultures, the end of generations, of persons, of all time! That's how He hems you in behind and before – He knows the end of you, His purposes for your life, and He intimately knows the beginning of you – when He knit you together in your mother's womb. So He hems you in – He is behind you and He is there before you. And what about today? He has laid His hand upon you!

Psalms 139:7-12 goes on to tell you more of the incredible truth of God's presence throughout your life: *“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your Presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there. If I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, or settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, ‘Surely the*

*darkness will hide me and the light become night around me', even the darkness is not dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you."*

Many of the questions in this scripture are self-made predicaments. Where can **I go** from your Spirit – where can **I flee** – If I **make my bed** in the depths – if I **settle** on the far side of the sea – if I **say**, surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me. But in all this, **God overcomes everything** to be with you, to keep ahold of you, to bring light into your darkness.

Psalm 139:17-18 *"How precious to me are your thoughts O God! How vast is the sum of them. Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you."*

Can you imagine counting the grains of sand in a cup? How about a beach you dipped the cup into to fill it up? What about the grains of sand in all the beaches that surround our country, our continent, the world? *How precious to me are **your thoughts O God** – how **vast** the sum of them – were I to count them they would **outnumber** the grains of sand.* And at the end of the day, you go to sleep and when you wake up in the morning, God is still thinking about you and loving you.

God has been faithful to walk with you from the beginning of your life, all through your life, and right up to the end of life. The next step from this life into eternal life depends on **your decision** to walk with the God who has walked with you.