



October 29, 2017

Psalm 139

"The Divine Attributes of a Personal God"

Pastor Gary Hamrick

Psalm 139 is an intensely personal song David wrote to his father in heaven. Even though this psalm was not intended to be a theological discourse, David did express God's divine attributes as he described his relationship with God. Pastor Gary's message today will help us understand more about the kind of personal relationship we can have with God.

Historical Background

1. David did not write theoretically about God; he wrote this psalm based on his personal experience and his personal relationship with God.
2. Pastor Gary said: "David [fought] many battles, and he won and lost a lot, [both] on and off the battlefield. David [was] a man who experienced tremendous success and tremendous sin. He [was] a man who enjoyed tremendous victory and tremendous loss. David, in the course of his lifetime, experienced conflict in his home and conflict in his own heart, and yet, he [looked] back over the course of his life and he [wrote] Psalm 139 from the perspective of his personal knowledge and understanding of God, as God [had] revealed himself [throughout] his lifetime... We are going to look at this [psalm] through the lens of David, as in, how is it that God personally is all-knowing in [our lives]? How is it that God is personally ever-present in [our lives]? How is it that God is all-powerful personally in [our lives]? How is it that [God] is all-holy [our lives], as it concerns us?"

Psalm 139:1-6 The Omniscience Of God

3. God is all-knowing, so he fully knows every person.
4. [Psalm 139:1](#) – *“O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.”*
5. The Hebrew word for search, means to mine or dig deep, as though digging for minerals in the earth.
6. Pastor Gary said: “God is familiar with every intimate detail of [our lives]. Nothing escapes his knowledge. He knows everything about us... He is intimately acquainted with us, and he is familiar with us in all our ways.”
 - a. [Hebrews 4:13](#) – *“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”*
7. It’s interesting to note that the King James Version (KJV) does not include the word “me” at the end of verse one.
8. We should read this verse with the understanding that God has searched us and **he knows!** (Emphasis added)
9. God knows when we are at leisure and when we are at work.
 - a. [Psalm 139:2](#) – *“You know when I sit [at leisure] and when I rise [at work] ...*
10. God knows **all** of our thoughts! (Emphasis added)
 - a. [Psalm 139:2](#) – *“... you perceive my thoughts from afar.”*
 - b. Pastor Gary encouraged us to be concerned about guarding our thought life!
11. God knows about our public life and our private life.
 - a. [Psalm 139:3](#) – *“You discern my going out [public life] and my lying down [private life]; you are familiar with all my ways.”*
 - b. [Job 31:4](#) – *“Does he not see my ways and count my every step?”*
12. God knows what we are going to say before we say it!
 - a. [Psalm 139:4](#) – *“Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.”*
 - b. [1 Corinthians 13:12b](#) – *“Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”*

13. Pastor Gary said: “God knows everything about us. He knows what we’ve done. He knows every place we’ve gone. He knows every idea we have thought. He knows every word we formulate before it even rolls off our tongue. And yet, he still loves us. This is why, in part, I’m convinced that David [wrote that] *‘Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.’* ... This transcends any human relationship. No other person on the planet knows [us] like God knows [us]... God knows us better than we know ourselves!”
- a. [Psalm 139:6](#) - *“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.”*

Psalm 139:7-12 The Omnipresence Of God

14. God is ever-present, so he is always with every person.
15. [Psalm 139:7-8](#) - *“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presences? If I go up to the heavens [north], you are there; if I make my bed in the depths [south], you are there.”*
- a. The Hebrew word for depths is sheol, which is the ancient word for hell.
16. [Psalm 139:9-10](#) - *“If I rise on the wings of the dawn [east], if I settle on the far side of the sea [west]...”*
17. Wherever we are God will never forsake or abandon us!
18. God is there when we experience times of spiritual darkness, and he is the one who can bring us out!
- a. [John 8:12](#) - *“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’ ”*
19. God is there when we experience times of emotional darkness, and he is the one who can bring us out!
- a. [Psalm 107:10-14](#) - *“Some sat in darkness and the deepest gloom... Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He brought them out of darkness and the deepest gloom and broke away their chains.”*

Psalm 139:13-18 The Omnipotence Of God

20. God is all-powerful, and he has wonderfully created every person.

- a. [Psalm 139:13-14](#) – *“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”*
 - b. Pastor Gary shared an overview of the amazing complexity and intricacy of the human body.
 - i. To watch this portion of the message, go to the Teaching Library and select this teaching: 24:40 to 26:42.
 - 1. https://cornerstonechapel.net/?page_id=418&i=1254
21. [Jeremiah 1:5](#) – *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart...”*
22. Every human life matters to God, both inside and outside the womb!
23. Pastor Gary said: “God has knowledge of us even before we’re conceived. Listen, friends, you can’t read Psalm 139 without understanding that every human life matters to God, [both] inside and outside the womb! God cherishes human life. If he knows our unformed body even before we are conceived, [and] if he knit us together in our mother’s womb, then he has created us with purpose and intention and value! That’s what we need to understand about how we are wonderfully created... The human life is an expression of his divine power. [Life] is not a mistake. Your life is not an accident, and life is certainly not a blob of tissue in a mother’s womb! ... On the authority of Psalm 139 alone, I can declare to you that God is pro-life and so should every Christian be!”

Psalm 139:19-24 The Omnipotence Of God

24. God is all-holy, and he is constantly working on every person.
25. Pastor Gary said: “We think of hate and love as opposite extremes, but in biblical terms, they were not necessarily meant as opposites, but [were] sometimes used as comparative statements. So, when David [wrote] about hating the wicked, what he [was really writing about was comparative] to the holiness of God... He [was] not expressing personal vengeance. He [was] expressing a moral repugnance. He was [writing] about the wickedness of the world, and how it [was] morally repugnant to him. Even Jesus used the word hate in [Luke 14:26](#)... Now, [Jesus] didn’t mean that you should have disdain for the people that you love or disdain for your own life. He used [the word hate] in a biblical, ancient sense... [meaning that we need] to love [Jesus] more than anyone else... But lest you think that David [was] making a proud statement [about his own righteousness], he actually asked [God] to search his own heart for wickedness.”

- a. [Luke 14:26](#) - *"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters - yes, even his own life - he cannot be my disciple."*
- b. [Psalm 139:23-24](#) - *"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive [KJV - wicked] way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."*

Discussion Questions

1. Read [Psalm 139:1-6](#).
2. How would you describe your relationship with the Lord?
3. How has your relationship with the Lord changed/grown in the past year?
4. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's remarks about the Lord searching us and the fact that *he knows*. (See #7 and #8 above)
5. What are some of the ways you intentionally guard your thought life?
6. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments about the wonder of God being intimately acquainted with every person. (See #13 above)
7. Read [Psalm 139:7-12](#).
8. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences about the ways the Lord has brought them out of spiritual and/or emotional darkness. (See #18 and #19 above)
9. Read [Psalm 139:13-18](#).
10. Provide an overview of Pastor Gary's remarks about the complexity and intricacy of the human body. (See #20b above)
11. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's remarks on the fact that God is pro-life. (See #23 above)
12. What should we do and how should we respond to a culture/society that has, in many ways, rejected the historical Judeo-Christian worldview that every person's life should be valued and protected, both inside and outside the womb?

13. Read [Psalm 139:19-24](#).
14. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's remarks about the biblical understanding hate and love. (See #25)
15. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences about the times they have asked the Lord to search them to see if there was wickedness and sin in their heart that needed to be dealt with.
16. Close your time in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).