

Psalm 139

The Omniscient, Omnipresent God

Intro

Over the next 12 days we will be embracing this sweet Psalm of David and taking a glimpse of some comforting attributes of our Maker. Not much is spoken about the when and why of this particular Psalm.

We know that it is written by David and it gives us insight into the personal relationship between God and His creation.

This Psalm goes deeper than simply showing attributes of God but also how they pertain to us. He knows, yet not only does He know He sees, not only does He see He understands, not only does He understand but He protects, and He forms, He seeks, He searches, and lastly but most faithfully He leads.

Each day we will focus on a verse, a thought to reflect on, and a prayer.

I hope this study will cause your eyes to be opened to or reminded of the Greatness of our God and the love and intentionality that He puts forth to us day by day.

Day 1

“Oh Lord, You have searched me and You known me.”

The word for Lord. here is יהוה which means Jehovah which means “The existing One”, it is the proper name for the One True God.

David is speaking to the One true God here and proclaiming something about His Character that makes Him much different than other deities. He has searched as well as known, David, and us.

Sometimes we use words so much that we forget the true meaning behind them.

The definition of search is: to look through in an effort to find something also, to make a careful examination or investigation of;

As much as I hope we learn about God’s Character & know Him throughout this study, I hope we equally come to terms that we are **known** by Him.

J.I. Packer says, “What matters supremely, therefore, is not, in the last analysis, the fact that I know God, but the larger fact which underlies it—the fact that He knows me. I am graven on the palms of His hands. I am never out of His mind. All my knowledge of Him depends on His sustained initiative in knowing me. I know Him because He first knew me, and continues to know me. He knows me as a friend, one who loves me; and there is no moment when His eye is off me, or His attention distracted from me, and no moment, therefore, when his care falters.”

Many Christians are aware God created us, but the thing we often forget is His pursuit of us. His searching, His knowing. We forget that we didn’t go seeking after Him first but rather, Jesus reminds us in John 15:16, “You did not choose me, but I chose you” and again from the mouth of Jesus, *“What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying?”* Matthew 18:12.

Throughout the story of the Bible we see story after story of God seeking people, we just forget, I just forget, I am also one of those people. The Lord has searched and known me. This isn’t knowing out of mere accident or stumbling across us, but this is an intentional and deep pursuit to personally know us.

His Character is Omniscient, meaning all knowing but the beautiful thing is that right before David says, known, he says, searched. We were and are still pursued by Jehovah, there is an effort put forth by the Creator of the world to intimately know us.

Reflect

Today, find a moment to be still and meditate on the fact that not only are you known by God but you are searched for and sought after, an intentional effort is put forth for you.

Pray

Jesus, thank You. Thank You for pursuing me even before I ever pursued You. Thank You for searching me out when I wasn't even looking. Help my heart to accept the fact You know me and yet You still love and choose me. Give me the grace to reciprocate this searching and knowing back to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 2

*“You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.”*

In this one sentence much about God's awareness of us is discovered, from something as seemingly mundane and instinctive to us as sitting down and standing up to something so deep and sophisticated as discerning and understanding thoughts from afar. It displays how God is interested in the everyday moments we pay little to no attention to such as sitting down and standing up. When was the last time you paid attention to all the times you sat and all the times you arose. Doesn't really seem like a big enough deal to pay attention to does it? Yet, God knows and pays attention. Or maybe you are someone who has struggled with depression or chronic pain and illness where rising up was the last and hardest thing for you to do. God knows and pays attention to that. This verse shows His gaze is upon us in the little and the big, there is nothing too mundane about your life that God does not give attention to, afterall Jesus has told us that in Matthew 10:30 *“that even our individual hairs are numbered.”* But what is even more powerful than Him knowing and caring about the seemingly insignificant is that He not only knows our thoughts from afar but He discerns them. To discern is to recognize or understand, to detect or distinguish. Often I don't even understand the thoughts that I think or that pop into my head but we see He does and there's power and freedom in that knowledge. It is believed that Psalm 139 was written 1048 B.C. which when you put into perspective that some 1000 years before God sent Christ to die on the cross for your sins, He knew the thoughts and motives we all would be having, and yet, He still came, and chose to die.

In Isaiah 55 God reminds us that *“He knows our thoughts are not His thoughts.”* He also offers us a *“renewal of our mind”* in Romans 12:2 and He gives us some pointers on what to focus our thoughts on in Philippians 4:8. He not only knows us and chooses us as we are but also endows us with His Holy Spirit to leave us better and more whole than how He found us. He is a very Good Creator and Father.

Reflect

Today meditate on the truth that from the smallest most mundane part of your day to the deepest most complicated situation you find yourself in, God is there, He knows and sees, and His Spirit is ever present to enable, sustain, and transform you.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for being so devoted to me that nothing passes your gaze. From when I sit to when I rise to when I use this brain You gave me to think, plan, and process. None of it is hidden from your sight. Thank You for choosing to die despite knowing my thoughts and motives and giving Your Holy Spirit to make me whole and complete. Help me to trust You with my thoughts as much as with the seemingly insignificant day to day things. I love You Jesus. In Your Name, Amen.

Day 3

*Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.*

There's what's said and then there's what was meant. God is aware of them both. This knowledge can bring comfort or concern depending on the motives of the person speaking. But again, God doesn't leave those of us who might struggle with our words clueless. By His Spirit, He inspired the word of God and we will do well to heed the Scriptures instruction. He advises us in James 1:19 to *"be quick to listen and SLOW to speak."* To be slow to speak is to be intentional and careful of what words come out of your mouth. As the Psalmist prayed in Psalm 141:3, *"Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the doors of my lips."*

"Everything we need to live a life of godliness by His power and Holy Spirit, God has provided." 2 Peter 1:3. So we have no need to fear the fact that He knows our motives and words before they reach our tongue, we can be comforted that He knows our motives and He's provided a way to have correct motives when we are seeking Him. For those of us tempted to use our words not in an edifying way, in 1 Corinthians 10:13, He even promises to *"offer a way of escape from the temptation"* to use our words for anything other than what Philippians 4:8 speaks of.

Altogether means wholly and completely these are the words chosen to describe how God knows our thoughts, words, motives, the whole of us. There is nothing that is hidden from Him, yet again the fact that He can know us so deeply and intimately and still choose us time and time again for all time, is just fascinating.

Friend, you are seen, you are known. Deeply, personally, more than you even know yourself, He knows. He knows your motives, your intentions, and is present to help in those times when our flesh gets the best of us. He gave us the beautiful gift of language, something that the bible describes as *"sweet as honey and healing to the bones"*, Proverbs 16:24 .

Reflect

Take some time today to meditate on ways you can be intentional with your words, ask God by His Spirit to help you master James 1:19.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for Your infinite knowledge of me. Thank You for offering an antidote for the worst parts of me and giving me a way to escape when my flesh is loud and trying to call the shots. Help me to surrender to Your still small voice and choose the path You took. Help me to be slow to speak and to use my words for the furtherment of Your Kingdom. Forgive me for the times my words have not matched up

with Your Word and help give me the self control needed to guard my tongue. Keep a watch over the doors of my lips and help my words to be sweet as honey and healing to the weary world around me. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Day 4

*You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.*

To hem one in, means to enclose. To enclose before and behind gives us the image of being surrounded on all fronts by God. What a beautiful picture, the Maker, the Sustainer, the Life giver of all creation is surrounding not only His workmanship, but this verse is personalized to me, to you. We see glimpses of this all throughout scripture, we see God instructing Joshua to be courageous because “*He will be with Him wherever He goes*” (Joshua 1:9). Many of the psalms gives us this same illustration; whether it be describing God as surrounding His people “*like the mountains surround Jerusalem*” (Psalm 125:2), or “*the Angel of the Lord encamping around those who fear Him*” (Psalm 34:7), or seeing that “*God is near to all who call on Him*” (Psalm 145:18), we see that God is closer to us than we may **think or feel**. David goes on to say such knowledge is too wonderful for me.

We’ve all had times in our life where we were closely watched, maybe it was a hovering, strict teacher, or a micromanaging boss, those experiences of being closely monitored probably don’t bring out the fondest of memories, so to some the idea of God being so close to us might be a little unsettling when you are unaware of His motives for being so close. But we see given David’s response this is not his experience to God being so close.

Now if you have kids you can probably relate to their desire to be watched by you. Whether it's watching them master a skill, watching them try something new, or simply watching them play with toys. Their experience of being watched is much different because they know the safety and love of the person watching them. This is the image I believe David was trying to show us, hints why he said this knowledge was too wonderful. It is a good and pleasant thing for our God to be surrounding and intently watching us, for Scripture has told us of God’s intentions towards us and who better for a created being to be near than their very Creator.

Reflect

Take some time today to acknowledge God’s Presence surrounding you. Sometimes we can have trouble acknowledging God’s Presence because we are looking for a feeling or a supernatural sign, **it is by faith we believe God’s Presence is with us**. If you are struggling to believe the things we have covered thus far in this devotional ask God to help increase your faith.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for Your nearness to us. You are our ever present Help, ever present Father, with good intentions and a faithful will towards us. I ask that You would increase our faith to see you all around us in the day to day and to accept that You work all things for good. Help our response to be like David's that this news of your presence is too wonderful for us, and we can't help but praise You. Thank You, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 5

Where shall I go from your Spirit?

Or where shall I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, You are there!

If I make my bed in Sheol, You are there!

These are probably some of the most comforting lines ever penned in scripture. They illustrate for us a special attribute of God that only He, Himself possesses, omnipresence.

Omnipresence is the ability to be present everywhere and anywhere at the same time. God is not confined to location and time, He operates outside of that realm. Yet is able to be wholly engaged and present in the very moment we are in. Right now God is as much present with me as He will be with you whenever and wherever you read this. Not only does it show His ability to be all places at once but it displays His Power over all. Heaven, He is there and has access to it, even Sheol the place of the dead, He has access to. Revelation gives us a glimpse into Heaven where Jesus claims, *"He holds the keys to death and hades."* This should bring us who believe great comfort that there is no place out of God's reach. Romans 11:33 resounds this notion that there is no where we can go that God doesn't have access to, and we know God is love so it should bring us even more comfort to know there is no place we can escape from His love, *"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* There is no hiding from God. As we see back in the Garden after Adam and Eve sinned and tried hiding, even then the Lord came to them. God speaks to Jeremiah and pronounces this about Himself, *"Am I a God who is near," declares the Lord, "And not a God far off? "Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see him?" declares the Lord. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the Lord."* Jeremiah 23:23-24. Our God fills the heavens and the earth. There is no escaping His Presence but there is power in being aware of, acknowledging and engaging with His Presence around us.

In Practicing the Presence of God, Brother Lawrence says, "That we need only to recognize GOD intimately present with us, to address ourselves to Him every moment, that we may beg His assistance for knowing His will in things doubtful, and for rightly performing those which we plainly see He requires of us, offering them to Him before we do them, and giving Him thanks when we have done."

Reflect

Today I encourage you to take moments out of your day to simply recognize God's Presence. It doesn't have to be a grand spectacle or some overly spiritual moment but simply an intentional recognition that our Maker, God, is present with us.

Prayer

Jesus, Thank You for Your Presence. Thank You that there is no escaping it. In Your Presence is love because You are Love, help me to have the awareness and discipline to acknowledge Your Presence throughout the day. Let my heart be comforted in knowing whatever I walk through today You will be with me. There is no situation or circumstance I face today where You aren't present. Thank You Jesus, give me the grace to practice engaging with Your Presence on a regular basis. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Day 6

*If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.*

David the poet that He was depicts for us that even our best attempts to outrun the presence of God fall short. “Wings of the morning” is an ancient way of saying, “the speed of light”, uttermost parts of the sea can be thought of as the extreme west where the sun sets. So from one side of the earth to the others as quickly as light can pierce through the darkness, so is God’s Hand, able and available to lead. Notice that not only does it say His Hand shall lead us but His right Hand shall hold us. We know God does not have a physical body like us so usually when we see the term right hand in scripture it is a reference to Jesus. Whether that is verbatim what this phrase means or not I don’t know but what I do know is that we are held by Jesus who is now seated at the Right Hand of God. God’s grace leads us and His mercy holds us. We find this notion of being held by God in numerous places in the Bible, in Isaiah 41:10 God says “*Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.*” And again in Isaiah 46:4, “*even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.*” It is a wonderful thing to be led by God but what’s more is to be carried by Him. There are times when we may not even have the strength to stand nevertheless be guided to walk, however it is in those times we can rest knowing that we are also held. The image Jesus paints for us in Luke 15:5 about finding the lost sheep and joyfully picking it up and putting it on His shoulders is one to meditate on today. His love is so good, it knows no bounds. It leads us, it carries us, it engraves our name on the palm of His Hands.

Reflect

Today take a moment to give attention to the fact that you are held by God. What does that mean for you? How near does that mean God is to you? Who do you know in your life that needs to be encouraged that God’s Grace is there to lead them and His Mercy is there to hold them?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, Thank You for the inspiration You gave to David to illustrate to us the depths of Your Presence and the impossibility to escape it. Thank You for leading us but also choosing to hold us. Thank You Jesus telling us about the lost sheep and how the Shepherd joyfully picks it up and puts it on his shoulders. Would You pick me up today? Lord I know I stumble and fall short even reading these words in this Psalm at times are hard to believe, would You carry me. Thank You for Your mighty right hand and the strength and power it represents. Thank You for Your Presence to lead and guide me all the days of my life. I love You Jesus, Amen.

Day 7

*If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.*

In the opening verses of the book of John we are given a powerful picture of Jesus. He was in the beginning, all things were made through Him, in Him was life, and His life was the light of men. Then we see this powerful statement, *"the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* We all can relate walking through some darkness at one time or another in our life. Whether it be spiritual, emotional, or just plain old physical darkness, there's not many who would say they are a fan of the dark. I don't know if it's fear of not being able to see, therefore not being able to plan and control your surroundings or maybe it's a fear of not knowing what might be lurking around you, whatever the reason, there is a fear when it comes to darkness. We can find much comfort in seeing that even the darkness is not dark to God. The darkness, the night, no matter how dim cannot overcome the Light of Christ. From the pilgrimage in Exodus where God's pillar of fire led the Israelites through the night, to Revelation where we see God paints a picture of a city with no need of the sun because His glory illuminates it, we see that God has much to say about light and His power to pierce through any of the darkest of nights. In fact David goes as far to say that darkness is a light with God. As Psalm 23:4 says, *"even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me."* Even when the night has a grasp on us and we cannot see from our left to our right, God is there. The night is but a shadow because He is Light, in fact, You cannot have a shadow without having a source of light. Jesus Himself makes the declaration in John 8:12, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"*. As long as we are in this world there will be darkness, but Jesus, our Light, tells us to take heart that He has overcome the world. We don't have to get anxious when the night comes and we cannot see what lies ahead because we know the Light, and He has promised that His word would be a *"lamp for our feet and a light unto our path"* Psalm 119:105.

Reflect

Reflect today on a time you felt you were walking in the dark, ask God to show you where His Light was in that situation, or maybe you are walking through a dark season currently, ask God to be Your Light and give you the faith to trust He will lead and or carry when you cannot see. Verbally remind yourself the darkness has not nor cannot overcome the Light.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, Thank You that in the beginning You were there. As words were spoken and Light pierced through the abyss You were there. You are the Light that causes shadows to flee and the darkness to be expelled. You lead me and light my way. There is nothing that can hide me from Your gaze. Thank You Jesus that not only the darkness surrounding me but the darkness within cannot overcome me. I long for the day when Your Presence is the only light I will need. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Day 8

*For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.*

In the secret places where no eye but God's could see we were created. There is a beautiful mystery to this. We see God knew and we were well acquainted with us before we ever had an inkling of who He was. *"The term inward parts or in some translations "reins" signified the kidneys, which the Hebrews supposed to be the seat of the desires and longings; but perhaps it indicates here the most hidden and vital portion of the man; this God doth not only inspect, and visit, but it is his own; he is as much at home there as a landlord on his own estate, or a proprietor in his own house"*—Charles Spurgeon

Long before there was the ability to peer into the human body and see just how intricate it is David proclaimed the wonders of God's work. How much more should we now that we have access to seeing what lies beneath our skin and makes up our physical body.

When you think of all that goes into who we are as a whole, the idea of God weaving or knitting us together becomes that much more special. We are complex made up of many parts, body, soul, spirit, yet God intricately wove all the parts of who we are together, which means He is able to untangle the knots and tears that sin causes inside of us. He knows our true form and how He designed and intended us to be, fearfully and wonderfully made. Unfortunately the fall has left us prone to stray away from God's original intent but nevertheless God is able to fix, mend, and repair the brokenness caused from the fall and nevertheless we are still wonderfully made.

While we are on this side of Heaven we might not get to see ourselves in the original state God intended for us but this is where our hope of heaven comes in. We know that He is making all things new and that one day our bodies and minds will be totally whole. There will be no physical ailments, mental health issues, struggles with our bodies. While we wait, we keep hope knowing that God uses these things we think of as weaknesses and setbacks and gives us strength. In fact 1 Corinthians 12:9 says, *"His power is made perfect through our weakness."*

There is much to be said about how God made us. He was intentional, He designed us after His own likeness. We are made in His image and after creating us He acknowledged that it was very good. We are in a lifelong battle of faith to cling to this truth. The world sometimes will tell you otherwise however it's important to cling to the truth of God's Word that you were intentionally designed, hand crafted and known by the Creator and mastermind of all things we think are beautiful.

Reflect

Meditate today on some of the things you think to be most beautiful, be it sunsets, mountains, beaches, babies toes, flowers, snow, whatever it is, and then reflect that the mastermind behind those beautiful things also knitted you together. Whatever you feel about yourself, if you are a believer you must come back to the truth that you are fearfully and wonderfully made regardless of what you may think.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, Thank You for Your Word and for the reminders You give throughout it about the origins of who I am. Give me the grace to see myself the way You do and the way You intended for me to be seen. Forgive me for using the filter of my flesh, sin, and the world, to view myself and others and help me to see through Your eyes. Thank You that one day I will be totally whole and until then give me the grace to hold on to the Hope of Heaven. I thank You for Your mysteries. I love You Jesus and can't wait to see You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Day 9

*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.*

Today we are reminded that God sees, in fact one of God's Names is El Roi, literally meaning *the God who sees*. Before there was a form to our bodies God saw. This is a beautiful representation of the past. Before there was any of what we see with our eyes God was there. He is the God of yesterday, but then we go on to David declaring to us that each of our days were written, even before they have taken place. This reminds us that God is in our tomorrow. He has seen the future and He has recorded the days ahead of us in His book.

When we worry about tomorrow, and trust me I know this happens at times without even intending to, but we forget that our tomorrow is already in His Hands. Jesus gives us this exhortation in Matthew 6:34 to *"not worry about tomorrow."* Why is that? Well, He's already there. There is no place and time that we will be in that God is not already present and doesn't have full knowledge and authority.

Jeremiah 29:11 isn't just a verse we share at graduations but it is a solid promise. God has plans for us and for our lives. These plans are good, God desires to give us a hopeful future. We also see in Ephesians 2:10 part of this future, part of our tomorrow is to walk out and participate in the good works He has planned for us. There are times when we don't walk out the plans. There are times when we fall short and miss the mark that God has set for us. The same God that has plans for us and has seen us before we were yet able to actively participate in sin, is the same God who sees us when we stumble and at our lowest times. He has seen it all, the good, the bad, the highs, the lows.

May today's verses serve as a reminder that God had foreknowledge of every sin you would ever commit and yet, He still went to the cross to forgive you and offer you a way to be with Him forever, complete, whole, and redeemed. His foreknowledge and ability to see our past to our future should bring us to a deeper place of worship knowing that He's seen it all and still chose forgiveness. Forgiveness that cost Him. I love the words in 1 John 2, He advises us to try and avoid sin, however, if/when we sin *"we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."*

Reflect

Take some time today to reflect on what it means that all your days were written before even one of them have taken place. Regarding this information, how does this affect how you perceive tomorrow? Can you rest in the truth that God knows what tomorrow holds and whatever may come Your way He's seen it and He is there with you in it.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, Thank You for seeing. Before I was, You were and that is enough for me. There is peace in knowing that nothing comes as a surprise to You. Give me the faith to trust my today and tomorrow into Your Hands. Thank You for choosing to forgive me and offer me redemption knowing and seeing all the sins I would commit before a single one of them was committed. I love You and thank You Jesus, and I cannot wait to be with You forever in eternity. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Day 10

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

If I would count them, they are more than the sand.

I awake, and I am still with you.

Charles Spurgeon commentates on the first portion of this verse in such a powerful and eloquent way, “When we remember that God thought upon us from old eternity, continues to think upon us every moment, and will think of us when time shall be no more, we may well exclaim, “How great is the sum!” Thoughts such as are natural to the Creator, the Preserver, the Redeemer, the Father, the Friend, are evermore flowing from the heart of the Lord. Thoughts of our pardon, renewal, upholding, supplying, educating, perfecting, and a thousand more kinds perpetually well up in the mind of the Most High. It should fill us with adoring wonder and reverent surprise that the infinite mind of God should turn so many thoughts towards us who are so insignificant and so unworthy! What a contrast is all this to the notion of those who deny the existence of a personal, conscious God! Imagine a world without a thinking, personal God!”

Whether we deny it or not does not diminish the fact that we have a personal and thoughtful God. Psalm 40:5 tells us *“You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.”*

God’s thoughts towards us are like His plans for us, they are good. The KJV translation even phrases it as such, *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end”* Jeremiah 29:11

The fact that we are thought of so favored and so much should cause us to exclaim as David did, *“what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him. Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,”* Psalm 8:4-6.

Our Creator thinks about us and thinks about us often. He is mindful of us. In a day where more than ever we are consumed with whether or not people think about us and more than that, what they think about us, we can be sure that we are not forgotten by God. David goes on to say, “when I awake, I am with thee.” Thus reminding us of the beautiful truth that whether dark or light, day or night, awake or asleep we are with our Lord.

Reflect

Take a moment to think upon God thinking upon us. How does it make you feel that you are on His Mind? In a world where we are seemingly so insignificant in so many ways, how does God thinking about you change how you think about yourself?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, Thank You for thinking about me. I pray this knowledge will conquer my insecurities and feelings of insignificance. I pray You help my thoughts to be redirected to You. Thank You for the Goodness of Your thoughts toward me and the plans You have for my life. I ask to rest in this truth and meditate on it often. I love You, Jesus. In Your Name, Amen.

Day 11

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

Today we have a change in the tone of this Psalm yet it is still altogether fitting. As you grow to love someone a change begins, you start loving what they love and hating what they hate. There is a zeal that takes over the follower of Christ. The word hate is often used in scripture for contrast purposes to show extreme emotion. We also see this in Luke 14 where Jesus says if we want to follow Him we must even hate our own life. Spurgeon says this "It is only in a comparative sense, and not literally, that the term can possibly be used; and to make this very clear, Christ said that we are to hate our own life."

For our purposes today though I want us to take a look at our flesh, the Bible says "*we all have fallen short of the glory of God,*" Romans 3:23 and when we "*judge we are to not judge hypocritically but first take the plank out of our own eye*" Matthew 7:5. So while there are literal times when we will encounter enemies of God who rise up against God, we must first look inward and crucify our flesh and the parts of ourselves that are at odds with Christ first.

Jesus gives us instructions for this and in tomorrow's section wherer we will be given a prayer from David on how to do this, but for today we focus on asking God to help us have a zeal for that which opposes Him especially in our own lives.

Romans 8 illustrates for us the life of the flesh vs the life of the spirit. Paul tells us in vs 7 that "*the life of the flesh is hostile towards God, and it does not submit to God's law.*" As long as we are on this earth we will be engaged in a battle, *now the battle is not against flesh and blood* (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). We are engaged in a spiritual battle with a real enemy. The world, the flesh, and the devil are not working for our good. Jesus thankfully, has eternally defeated the devil, however we will still have to put up with his schemes and the schemes of that fleshly nature we are trying to crucify. Jesus tells us in Matthew 16:24, "*If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.*" and Paul instructs us to "*crucify our flesh in Galatians*" 5:24. How often do we do this? Daily, hourly, minute by minute if needed. Will this battle make us weary? It could, however, in Galatians 6:9, Paul encourages us about the

harvest we will reap if we continue on, *“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”* That verse speaks of sowing to please the Spirit vs sowing to the flesh.

How do we do this? It can seem overwhelming to engage in a battle against our flesh daily, unless you realize the authority that Christ has deposited to us, Paul tells us, *“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”* 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. We have been given authority against the flesh and sin. There are times when we will still face temptation, adversity, and stumble, however we are reminded *Jesus faced the same temptations as us* (Hebrews 4:15) and is able to sympathize with us, we are also told, *“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”* 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Paul gives us a glimpse into his struggle with sin, which is the common human experience whether we so wish to admit or not.

“So this is the principle I have discovered: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law. But I see another law at work in my body, warring against the law of my mind and holding me captive to the law of sin that dwells within me

What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord!” Romans 7:21-24

I leave you with this, the greatest daily enemy we face I believe is our flesh. The hardest enemy to defeat is our flesh because it involves our fallen human will. However, thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, He has not left us as a victim.

He has made a way, He has given us authority, He has given us His spirit so we can say, not by our might, nor by our power, but by God’s Holy Spirit.

I pray today a zeal for righteousness and a hatred for all that oppose God would arise in us, beginning with that flesh that dwells within ourselves.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank you for overcoming and making me an overcomer. While I am here on earth help me to rely on your spirit to put to death all that is within me that opposes and resists you. Give me grace and strength to realize where I’m weak and need your power. Help me to cling to the authority you have given me and help me to focus more on the plank in my own eye versus the ones in those around me. Thank you Jesus for being my conqueror. I love you, Jesus. In Your Name, Amen.

Day 12

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.

As we've been reminded these past 11 days of God's Character and attributes, we now come to the personal application part. David has proclaimed that God Sees all, Knows all, is everywhere, but now David responds to this knowledge of God and personally invites God to search Him. It's one thing to know God already knows all about you, it's another thing to welcome Him in to know and search you more.

This prayer is one of trust, surrender, and submission. It reminds me of the beautiful hymn, "Have thine own way," one line of the lyric goes as such,

*Have Thine own way, Lord,
Have Thine own way;
Thou art the Potter,
I am the clay.
Mould me and make me
After Thy will,
While I am waiting,
Yielded and still.*

God is going to shape us one way or the other, but what a gift to be the one who climbs up on the Potter's wheel yielded and still. That is what these verses remind me of. If you had a bone out of place you might resist getting on that operating table and allowing the doctor to reset it for fear of the pain, however the pain you would face not having it reset is far superior to the pain you might undergo to have it put back in place. David knows this and invites his Great Physician to examine and *fix* him, leading him in the way everlasting and partnering along the way with Him to do so.

If you haven't come to the point in your life where you realize you're fractured and broken, you will. Hopefully by seeing all of God's attributes in this Psalm you see the great chasm between who you are and what you are able to do and who God is and thus your need for Him. Sin has left us broken and fractured in need of fixing and in need of someone to show us the way. From this Psalm we see the One who knows the way. The only one who is All knowing, All seeing, Creator God. He is One worth to trust ourselves to, to direct us.

How does He direct us? Scripture say's "*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*" Psalm 119:105 and we see in Scripture about Jesus and His life, why He came; Jesus

came for broken people like you and I, He came for the sick and needy (*Luke 5:31*). Jesus came to heal, fix, restore and lead us. Where we missed the mark, He came to be the mark altogether for us. This way that Jesus leads us is everlasting; it is life, our way leads to death (*Proverbs 14:12*) but Jesus came to give us life (*John 10:28*), He came to lead us and be our Light (*John 12:46*). Jesus came to be the way, our way (*John 12:46*).

Where is this everlasting Life that He is leading us to? Completeness, Wholeness, ultimate Peace and Restoration. While Jesus has left to prepare this place for us (*John 14:3*), He has left us with His Spirit our Comforter who will teach and guide us (*John 14:26*) alongside with His written word which tells us all about what God is really like. We are given a glimpse from His word about this place He has gone to prepare for us, *"Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. 'He will wipe away every tear from their eyes,' and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the former things have passed away."* And the One seated on the throne said, *"Behold, I make all things new."* Revelation 21:3-5

Our Creator is making all things new. The One who knows you better than you know yourself, the One who has seen every tear you've cried (*Psalms 56:8*) and heard every prayer (*Isaiah 65:24*) you've prayed. He has not left you as an orphan (*John 14:18*), He has not forgotten you (*Isaiah 49:15*). He is here today, as much as He was in your yesterday, as much as He will be in your tomorrow. You can't escape His love.

Reflect

Reflect today on the Faithfulness of God and the love He has for you. I pray day by day you will allow Him to lead you into His everlasting way,

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for the promises of Your word and the Hope You give us for the future. I pray that You would search me and examine me, anything out of order would You place back in order. Thank You that You know me better than anyone and You hold the way to eternal life. I ask You help me to be willing to be yielded and still. Thank You Jesus for the love You have for me. I ask this in Your Name, Amen.