

THE OMNISCIENCE OF GOD

Father, as we reflect on all that you know and have ever known, let us reflect on the fact that you know our hearts. May our hearts long to follow you and seek you leading those around us to see love and affection for you and them alike. May we go through this day with a desire to be pleasing to you, while remaining forever cognizant of your loving grace and mercy in our lives. Amen!

As we carry on through the attributes of God let us venture from His immutability to His omniscience. Omniscience is taken from two Latin terms, *omnis*, meaning all, and *scientia*, meaning knowledge (the word that the English word science is derived from). A.W. Tozer helps us understand His omniscience by saying that He possesses perfect knowledge and therefore has no need to learn. It is to say that God has never learned and cannot learn. For us to comprehend the idea that He was never created, was never less than perfect, has never lacked and has always known all that is to be known is practically an act of futility on our part. When God called on Moses to rescue His people and Moses inquired as to who he should say sent Him, God's response was "I Am Who I Am" (I am the one who is), this emphasizes God's dynamic and active self-existence. The literal term for this is Yahweh, the one who is. While we struggle to comprehend such an attribute, it should certainly give us hope in knowing that all we lack is within our Creator, allowing us to trust His timing, judgement, and Word. While we may seldom have the answers, He is the one who does, giving us all the more reason to seek Him. Because He knows all things perfectly, He knows no one thing better than another but all things equally. 1 Cor. 2:11 reads like this "Only the infinite can know the infinite. For whom among men knows the thoughts of men except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows but God". When it comes to the many sciences, archaeology and so many other fields of discovery it is common to hear that we have "discovered" something, but we didn't discover anything that God did not only already know but that He created. Let us examine this concept for a moment.

1. Everything He does has an intelligent purpose and a definite goal. Have we heard questions asked such as "can God create a rock so big that He can't move it"? There would be no logic or purpose to this, so the answer is no. Some ponder whether Genesis 18:20-21 reveals God's ignorance. "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave. I will go down now and see if they have done entirely according to its outcry, which has come to Me and if not, I will know." Of course His omniscience was entirely aware of what was going on in Sodom, it was His justice that moved Him to demonstrate that He was in full possession of the facts. When the time came it was only the two angels who went to Sodom. As Abraham pleads for the fate of the city his nephew resides in God is compelled to demonstrate His justice and righteousness. What He says, does and asks is of our benefit not His.

Psalm 147:5 reassures us that “Great is our Lord and abundant is His strength; His understanding is infinite.” The comfort and care of His people (you and me) is guaranteed by His omnipotence. Likewise, from a New Testament perspective, Jesus inquires of John (John 21:17) whether He loves Him. Of course He does, and Jesus knows this but His questioning of John was for his benefit to prepare him for his journey with Christ that would eventually lead to his martyrdom. John testifies to this by proclaiming “You know all things; you know that I love you”. As Christ was God in fleshly form He was knowledgeable of all things.

2. His omniscience is based on His authority. What do I mean by this? He is the supreme judge of all things and is the ultimate standard for what is true or false. If there were any one aspect that He did not know then He could not live up to that standard. The American justice system is based off the English common law system that contains three tiers: district, appellate, and supreme courts. This system is based off God’s law in which all men are governed by the same standards (although state laws can and do differ) and the judge who is knowledgeable of the law uses these standards to hold men accountable. This is a rudimentary example of Gods justice. He knows the law that He created, and He holds each man accountable according to His standards. In John 14:6 Jesus proclaims that He is way and the truth and the light and no one comes to the Father but through Him. He is the one and only gold standard that can lead us to the Father, that is faith in and devotion to Jesus Christ is the lone way to Heaven.
3. His omniscience assures our salvation. Psalm 33:13-15 tells us that God looks down on us from His dwelling place, knowing the hearts and words of man. He is the one who knows our innermost thoughts, desires and secrets before we even know them. David reiterates this in Psalm 139:1-4 with his prayer to God that He is the one who knows me, scrutinizes me and is intimately acquainted with my ways before there is even a word on my tongue. But it goes further than that because the Psalm begins by saying you have searched me. How comforting it is to know that God searches us to know us and to have an intimate relationship with us. Because He knows our hearts there is full disclosure and there is still His acceptance despite our shortcomings. He knows each and every mistake I have made and will make and yet He still loves me just the same.
4. His omniscience ensures our present provision. What does that mean? It means that we should look to Him for our needs (I assure you that my inadequacy will cause me to fall short) and know that He will always provide just as Christ did when He fed the 5,000. He has perfect knowledge for what we need to get through each day. In Matthew 6:26, Jesus says “Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?” Of course you are, you are magnificently created in the Fathers

image. He provides today for what tomorrow will bring, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally.

5. His omniscience assures our future. Matthew 10:29-30 Jesus tells us, "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered so do not fear, you are more valuable than many sparrows." The apostle Peter says in Acts 3:18, "But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that is His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled." This was initially announced in the garden of Eden and echoed many times over by the prophets before finally coming to fruition. God knows the circumstances, events and outcomes and God keeps His promises. We can sleep well tonight knowing that tomorrow is in His hands. So, to look backwards or forwards is irrelevant, His omniscience always contains a knowledge of all things.
6. His omniscience assures us that justice will always prevail. In Proverbs 15:3, Solomon says that "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good." We sometimes struggle to comprehend a lack of what we believe to be justice but His omniscience assures us that His justice will prevail in the end. He knows us and no one gets away with anything. In 1 Corinthians 4:5, the apostle Paul says "do not go on passing judgement before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the darkness and disclose the motives of the men's hearts, and then each mans praise will come to him from God." There is so much to take away from that. God will do His job; we don't need to, nor can we do it for Him. He will reveal the inner hearts, so we don't need to be concerned with such matters that we are not fit to be concerned with. Motives: we can do great stuff all day long and look good to the people around us but what are our motives for such things? God knows and that is His concern so let our motives be pure. Praise: How often we seek the praise and adoration of our peers, but it is His praise that matters. What man finds acceptable, exceptional, and praiseworthy changes from day to day. He loves us every day and is always blown away by us no matter how exceptional we try to be (sometimes we try too hard).
7. His omniscience assures us that all questions have answers. The prophet Isaiah once said "who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor has informed Him? With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge and informed Him of the way of understanding" (Isa. 40:13-14). He does not seek counselors, He is the counselor, nor does He seek wisdom, He is the wisdom. He knows why. How often do we surmise as to why a child dies, a teen is killed by a drunk driver, a marriage falls apart despite earnest prayer? None of these things make a lick of sense to us but He knows the mysteries of why. Does that mean that I will not question why? Of course not, I am

human, and it is to be expected but because I know who is in control, I will come to the understanding that He knows why, and He will provide comfort.

Side note: As I listened to a new song by contemporary Christian musician Toby Mac who recently lost his son to a drug overdose, I was drawn to a song called Promised Land in which he describes punching a time clock day after day and living a mundane life while questioning it's direction and wondering where is his promised land. By the end of the song though he is proclaiming that through life's struggles he won't give up or lose faith because He knows that Heaven is his Promised Land. How often do we wonder why me? Why am I the one doing this, why did this person treat me this way, when will I be appreciated, when will my efforts be noticed? I feel that these are typical feelings that the vast majority of Christians can relate to because life comes at us hard, and it is easy to question situations, but we always have the promise that His omniscience was aware of those events before we were conceived and that His holy solutions are a part of the plan. There is comfort in knowing that while we do not understand many (most) things, He does, and it is for our own well-being. Paul reminds us in Romans 11:36 that "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to Him be the glory forever."

Question Section:

1. In the book of Revelation, between chapters 18 and 20 it is said to rejoice and be glad and give glory to Him. What is the reason for the rejoicing?

2. Part of 1 Chronicles chapter 28 reads "If you seek Him He will let you _____, but if you forsake Him He will _____"
3. Which verse from Isaiah chapter 14 depicts God's sovereignty over all nations?
4. 2 Timothy chapter 2, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from _____."

5. 1 Corinthians 2:9 reads “Things which eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.” Which prophet and scripture is this quoting? _____

Matthew 7:7-8 “Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds and to him who knocks it will be opened.”