

## **“You Have Known Me”**

### **Psalm 139:1-6**

INTRO:

A verse in **1 Corinthians 13** both thrills my heart and brings a little bit of fear to my soul. The verse is **1 Corinthians 13:12**. *“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.”* We will one day grasp the glorious realities about our Savior we can see only as a reflection in His Word. We will someday see Him face to face. Knowing Him fully will be a joy, but being known fully is a little disquieting.

No doubt with a little bit of both joy and fear David wrote **Psalm 139**. We do not know the occasion of this Psalm. Whatever it was, it was a time in which David became painfully and yet joyfully aware of how the LORD knew Him! So, in the first stanza of his hymn of praise to the Lord, David wrote describing the wonder of God’s omniscience.

*I. Yahweh’s Knowledge (v. 1-5)*

*II. David’s Response (v. 6)*

*I. Yahweh’s Knowledge (v. 1-5)*

A. **Verse 1** is a kind of summary verse of the theme of the first stanza. *“O LORD, You have searched me and known me.”* David expressed this truth in a way that we can understand it.

1. God has no need to search us. He already knows all things as David will soon abundantly demonstrate. But David wants us to understand how complete God’s knowledge of us is. It is as if He is constantly searching us and knowing us!

2. We find similar statements concerning God’s knowledge other places in Scripture. For example, in **Jeremiah 12:3** we read about God’s intimate knowledge of Jeremiah.

*“But You, O Lord, know me; You have seen me, And You have tested my heart toward You.”*

3. In **Isaiah 40**, Isaiah expresses God’s omniscience with a series of rhetorical questions.

**v.13-14** *“Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding?”*

The answer to all of these questions is *“no one.”*

B. It is one thing to understand God’s omniscience in an academic and theoretical sense, and it is something else altogether to understand in the up close and personal way David is expressing it here in **verses 2-5**.

***“You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.”***

1. Yahweh knows everything about me. Oh really, David, what does God know about you? He knows when I sit down and when I stand up. He wrote in **verse 3**. ***“You comprehend [scrutinized] my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.”***

2. Whoa. David, you mean every time you sit down and every time you get up God knows about it? When you lie down to sleep at night God sees you? He knows about your snowman pajamas? Yes! I saw a segment in a newscast on TV recently on eavesdropping devices. You can get little cameras to keep tabs on everything a person does. The very thought of this makes our skin crawl.

3. Do we recognize, as David did, God keeps an eye on everything we do? This is a blessing when we do things that please Him which no one else sees! However, this is not so comforting when we are doing things we don't want Him to see. Although God created us so that we can be, in the language of **Genesis 2:25**, ***“naked and not ashamed,”*** we have sinned and we have much to hide from God and from each other. We are still trying vainly to sew our fig leaves to hide our sin from God.

C. We might say, you are right, David, this kind of knowledge is a little uncomfortable. Yet, David is not done expressing the extent God knows each one of us. In **verse 2**, David wrote: ***“You understand my thought afar off.”*** David wrote Yahweh knows our thoughts before we even think them. When we think about what we sometimes think about, this is a scary thing! I am glad when He hears my thoughts of love toward Him. But I am ashamed when my thoughts have not been brought captive to the obedience of Christ. **Verse 4** goes hand in hand with this. ***“For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.”***

He knows what we say, even when others do not hear! We need to be careful of what comes out of our mouths because the Lord Himself is listening.

D. David still isn't done in expressing to Yahweh his own wonder at the things that God knows about him. Listen to **verse 5**. ***“You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me.”*** You Yahweh are all around me. The Lord surrounded me with His presence and His knowledge. Our God not only knows everything we do, He knows everything that is done to us. He protects each of us and watches over us.

## ***II. David's Response (v. 6)***

**Psalm 139:6** *“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.”*

A. Now how does one respond to this kind of truth? This reality brings both praise to our hearts and lips, and a little fear. I think it did in David too! He said, *“While I know this is true, I cannot wrap my head around it.”*

1. This knowledge meant Yahweh knew what David thought when he went up against Goliath with just a sling and five smooth stones. God also knew what was happening when King Saul plotted against him and tried to kill him! This is a great comfort.

2. Yahweh also knew David’s sinful thoughts and actions with Bathsheba. He knew about David’s cover up plot with Uriah and his conspiracy to have Uriah killed so that no one would know what he had done. Yet, God knew! Remember when Nathan the prophet confronted David? David thought no one knew. God knew and He would not let it go without repentance from David.

B. How about us? Do we recognize that this is true of us also? God also has searched us and known us. He knows everything there is to know about us. The writer of Hebrews puts it this way in **Hebrews 4:13**.

*“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”*

There is more than a little discomfort in fully understanding God’s omniscience.

1. God knows we are sinners. He knows our sins of commission and omission. He knows that each of us come horribly short of *“Loving the Lord our God with all our hearts, all our souls, and all our strength.”*

2. So what do we do? First, we must make sure that each of us has put his or her trust in the Lord Jesus Christ alone to save us. For, if we have done this, we have a declaration of God’s righteousness because the Lord’s righteousness has been charged to each of our accounts.

3. Second, we must grow in Him and seek to live through the power that He gives. In this way we can please Him. This was David’s ultimate response to all of this in this **Psalm**. *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting”* (Psalm 139:23).

**Hymn #438 Search Me, O God**