

Subject: *Our Omnipresent God*

Scripture: *Psalm 139:7-16*

A. W. Tozer said: “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” He was right on target. We have an amazing God. He is omnipotent (all-powerful). He is omniscient (all-knowing), and He is omnipresent (in all places). He is greater than you think, wiser than you think, and nearer than you think.

In this message we will consider the omnipresence of God. The clear teaching of the Bible is that God is present everywhere at all times. This is another aspect of His infinity. He is not limited in time or space. He is infinite in power and knowledge. To say that God is present in all places does not mean that part of Him is here and part of Him is there and part somewhere else. It means that He is completely present in all places at all times. And yet the Bible describes Him as being above and beyond His creation (transcendent) and also as being involved and active in the midst of His creation (immanent).

DESCRIBING GOD’S PRESENCE

- God’s essential presence – In one sense God is present everywhere. An atheist professor wrote this on the board: “God is nowhere.” A Christian student spoke up: “Sir, it would be a correct statement if you would leave a space between the “w” and the “h” to read “God is now here.”

Jeremiah 23:23-24 ²³ *Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? ²⁴ Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.*

1 Kings 8:27 *But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?*

Acts 17:28 *For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.*

Psalms 139:7-16 ⁷ *Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? ⁸ If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; ¹⁰ Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. ¹¹ If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. ¹² Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. ¹³ For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. ¹⁵ My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.*

Since God is everywhere you can’t escape from Him, you can’t hide from Him, and you can’t avoid Him. Go as high or as low as you can and God is there. Go as far east or as far west as you can and God is there. Whether you are in the light or in the dark God is there. Ask Jonah. He ran from God but learned the hard way that you can’t outrun God. Some people will try to hide from God and His judgment, but they can’t.

Revelation 6:16 *And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.*

- **God's manifest presence** – This is a visible appearance or awareness of God's glory. The manifest presence reveals His majesty and always leads to our humility.

Exodus 40:34-35 ³⁴ *Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.* ³⁵ *And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.*

2 Chronicles 7:1-3 ¹ *Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.* ² *And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S house.* ³ *And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.*

Revelation 1:12-17 ¹² *And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;* ¹³ *And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.* ¹⁴ *His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;* ¹⁵ *And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.* ¹⁶ *And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.* ¹⁷ *And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last.*

- **God's close personal presence** – This is God's presence that varies from person to person. We sometimes refer to a close relationship or a distant relationship with another person. Are you close to God or does He seem distant? We must cultivate the kind of heart and life that God draws near to. For example, the Bible says that Enoch and Noah walked with God. They had close fellowship with Him. The Bible calls Abraham "the friend of God." **Amos 3:3** *Can two walk together, except they be agreed?* We can have the privilege of enjoying God's presence.

DESIRING GOD'S PRESENCE

- **We must realize the importance of God's presence.** Moses understood that he needed God's presence more than anything else.

Exodus 33:15-16 ¹⁵ *And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.* ¹⁶ *For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.*

What does the presence of God mean to us? His presence helps us overcome temptation.

Proverbs 15:3 *The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.* His presence helps us endure trials and hardship. **Isaiah 41:10** *Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will*

*uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. His presence eliminates fear and worry. **Psalms 23:4** Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. His presence brings contentment. **Hebrews 13:5** Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. His presence gives us boldness and confidence in doing His will. **Matthew 28:19-20** ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

- We must be aware of God's absence. Sometimes God withdraws His presence to awaken us or correct us. God turns away from us so that we will miss His closeness and sense the need to turn toward Him.

***Isaiah 59:1-2** ¹ Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ² But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

Isaiah described how God actually began to work against His people so they would stop their involvement in idolatry and seek Him again with all their hearts.

***Isaiah 63:9-10** ⁹ In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰ But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.*

- We must repent and seek God with all of our heart.

***Isaiah 57:15** For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

***Jeremiah 29:13** And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

***James 4:8** Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*

- We can be as close to God as we want to be.

***2 Chronicles 16:9** For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. A perfect heart is one that hold nothing back from God, one that is truly seeking God. **Isaiah 55:6** Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near.*

We need to be close to God. When we are close to God we are preoccupied with Him. Everything revolves around Him and His will. **Psalms 73:28** *But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.*

***Psalms 16:11** Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. By His grace we will enjoy God's presence forever.*