

J.J.

GOD KNOWS
Psalm 139 : 1-6

INTRODUCTION :

This pandemic has already taken a long time.

For people who are suffering or waiting for answers or confused or , it is good for us to know who God is.

Quote : “Knowing about God is crucially important for the living of our lives.... if we try to live in this world without knowing about the God whose world it is and who runs it .The world becomes a strange, mad, painful place, and life in it a disappointing and unpleasant business, for those who do not know about God. – J.I. Packer Knowing God

Illustration : It's like me going to either Kuya Met and Kuya Tony who are mechanics because my car broke down in the middle of the road. They hand me the tools and says to me “Fix it” without showing me what to look for, what to do and etc. The experience will be disappointing and discouraging and I will feel hopeless because I do not know what to do.

It's the same with people who do not know God. There will be times that life will break down on them and they will find the situation hopeless.

So in this situation, in order for us to know God, we need to know His attributes. You will find God's attributes all over the Bible.

What is an attribute? A quality or feature regarded as a characteristic or inherent part of someone or something.

Examples : GOD IS HOLY, HOLY, HOLY. GOD IS ETERNAL. GOD IS ALMIGHTY.

There's this one psalm that shows us :

God's omniscience (knows everything); God's omnipresence (always present) and God's sovereignty. (He is in total and full control)

That Psalm is Psalm 139

Note : Jewish scholars note that Psalm 139 the most excellent psalm of David, again, simply because it shows some of God's attributes of omniscience, omnipresence and sovereignty

We'll start first with God's omniscience : God knows

Psalm 139

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

¹ O LORD, you have searched me

and you know me.

² You know when I sit and when I rise;

you perceive my thoughts from afar.

³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴ Before a word is on my tongue
you know it completely, O LORD.

⁵ You hem me in—behind and before;
you have laid your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.

Pray

This psalm talks about God's omniscience.

Etymology : Latin “omni” – all “scientia” knowledge

Note : Since we don't know what's the background of this psalm, in order to interpret this properly, we have to keep in mind three things :

1. The author :

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

David, this man is intimate with God. He knows who God is. In fact, it is God who even acknowledged that in

** Acts 13:22 After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'*

In short : We can trust the writer of this Psalm to be accurate in his observations about God because David is intimate with God.

Special note : Observation on *'I have found David ...'* it shows that when God is looking at a person, he looks at the heart of the person.

Lesson : Even here it shows the extent of God's knowledge. He doesn't only see our actions but he sees what's inside our hearts.

2. The genre : Poetry. A psalm.

In short : David through the Holy Spirit is revealing truth/principles through picturesque language

3. The purpose : For the director of music.

This is meant to be sung for worship.

I have noticed that in our church and even in other churches, people come in late, either in the middle of the singing or after the singing of worship.

Worship singing is very important. Remember, the songs being sung just as long as it's Biblical is the Word of God being declared to us.

How many times have God talked to me in my heart while I was worshipping him through singing.

MY ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOU : When this pandemic is over and we are able to gather together by God's grace, make sure that you come not on time but 5 minutes before the time so you can prepare your heart to worship. **Some of you don't see the importance of a worship service simply because you're heart is not ready to worship.**

ILLUSTRATION : There was a bank robber who was caught and he was asked, "Why do you keep on robbing banks?" He replied, "It's because that's where the money is." In short, that's what important to him and the answer to his needs, that he makes it his priority and willing to sacrifice life and limb for it.

I PRAY that when we go to church, when we gather here even on Facebook Live, when people ask you, why do you give importance to it, you will answer... . "It's because that's where God is."

NOW LET'S START Before anything else : The Lord knows everything.

*¹ O LORD, you have searched me
and you know me.*

It is interesting to note that David started this Psalm with "**O Lord**" which means "Yehovah" – the supreme one.

Application : When it comes to life, it is always the best to start with knowing that there is one who is above you during good times and bad times.

In good times, it keeps you humble. In bad times, it comforts you. All the time, it keeps you focus on what is important.

you have searched me

Etymology : search "chagar" – to dig

In short : We can't hide anything from the Lord.

Idiomatic expression in English : "Let's get to the bottom of this." It means let's see what's the reason behind this.

Note : We can only really know a person if we dig more about him or her.

Illustration : I remember I had a classmate who was really angry at cats that one time I saw him getting a rod and really pouncing a stray cat. So I asked him, "Why?" I learned that almost all of his family has asthma (and he knows how hard it is to have asthma) and that it was inculcated in his mind that one of the causes are cats. Not that I'm okay with him pouncing on cats but at least I know the reason behind it because he just randomly did it when he saw the cat.

REMEMBER God knows a us so well that he knows everything about us. There's nothing we can hide from God and we can't hide from God....

TO SOME OF YOU, when I say that, that causes fear or anxiety...BUT I'LL TELL YOU LATER ON WHY THIS IS A SOURCE OF COMFORT THAT GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING WE'RE DOING RIGHT NOW AND OUR HEARTS!!! YOU WANT TO KNOW??? I'LL TELL YOU LATER ON.

1. The Lord knows our activities.

² You know when I sit and when I rise;

Etymology : sit "yashab", most of the time, this word is used as "dwell" Rise "quwm" to establish; to build; if you see it's common usage in the OT, it's "rising up" and then going"

In short : **He knows who you are when you're at home and who you are outside the home.**

Now since Psalms is a poetic genre, we can interpret it in such a way... that GOD KNOWS WHO WE REALLY ARE AND OUR ACTIVITIES.

Illustration : Usually, there are some people who is different inside the house, but has a different image in front of their friends, at work or even or a different in Facebook. BUT GOD KNOWS WHO WE REALLY ARE.

And the people who knows who we really are, are the ones we spend time with everyday... our family... REMEMBER GOD IS OUR FATHER... He knows who we are.

NOW : Even if we get the most basic meaning of "I sit and when I rise" which I believe is what David is trying to establish...

How do we know this? Because this psalm is more of an encouragement and awe rather than a conviction.

Big Application : GOD is interested even in the most basic form of your activity such as sitting and rising, your watching TV, listening to music, sleeping.. He knows He's watching over us. THAT ALONE GIVES ME COMFORT.

E.g. "There goes my son sitting down, there goes my son standing up...there goes my son sleeping."

Illustration : Have you seen new parents? They are so enamored with every move of their newborn baby. HERE'S THE THING.... GOD IS SO ENAMORED WITH US.

Isaiah 49:15 "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!"

In short : That's how much He cares for us.

Sometimes : Chicay will ask me during her struggle with cancer, "Does God know the pain I have right now?" Yes He knows definitely and He cares about that pain.

**Luke 12: 6Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. 7Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.*

Of course : The question is, if God loves me then why am I suffering like this? Why isn't He taking away the pain?

***Quote :** God's love is not a pampering kind of love. It's a perfecting kind of love. – James McDonald

*Hebrews 12 : 4-11 My dear child, don't shrug off God's discipline,
but don't be crushed by it either.
It's the child he loves that he disciplines;
the child he embraces, he also corrects.*

*God is educating you; that's why you must never drop out. He's treating you as dear children.
This trouble you're in isn't punishment; it's training, the normal experience of children....(The Message)*

Note : The "discipline" here doesn't mean because you have done a wrong thing but it's training. The context here in chapter 11 is about the faith of OT characters that these people who had faith in God had to undergo suffering...

Etymology : The Message : corrects: NIV "punishes" KJV "scourges (mastigoo) whips
In short : The training is not easy.

Illustration : Freddie Roach says in an interview that when Pacquiao trains, he really trains hard. And you see in one of his videos, they use a rod to hit his stomach.

***And what is the purpose of God's scourging?**

Hebrews 12: 4-11 Later, of course, it pays off handsomely, for it's the well-trained who find themselves mature in their relationship with God (The Message)

*That's why look at what James wrote :

James 1: 2 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. (NLT)

*But what is the promise of God when you are undergoing this?

2 Corinthians 12 : Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. " (NLT)

Definition of grace here : It is the power to go through...

Note : We've always heard the advise, "Hindi ka bibigyan ng Dios ng problema na hindi mo kaya..." But quite the contrary, sometimes, God will give you suffering "na hindi mo kaya"

AGAIN Definition of grace here : It is the power to go through...

OKINAWAN KARATE ILLUSTRATION : I was watching this video which shows the difference of Okinawan karate and Japanese karate. Okinawa is in Japan and karate came from there. But when it went through mass teaching in Japan, there were some deviations. One deviation in Japanese karate is when they punch or kick, they punch with force and pull back. But Okinawan karate... pushes through and the reason behind it...

GRACE GIVES US THE POWER TO PUSH THROUGH DIFFICULTIES, SUFFERINGS AND PROBLEMS

Why? *9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*

IN SHORT, YOU WILL ONLY GOD'S TRUE POWER IN TIMES OF DIFFICULTIES, SUFFERINGS AND PROBLEMS AND IT IS THE POWER TO PUSH THROUGH.

In the end...GOD KNOWS YOUR ACTIVITIES... HE KNOWS WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH....WHETHER IT'S THE MOST BASIC THING LIKE YOU'RE SITTING DOWN, WATCHING...BUT HE ALSO KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU RIGHT NOW IN A DIFFICULT OR TROUBLESOME SITUATION....HIS GRACE WILL MAKE YOU PUSH THROUGH!

We will continue next week.....

2. *The Lord knows our thoughts.
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

Etymology : thoughts “rea” which means “thought” “purpose” “aim”

In short :

- a. In the quickest sense : God knows what you’re thinking right now

Ice-breaker : What are you thinking right now?

Remember : This line is after

² *You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.*

In short : God knows what is your motivation or intention behind an action (purpose, aim)

Psalm 94:11 The Lord—knows the thoughts of man, that they are but a breath.

At the end of the day, when God looks at us, He doesn’t only look at the outward action or appearance, He looks at the intention behind everything.

Biblical illustration : Remember the time , when God called Samuel to anoint the next king and He asked him to go to Jesse’s house and Jesse presented his sons but God rejected all of them and He said to Samuel

1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

3. *The Lord knows our ways.

³ *You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.*

**Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted [with] all my ways. (KJV)*

Etymology : path... “orach” way of living; way of life; lying down “reba” ; ways “derek” manner, habit

Difference between : ² *You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.*

AND

³ *You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.*

- a.) **Verse 2** shows that God is interested, knows the details of our lives
- b.) **Verse 3** shows that God is interested in the broad spectrum of our lives

Example : . He knows and interested in you're going to the gym or you're work or who your friends are or what is your favorite food and etc etc....

Illustration : I remember this story that one of her friends was just always going out since she had the money anyway when they were teenagers. But since she is the youngest of five sisters, the parents were used to the kids going out already. But she was frustrated that her parents doesn't even ask where she is going that one day, while going out for a party, she already told the parents, "Aren't you even going to ask where I am going?"

Illustration 2 : I also remember that Chicay's dad said to his children not to take offense when they get late in coming home, he said, "Kung ang pusa nga hinahanap...anak pa."

Note : To know about a person, **to be interested in what he or she is doing shows that you care.**

Of course: Needless to say, he knows even your bad and good habits, whether you are rude or courteous (attitude and behaviour). God sees it and knows about it. He knows if part of your lifestyle is reading His Word, the Bible and etc. Etc.

4. *The Lord knows our words

*⁴ Before a word is on my tongue
you know it completely, O LORD.*

I want you to see the greatness of God

Activity : What do you think is the next word that will come out of my mouth?
Even if you guessed correctly...I could have changed it and even that God knows!!!!

Application : There is nothing that surprises God and He knows the sincerity or insincerity of our words. Why? Because He knows again, "THE HEART" of the person

This is the reason why? What we say must always come from our heart. That's why it's important, that our heart must be full of love.

Tip No extra charge : Before you talk to anyone or say anything to anyone, ask yourself, "Am I saying this out of love?"

***Even our salvation, it doesn't mean if a person says the sinner's prayer, he is saved.**

Romans 10 : ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Question ; Do you really believe in your heart that Jesus saved you from sin, now let's therefore confess it.

This is the reason : We ask that you also read the Word of God always. That's the reason why God asks us to love even our enemies....

Luke 6: 45 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

For example : If you are angry at a person, it will always manifest not necessarily to the person but sometimes, sisiraan mo. Hindi mo naman sinisiraan yung tao na mahal mo dib a? That's the reason why God doesn't like gossip in the church...it's a manifestation that there's no love.

For example : If you love a person, you will only say good things about her.

CONCLUSION :

*5 *You hem me in—behind and before;
you have laid your hand upon me.*

Etymology : hem; beset KJV “tsuwr” – confine, cramp

Look at the word picture : God is at our back and at our front “confined to God” .

you have laid your hand upon me.

It's a sign of being blessed e.g. Jacob blessing Ephraim and Manasseh

David is saying : God knows us and is so interested in us, that there's nothing that's going to happen to us that's apart from His will because I am always with you...I know you too well...

That's why David says in verse 6:

*6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.*

Just imagine : God is in front and in our back and then His hand is upon us.

Good news : There's nothing you can't hide from God, your most innermost thoughts, your secret actions, your unguarded words, your bad habits and yet He still sent His Son to die for us.

I love this Tozer quote :

Jesus Christ knows the worst about you. Nonetheless, He is the one who loves you the most. – A.W. Tozer

Illustration : Usually, Saturday morning, when everyone is still asleep, that's my reflection time.

One of my reflections is recently, on the outside, it looked I was a generous and loving person BUT I KNEW deep within my heart that my thoughts and my hopes were not good. In short, on

the outside, I looked like a saint but on the inside, I was being a jerk. And I was writing in my journal, I was thinking that even though I was being a jerk and yet still God blesses me and HE LOVES ME SO MUCH.

I was asking Him,...Lord, why do you love me so much even though I know you know I am a jerk on the inside? Why Lord? Why?

I wrote in big capital letters – G-R-A-C-E.

And I could only respond to Him with these words I wrote : “I love you Lord.”

Beloved, God knows who you are, your every thought and action and yet He still sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for you.

Romans 5: 8 "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

The only proper response to this is to love Him back.

S.G.D.