

J.J.

GOD'S OMNIPRESENCE Part 2
Psalm 139

INTRODUCTION :

Story : There was this dad who went to fix his roof, so he tied himself with a rope and after going to the other side, threw the rope and said to his son...tie that to a tree. The son got the rope and thought that the tree is too far away so he tied it to the nearest thing. He tied it to the bumper of their car. That dad thought he was secure until after a few minutes, the mom went out because she forgot something from the grocery and needed to make a quick trip.

Note : It's important to make sure where our faith is hanging. Is your faith based on the truth? Or is it based in your traditions, through other's thinking, through your own intelligence?

**Psalm 139*

7 Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn,

if I settle on the far side of the sea,

10 even there your hand will guide me,

your right hand will hold me fast.

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me

and the light become night around me,"

12 even the darkness will not be dark to you;

the night will shine like the day,

for darkness is as light to you.

Pray

Review :

I. GOD KNOWS (v. 1-6)

In summary : The Lord knows everything.

II. GOD IS HERE. (v. 7-12)

Quote: The reason why God knows your situation is because He doesn't only know everything, GOD IS ACTUALLY WHERE YOU ARE.

Application : The attributes of God

He is here right now. (His OmniPresence)

He knows what you are thinking and what you are feeling. (His Omniscience)
 He knows what happened, what's happening and He knows what's going to happen (His Sovereign)
 He's a pure God. His actions are always GOOD. (His Holiness)

In short : THERE'S NO NEED FOR US TO WORRY

Note : Do you know that if you just meditate on His attributes, there is a calming effect.

**Isaiah 26: 3 You will keep in perfect peace
 him whose mind is steadfast,
 because he trusts in you.*

*4 Trust in the LORD forever,
 for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal.*

Story : There was this businessman who owns a factory learned about God's attributes and that day he surrendered his life to God and even said to God, "My business is yours." That night, somebody called him on the phone and said that the factory was burning. So he went to the site and he saw that there's nothing that can be saved in the factory. It's burning down to the ground. The fireman noticed that the owner was even smiling looking at his burning factory. So the fireman asked him why he can still smile. He said, "Today, I gave my life to the Lord and I even gave my business to Him. So this factory is now His and if He wants to burn it, He can burn it."

***This is the reason why God said in Jeremiah :**

Jeremiah 9 : 23 This is what the LORD says:

*"Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom
 or the strong man boast of his strength
 or the rich man boast of his riches,*

*24 but let him who boasts boast about this:
 that he understands and knows me,*

In short : Wisdom or intelligence, maaaring mawala. Strength, health,..maaaring mawala.

Riches...pera, property and etc..maaaring mawala...PERO SI LORD HINDI MAWAHALA.

Remember : Si Lord hindi mawawala kaya sa Kanya ka magtiwala.

***Last week :** we talked about the different angles of God's presence.

a.) In essence, God is always present.
OMNIPRESENCE

b.) In certain situations, God is specially present. (positively or negatively)
MANIFEST PRESENCE

c.) In the right relation, God is intimately present.

INDWELLING PRESENCE

*The Characteristics of God's OmniPresence

⁷ *Where can I go from your Spirit?*

Where can I flee from your presence?

Note : This is what you call a rhetorical question. A rhetorical question is a question that need not be answered because it's obvious. It is asked to create an impact which forces the audience to think.

In short : The Lord is everywhere.

Etymology : spirit “ruwach” wind, breathe

Story : One time at work, the hot topic two desks away from me is religion. And this supposedly intellectual guy was saying that he doesn't believe in God. But one officemate said, “Man, it doesn't mean if you don't see it, it's not real.”

Note : The reason why God can be everywhere is because He is Spirit and His difference is that He is the Spirit that is everywhere unlike angelic beings whether good or fallen.

**1 Kings 8 : ²⁷ "But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!"*

**John 4: ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."*

***Quote :** God is where you are wherever you are.

WHAT A COMFORTING THOUGHT!!!

In short ; You can commune with God wherever you are.

Note : Since David has asked a rhetorical question, then he tried testing the premise to the extreme.

In short : He's thinking, “If God is here but what if I go there, will he still be there?” Of course, the answers here are obvious but it's good to meditate on it.

*1. The Lord is present even beyond the sky.

⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

Etymology : heavens – shamayim - sky, stars, visible universe but it also means the abode of God.

In short : What if I leave this earth and go high, high, high up... will He still be there?

**Psalm 19 : 1 The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

Story : The Russians were the first cosmonauts in space and they circled the earth. When they came back they bragged, “We have been in the air. We have been around the earth. And we did not see God!” The following Sunday W.A. Criswell made a classic statement, “Ah if those cosmonauts had stepped out of their spacesuit, they would have seen God.”

***2. The Lord is present even beyond this life.**
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

Etymology : depths (Sheol) abode of the dead. Remember this was written in OT times which we explained to you before what happens to the soul after they die.

**Job 26:6 Death is naked before God; Destruction lies uncovered.*

In short : Kitang-kita ni Lord even Sheol.

Apologetics question : If God is present everywhere, is He also present in hell?

Answer : BE CAREFUL TO ANSWER THIS...Remember last week, we talked about God's manifest presence. It can be positive (like manifesting Himself through the burning bush incident... remember He is not the burning bush... He used the burning bush to attract Moses' attention) *God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses! (Exodus 3:4)"* or negative (when His Manifest presence was shown through a hand that came out of the wall to judge Belshazzar Daniel 5) So the presence of God in hell is His everlasting judgment, His everlasting wrath.

*Proverbs 15: 11 Death and Destruction lie open before the LORD—
how much more the hearts of men!*

Etymology : destruction (abaddon) – place of destruction from root word “abad” meaning divine judgment

Illustration : When someone sends a gift from Canada to the Philippines, someone will say, “ramdam na ramdam ko ang kabutihan niya.” It means your presence is manifested by the goodness that you have shown. So in a sense, in Hell, ramdam na ramdam mo ang wrath ng Dios.

***Let me explain again God's manifest presence :**

Philippians 4: 4Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Explain : *The Lord is near* - **God's omnipresence**

And the peace of God... will guard your hearts and minds - **God's manifest presence**

Emphasis : God's presence in hell is manifested by the torment that people will receive to those who rejected His Son Jesus Christ as the only Lord and Saviour.

***Quote :** There's no atheist in hell.

***3. The Lord is present even beyond what we see.**

*⁹If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
¹⁰even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.*

⁹If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; (KJV)

Historical context : David is riding from his limited perspective of geography. Today, we know that from here beyond the Pacific Ocean is Asia or beyond the Atlantic Ocean is Europe. He doesn't have information yet.

Poetic interpretation : *If I rise on the wings of the dawn*

The wings of the dawn are the rays of the sun in the morning. That when the sun rises in the morning, its rays cover everything and David knows that there is something more that the rays can reach that his eyes cannot reach and he's saying...even if I go there to where I don't know where the rays of the sun goes...GOD IS THERE.

Assurance : *¹⁰even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.*

Illustration : Last September 8, we celebrated our 13th year here in Canada. But before we left the Philippines, I was so anxious because I'm going to leave all that is familiar to me even if people are saying you are going to the land of milk and honey... What gave me assurance is God's Word :

**Exodus 33: ¹²Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' ¹³If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."*

¹⁴The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Note : This was the one that gave me peace, "Lord basta kasama ka namin...ok na." And truly, He is a faithful God.

BUT let me just emphasize this :

¹⁵ Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. ¹⁶ How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

VERY IMPORTANT : As God's people, what distinguishes us is GOD's presence. We are aware that He is there...and as discussed earlier...it is manifested by our inner peace, even if the world around is in chaos and not sure BECAUSE WE KNOW IS GOD IS NEAR. There is love in our hearts because you know God is there.

***Look at this Biblical example :**

Acts 16: ²²The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. ²³After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

Big question : Why do you think they can pray and sing hymns to God?
THEY KNOW GOD IS NEAR. THEY know He is present.

***SO : How did God manifest His presence?**

²⁶Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose.

REMEMBER : I shared with you last week...**you want to see God's presence manifested in your life...you want to see how He works....PRAISE HIM IN WHATEVER SITUATION!!!!**

***4. The Lord is present even beyond the light.**

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Remember the rhetorical question of David is :

*⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?*

Quick recap again : So he asked, I go in the heavens you are there, if I go in death, you are there, if I go to a place where I can't see, you are there to guide me, to hold me. **So he asks this last question, what if I go to a place where no one can see me...and what is that "darkness"!!!**

Illustration : The story of the boy trapped on the second floor of the burning house. He went to the window and shouted for help. The smoke was so thick now that he can't see anything. He shouted and he heard a voice. It was his dad. His dad said, "Junior, jump!" The boy did not jump and the dad said, "Junior, jump. I will catch you." Junior replied, "I can't. I'm scared." The dad asked, "Why?" Junior replied, "I can't see you." The dad replied, "Don't worry, I see you. Now jump."

Application : During the dark times in your life when you don't even see any hope or you don't see anything or you don't see what's going to happen, God is asking us to trust Him. He sees and knows what's happening to us.

What is the Lord's assurance?

*12 even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.*

In short : David knows that even if darkness surrounds him, GOD STILL SEES HIM...GOD STILL SEES HIS SITUATION....THE LORD KNOWS OUR SITUATION.

CONCLUSION :

When we arrived in Canada in 2006, together with my wife and my 3 kids, my first task was to find a job. How else could I feed my family by God's grace in the long term. I had no car. I had no friends. My only relative is a cousin. I came from an interview and knew that the interview did not go well. I was riding the bus home and was so disappointed, losing hope, thinking did we do the right move and etc. I had those small IPod MP3 players (this was before smartphones) and by God's grace inside that MP3 player, I placed there the album of Gary Valenciano "Revive". I played it and there was this song that reminded me that God is near and while in the bus...I HAD THIS OVERWHELMING INNER PEACE THAT TEARS OF JOY just kept pouring out because OF THE ASSURANCE OF HIS PRESENCE.

This song was written by Steven Curtis Chapman, a Christian songwriter; although it was written to his wife. You can see that only God can fulfill these lyrics by God's grace.

Tomorrow morning if you wake up
and the sun does not appear
I will be here
If in the dark, we lose sight of love
Hold my hand, and have no fear
'Cause I will be here

I will be here
When you feel like being quiet
When you need to speak your mind
I will listen

And I will be here
When the laughter turns to cryin'
Through the winning, losing and trying
We'll be together
I will be here

Tomorrow morning, if you wake up
And the future is unclear
I will be here
Just as sure as seasons were made for change
Our lifetimes were made for these years
So I will be here

I will be here
And you can cry on my shoulder
When the mirror tells us we're older
I will hold you
And I will be here
To watch you grow in beauty
And tell you all the things you are to me
I will be here

I will be true to the promise I have made
To you and to the One who gave you to me

Tomorrow morning, if you wake up
And the sun does not appear
I will be here
Oh, I will be here.

S.G.D.