

Do you realize that God is everywhere? That God is not defined to a particular location but is in fact in all places, at all times. But it doesn't always feel like that, does it? Sometimes it *seems* like we're all alone.

David, the King of Israel, the one who was once described as the man after God's own heart, even he felt like that at times. He cries out in the book of Psalms, "**As a deer pants (longs) for water, God I long for you in the same way**" (Psalm 42:1). And he's not simply being poetic, he is crying out in desperation because God does not *seem* near to him in that moment. He's struggling in life. There is an inner turmoil and anguish within him that brings him to tears as he goes throughout his day, and also as he seeks to sleep at night.

And people all around him are taking notice of his agony. He's not himself. The pain that he is experiencing, the anxiety that he is wrestling with, his troubled heart is noticeable to everyone around him. And so people begin to approach the king, and they ask him, David, "**Where is your God?**" (Psalm 42:2).

There are times in our lives where we either ¹make decisions, or ²circumstances happen that are outside of our control, that send us down a path where life gets very, very difficult. And in those moments we can find ourselves asking the question, "God, where are you? Are you here? Are you paying attention to what is going on right now?"

I want to reassure you today that God is in fact there. ALWAYS! We may not consistently sense or feel it. We may not consistently remember it or acknowledge it. But that does not change the fact that God is ever-present in every single situation that we face. And because we are so prone to forget or to feel like we're all alone, it's crucial and helpful to pause in order come to a better understanding of who God is.

So what we're going to be looking at today is **the Omnipresence of God**. My desire in talking about the Omnipresence of God would be that you leave here this morning with your eyes firmly fixed upon our God who is always there with you.

I want you to see (to see clearly with your eyes wide-open) in the midst of this entire series of **KNOWING GOD**, the great benefit and the great joy of knowing our God, not from a distance, but up close and personal. To know who God truly is. And in order to help you in that, we are focusing in this morning on this extraordinary attribute, that only God has, His Omnipresence.

So as we head in this direction of our study this morning, I want to give you something to write down, because I don't want to assume that I when I say a word that we all understand what's being talked about. So first of all, what does it mean when we say that God is omnipresent?

First, **omni = is a Latin prefix that means "all."** So in our conversation this morning we are talking about the reality that God is "all-present." And I'd like to give you a

definition that demonstrates this attribute of God in a fuller context. And here's a great definition of what is being talked about when we say that God is omnipresent.

Omnipresence: God does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with his whole being.¹

This is a short sentence that is packed full! So what I'm going to do is break this definition apart into several pieces to explain it. I want to show you today that,

1. **GOD'S PRESENCE DOES NOT HAVE SPATIAL DIMENSIONS**
2. **GOD'S PRESENCE IS EVERYWHERE**
3. **GOD'S PRESENCE IMPACTS HOW WE LIVE** (or at least it ought to)

Let's begin with that first observation, **GOD'S PRESENCE DOES NOT HAVE SPATIAL DIMENSIONS**. Think about this for a moment of how humanity thinks of our being in spatial dimensions. *When child is born into the world, what is some vital information that people want to know? First of all: we want to know that the mother and child are healthy and doing well. But what's the question that follows after that? This is not always a question that I consider but it's one that my wife or a lot of other women, are very curious about.*

Their question is, "How big is the child?" They want to know height and weight. Usually, I'm very curious about dimensions too, but it's often not with children, it's with professional athletes. I want to know that our middle linebacker isn't going to get pushed around.

But remember, God is not like us. We are created in the image of God, but God is significantly different than we are. We are contained to a space. I take up *this space right here*, and that is it. But God's whole being is present in every part of space, or at every point in space, it is also necessary to say that God *cannot be contained by any space*, no matter how large the space may be.

A passage that points to this reality is found 1 Kings 8:27, where King Solomon says,

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!

What Solomon had done was build a temple for the Lord. But what Solomon had realized was that God was not a local deity contained to a particular place. God may manifest Himself, or show Himself in different ways, but *"heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain God; indeed, He cannot be contained by the largest space imaginable. That leaves Solomon wondering in amazement that God would appoint*

¹ Grudem, Wayne. Systematic Theology. pg. 173

him to build a temple upon the earth, when God is not contained in the limitless boundaries of heaven, let alone a temple.

God's essence is infinite. God is not restricted by the limits of this world; for He can go well beyond that. [Think about the universe in which we live and how big it is, but then you go even beyond that. All in all, our most modern telescopes have revealed an estimated 100 billion galaxies in the universe. But experts say that this number is likely to increase to about 200 billion galaxies as our technology improves. And as technology improves beyond that, the number will continue to rise and we'll be able to see further and further.](#)

But the amazing reality of our God is that as we pursue technological advancement to discover what's out there... God is already there. In fact,

He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. ~
Psalm 147:4

His essence can be and is in endless places; for God does have the power to make all the stars, in all of the galaxies, and he has the capability with His essence to be present in all places.

Let me show you another passage of Scripture. Isaiah 66:1 says,

Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest?"

In this passage of Scripture, the Israelites are seeking to rebuild the temple for the Lord and have such a desire to have a material emblem of the presence of God in their midst. But the Lord stresses the reality that He's bigger than the temple. He is essentially in every part of the world. He is in the heaven and earth at the same time. [Like you when you sit in your favorite chair at home with your feet propped up on the stool](#), so it is with God.

God describes Himself in the form of humanity as if He had His head in heaven, and his feet on earth. In that picture, He fills everything in between. But in thinking this through, we need remember that when we are talking of the reality that God is everywhere, we are not talking in spatial terms or dimensions. We should guard against thinking that God is just big, and extends infinitely far in all directions so that he himself exists in some sort of infinite, unending space.

We should try to avoid thinking of God in terms of size or spatial dimensions. God is a being who exists without size or dimensions in space, but simply is infinitely everywhere at all times.

[This truth ought to curb the thinking that we have to go to some place to meet with God. There is not some *special* place of worship that gives people *special* access to God.](#)

He is not more here than He is there. Therefore we don't need to travel to Mecca, or to Jerusalem, or to some other special place to worship. And we don't need to create some place where God will show up: for God cannot be contained to a place. So wherever you go He is there.

And you may ask, "Well, what about all those times in the Bible where you see God showing in particular places?" To that I would tell you that everything has changed through the gospel. In the Old Testament you will see God showing up in the burning bush, you will see observe that within the Temple there is a special place called the Holy of holies, where God's presence appeared.

However, at the death of Christ, what happened? The temple veil was torn in two giving us complete access to our Holy God. God used to manifest Himself differently, but the gospel redefines His presence, but more particularly, our access to God.

This ought to also encourage us greatly, that no matter where we are, the fact that no place can be said to contain God, and that God fills every place, we can be confident that God is always with us! I may not always feel like He is here... but He is.

And this brings us to the next observation of our outline, it's that **GOD'S PRESENCE IS EVERYWHERE**. Turn in your Bibles to Psalm 139, I'd like to read verses 7-10.

We could spend a decent portion of time looking at this entire chapter, which highlights the omnipresence of God, but I just want to look at several verses within it.

Read Psalm 139:7-12

David writes this Psalm, and this one of the reasons I love David, because he's a lot like us. Saying one thing one moment, and then the next saying something completely different. In Psalm 42 he's crying out, "God, where are you?" And then we find him here in Psalm 139 basically saying, *"There's no where I can escape from your presence." There's no place in the entire universe escape, on land or sea, in heaven or in hell, or any place in between, for You oh God fill all places with Your magnificent presence."*

Now, David is not seeking to escape the presence of God in this chapter, but if He were, he would not be successful. To seek to run from God's presence in any and every direction **is to fly into the center of the fire to escape the heat**. It's just not possible.

We should also take note that there is **no indication** that only a part of God is in one place and a part of Him is in another. It is God Himself who is present wherever David might go. We cannot say that some of God (like His authority, power, grace, or wrath) or just part of God is present, for that would be to think of His being in spatial terms, as if He were limited somehow by space.

You see, God is present everywhere in the totality of his being and not merely operating things from a distance. That is to say, he is essentially omnipresent. Some falsely argue that God is present in all places only by way of influence and power, acting upon the world from a distance, but not Himself wholly present throughout it. But as Herman Bavinck explains,

“God is not present in creation as a king in his realm or a captain aboard his ship. He does not act upon the world from a distance; but with his whole being he is present powerfully here and everywhere with respect to his essence and power.”

There is a lot more to say, but I’d like to spend some time considering our third observation, because there are some very practical implications that spring from this truth that God is omnipresent. Let’s talk about how **GOD’S PRESENCE IMPACTS HOW WE LIVE.**

Now, when I say that God’s presence impacts how we live, I’m talking about how we ought to respond knowing that God is ever present. Knowing that God is with me each and every moment of my day ought to greatly influence my behavior, and I can see it changing it in at least two ways:

First, it **SUPPRESSES OUR DESIRE TO SURRENDER TO SIN.** Have you ever walked into a room where young children are doing something that they’re not supposed to be doing? What do they instantly do? They react and attempt to put on a show that everything’s cool, everything is good. And adults do the same thing; they stand around talking and wasting time at work... until the boss walks around the corner, and then all of a sudden they’re busy again.

The presence of someone in authority changes the entire situation. We must never forget or discount the fact that God is always present. That always leads to trouble. So many sinful choices can be traced to the forgetfulness or lack of acknowledgement of this attribute.

Remember when Adam spoke in the garden after the Fall,

“I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ~ Genesis 3:10

You see, his ears understood the voice of the God, but his mind failed to come to the conclusion that the presence of God had never left. He thought he could hide himself in among the trees and keep from being found from Him whose eyes are present in the most microscopic places on earth. Adam thought he could hide himself from the presence of God’s justice and God’s knowledge.

But that just isn't the case. God is always aware. And the sad reality is that for too many, they will commit sin in the presence of God that they would be too afraid or too ashamed to do before the eyes of a watching world.

But how foolish is it to imagine any hiding-place from the incomprehensible God, who fills and contains all things, and is present in every point of the world. When we shut the door, and attempt to commit sin in the darkness, hidden from everyone else's eye, understand this, there is no place that you can go to hide from the presence of God. Even the inner intentions of our heart cannot be hid from Him.

Stephen Charnock makes this comment,

"Hypocrites cannot disguise their sentiments from him; he is in the most secret nook of their hearts. No thought is hid, no lust is secret, but the eye of God beholds this, and that, and the other. He is present with our heart when we imagine, with our hands when we act. We may exclude the sun from peeping into our solitudes, but not the eyes of God from beholding our actions."

Spurgeon agrees, and reminds us that

"this (truth) makes it dreadful work to sin; for we offend the Almighty to His face, and commit acts of treason at the very foot of His throne. Go from Him, or flee from Him we cannot; neither by patient travel nor by hasty flight can we withdraw from the all-surrounding Deity. His mind is in our mind; Himself within ourselves. His spirit is over our spirit; our presence is ever in His presence"

Understanding that God is ever-present, always present it ought to **SUPPRESSES OUR DESIRE TO SURRENDER TO SIN...** But that's not it, for this attribute of God ought to also comfort and bring great encouragement to the righteous.

Secondly, the Omnipresence of God **CALMS OUR TROUBLED HEARTS**. That God is present everywhere, is as much a comfort to a godly individual as it is a terror to a wicked one. No matter what the trial, no matter the place of its occurrence; no matter the quickness with which it attacks us, no matter the depth of its power, God is ever with us! His loving protection always covers us. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil (WHY?), for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4).

Listen to Stephen Charnock once again,

Good men may be banished from their country, but never from the presence of their Protector; [you] cannot say of any corner of the earth, or of any dungeon in prison, God is not here; if you were cast out of your country a thousand miles off, you are not out of God's precinct; his arm is there to cherish the good, as

well as drag out the wicked; it is the same God, the same presence in every country, as well as the same sun, moon, and stars.

Do not take your eyes off from the presence of the Lord, for He is always there. That is what the Lord reminded Joshua as he was on the verge of leading the Israelites into the Promise Land. If you're familiar with the Old Testament you will recall that the Israelites had been freed from slavery in Egypt, had spent 40 years wandering in the Wilderness, and then Joshua was given the intimidating task of conquering the people of Canaan so that the people of Israel could take possession of the land.

Moses had just recently passed the torch of leadership onto Joshua... there's a lot riding Joshua's shoulders (the pressure of leadership, the need for success in battle, the history of his nation), and that is when the Lord reminds Joshua,

- Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

And that's not just a principle that's applied to one specific person. You find God repeatedly telling His children throughout all of Scripture *to not be afraid*, and the reason that we don't need to fear *is because our God is with us!* Nothing can separate us from His loving care for us. You can go to the highest mountains, the lowest valleys, and God's loving protection is still there. And Scripture tells us that we can go even further than that.

- Romans 8:38-39 "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Take confidence in the reality that the God that we serve is an ever-present God and you are never out of His reach!

Allow me to quote Charnock one more time,

This would make us spiritual, raised and watchful in all our passions, if we considered that God is present with us in our shops, in our chambers, in our walks, and in our meetings, as present with us as with the angels in heaven; who though they have a presence of glory above us, yet have not a greater measure of his essential presence than we have."

What an incredible reality! God is with us! Always!