

## GOD IS ALL-PRESENT

Psalm 139:7-12

Good morning! We're continuing our series on the attributes of God we're calling "God is". We've talked about the incommunicable attributes of God such as Self-Existence, Immutability or Unchanging Nature, Sovereignty, and Omnipotence or All-Powerful. Today, we'll take a look at another "omni" attribute of God which is Omnipresence or All-Present or Everywhere Present.

Just like all the other attributes we talked about already, this is another attribute that's hard to comprehend. The reason being it applies only to God. When only God possesses an attribute, that attribute is called incommunicable, meaning, God decided to not communicate it with us or share it with us. And because it is not shared, therefore, we can't experience it. And because we can't experience it, we can't understand it. Like when I was perhaps 7 or 8 years old, I knew people ride public transportation like the jeepney or the bus in the Philippines in order to go to faraway places, but I couldn't understand how people knew when to get off the bus or the jeepney. Because of my innocence and inexperience and immaturity, it was confusing, and I was afraid. I just didn't understand how the whole process worked.

Similarly, there are many things we can't understand about God's nature because they're beyond our mental ability and beyond our everyday experience. His self-existence, his immutability, his sovereignty, his omnipotence, all of these are hard for us to grasp. But God's communicable attributes or those attributes that God decided to share with us such as love, mercy, goodness, forgiveness, are kind of easy for us to understand because we experience these things. But, of course, not perfectly, since our sinful nature have prevented us from loving perfectly, or forgiving perfectly, and so on.

Today, the title of my message is “God is All-Present”. It is an incommunicable attribute or character of God. Psalm 139:7-12 says (Read).

Psalm 139 is considered to be one of the grandest of all the Psalms for it brings us face to face with the majesty and power of God. Immediately it exalts God as all-knowing and all-present, and clearly shows that all of man's life is in God's hands. It was written by King David as a prayer when he was made king over all Israel. The verses we read talk about the omnipresence of God and its implications in our lives.

So, what does it mean that God is all-present or he is present everywhere? But first, let us look at what it does not mean.

It doesn't mean that we should think of God as like an invisible gas that is spread out through the entire universe. If we think of God this way, then we might be tempted to think of God as only partially present at any one place. For instance, we might come to believe that there is a small amount of God in our bedroom, even more of Him throughout our house, and more still in the three-mile radius around our house. And this, I'm sure you would agree, is crazy!

It doesn't mean also that God is in everything like he is in the stone, in the tree, in the water, in each person. This is what New Agers believe. It's otherwise known as pantheism, the belief that god is in everything. They believe that each person is a part of God. Therefore, in the final analysis, everything and everyone is just one god.

Obviously, these two things are not what the Bible teaches.

So, what does the omnipresence of God mean according to the Bible? To say God is omnipresent means **He is present everywhere with His whole Being at all times.** For example, in Revelation 4:2, it says that God is present on his throne. Then, in 2 Chronicles 7:2, he was present at the Jewish temple. Also, it says in Galatians 2:20 that he is present in the lives of each believer in Christ.

So, God is supernaturally present at all other places at the same time. Now, it also means God can reveal Himself in one location, yet His presence is simultaneously everywhere else in the universe. This is why it is important to say He is present everywhere with His whole Being at all times. As such, he is not limited to a particular time and place.

Still, this is hard to grasp, right? Because as I mentioned earlier, it is out of our natural experience. We think in terms of time, space and physical objects. Our senses are limited to 3 dimensions. But scientists say there could be as many as 10 dimensions in the universe. But who knows how many dimensions there are actually in the universe? Anyway, God obviously is not limited to any of these dimensions because he is outside of time and space.

So, the Bible clearly teaches that God is all-present. We can cite many verses regarding this. For example, Proverbs 15:3 says, “The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.” There’s also, Jeremiah 23:24, “Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?” declares the Lord. “Do not I fill heaven and earth?” And also, Acts 17:27, “God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.”

Now we know that God is everywhere, what does it mean to me, to you? What are its implications in our lives? This morning, I’d like to share with you three things I believe you can be encouraged in because God is all-present.

1. You can believe that God watches over you.

Psalms 139:7-8 says, “Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.”

This passage is very clear about one important truth. God’s presence is everywhere. You cannot escape his presence.

This brings to mind the story of Jonah. As you know, Jonah disobeyed God by not preaching in Nineveh. He thought that by running away, he could run from God and escape responsibility. But God met him wherever he went. He was confronted by God. Until God caused him to be swallowed by a giant fish. But inside the fish, God was there, too, because he listened to Jonah's prayer of thanksgiving.

So, wherever you go, God is there. Which means that you're never truly alone. God is always with you, and he watches over you. He is always nearby. I just hope that you'll realize this right now instead of later on after being swallowed by a giant fish.

Psalm 1:6 says, "For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction." It says that if you choose to walk in God's ways, He promises to watch over you! Of course, God can see us wherever we are and whatever we are doing - for we cannot actually escape from either His presence or his knowledge of us. But the words here, translated as 'watch over', mean much more than God seeing us or being aware of what we are doing. They contain within them a powerful promise of loving protection.

For example, a beach is a wonderful place for children to enjoy playing in the sand. But it is also a place of potential danger from the sea, or even from other people on the beach. So, mom and dad would not only be seeing their children playing on a beach, but they would also be watching over them - meaning that they would be constantly aware of all that is happening around the children, looking out for any potential dangers and at all times be in a state of readiness to move quickly to act in case of danger. This is a perfect picture of what to "watch over" means. The parents see what is happening - but they don't see and do nothing, they see and also act if the children are getting into danger and need help. They are watching over their children.

Folks, don't think that because something bad is happening in your life it means that God is absent. No, he doesn't take time-offs. And he is neither tardy. He's always present. He is always there for you. The Bible says, "The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you but will rejoice over you with singing." (Zeph. 3:17)

He is with you, the verse says. He is always on guard, a mighty warrior who defends you and fights for you. He will save you from whatever difficult challenges you're facing today. And you know why? Because you are special to him. You are so special that he even serenades you.

That is God's word for you today if you're feeling nervous and anxious and afraid. Just believe in God's presence in your life. That is true for every believer in God. Especially those who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, because Jesus is himself God. Before he went to heaven after his death and resurrection, he promised his followers, "Surely I am with you always." (Matthew 28:20)

Because God is all-present, you can believe that he watches over you. Second is,

2. You can trust that he will guide you wherever you go.

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

The wings of the dawn are an allusion to the rays of the morning sun that streak across the heavens from east to west at 186,000 miles per second. The far side of the sea, meanwhile, refers to the extreme west, which for the ancient Israelite is the Mediterranean. Basically, David is saying that just like in verses 8-9, wherever he goes, even with such ferocious speed and at a far distance, God's presence is always with him. He cannot outdistance and outrace God.

But now, he is not talking only about being watched over, but being guided and directed by God wherever he goes. He says, “your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast”. So, he’s saying that as he travels along his journey in life, God will make him steady throughout.

After the death of Moses, Joshua became the leader of Israel. Imagine how nervous and scared he must have been. But he trusted God because of what God told him. **“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)**

How comforting it is to know that wherever we go, God is there with us. Sometimes we find ourselves in situations and wonder if God is paying attention. We may feel so alone and even depressed. We can't feel God's presence, and we need His guidance and help.

Sometimes friends, spouses, and parents don't really understand what we are going through. But God does and He cares. God told Joshua to be strong and to have courage. Then He told him a wonderful truth: "The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Yes, that's right... wherever! Because God is everywhere. We don't have to feel all alone. God is with us. He is working out the problems, and we don't even realize it.

God is also encouraging you the way he encouraged Israel a long time ago, “Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. From eternity to eternity, I am God. No one can snatch anyone out of my hand. No one can undo what I have done.” (Isaiah 43:1-3, 13 NLT)

God is with us, leading us, guiding us, loving us, providing for us -- all with His unlimited resources. What do you need today? Do you need strength, peace, love, joy, or hope? He has it all. He is longing to pour out His favor and blessing upon you. You need to be open to Him and to trust Him. He will guide you wherever you go.

It may not be so clear right now. But just trust him because he is ready to catch you when you fall.

There is a story of a family whose house caught fire. As each parent tried to grab a few belongings and a child's hand to get out of the house as quickly as possible, the little daughter who was holding the father's hand, broke free from his grip and ran upstairs to get her teddy bear. However, when trying to come down again, she found that she was trapped by the enveloping flames.

She, therefore, ran to the upstairs window and shouted for her father's help. The father shouted back 'jump down, I will catch you'. Since she couldn't see her father clearly through the smoke, the little girl cried, 'I'm scared to jump daddy, I can't see you'. Her father replied, 'don't worry honey, you just jump. I'm right under you and I will catch you. Although you can't see me, I CAN SEE YOU'!

Because God is all-present, I can believe that he's watching over me and I can trust him to guide me wherever I go. Finally,

3. You can expect God's loving forgiveness when you sin.

Verses 11-12 says, "If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,' even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you."

In these verses, King David talks about the fact that even if he is in darkness, he cannot escape from the presence of God. God is always with him. God sees him wherever he may be, whether in light or darkness.

Now, I see something else in these verses. I'm seeing what most of us do when we do something wrong. What I mean is, when we commit sin, what is our instinct? Do we confess it right away? Do we admit we sinned? Or do we make excuses? Do we blame somebody else like "The devil made me do it!"? Or do we even continue on sinning? Isn't it we try to hide it and keep it there hoping that nobody notices? We do that because we think that hiding it in the dark will make us get away with it.

But David says that hiding in the dark is futile because God sees through the darkness. He can expose anything that's in the dark. There's no light and darkness to God. As the Bible says, "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable." (Hebrews 4:13)

Unfortunately for David, although he knew this principle very well, he did not apply it in his own life. You know what I'm talking about. About 15 years after he wrote this Psalm, David committed adultery with Bathsheba. Then, he tried to hide his sin by murdering Uriah, Bathsheba's husband. And he hid this murder from everybody else. He wasn't able to hide it from God, of course. God knew everything that David did. Nothing was hidden from the sight of God. Until God convicted him through Nathan the prophet. That's when he repented and asked for God's forgiveness.

Sin is always evil. Sin gravely displeases God. God hates sin. Habakkuk says, "Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing." (Hab. 1:13) That's why if we are followers of Jesus, we must take stock of our lives and check to see whether there's anything we're doing, thinking, or saying that is not pleasing to God.



That coarse joke, that bad temper, that illicit relationship, that unforgiving heart, that looking at pornography, that drinking habit, that gambling habit, that gossiping habit, that lotto ticket, that horoscope, all of those must go away – confess then repent.

But, despite our sin, God loves us and wants us to come to him. There is no sin that is too grave for God to forgive.

God readily forgave David for his sins. The Bible says, “But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” (1 John 1:9) We must remember too that God doesn’t hold grudges. He forgives and forgets. Micah 7:19 (NLT) says, “Once again you will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean!” So, don’t go fishing anymore once God has thrown your sins away to the ocean. Don’t say, “Am I really forgiven?” God has not only forgiven you, he has also forgotten your sin. Isaiah 43:25 (NLT) says, “I—yes, I alone—will blot out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again.” That’s God’s promise. He loves you so much. You are valuable to him.

I’m holding a 20-dollar bill. How much is its value? Now, I’m going to crumple it and soil it in dirt like this. What is its value now? Still \$20. It never changed. All I need to do is to straighten it out and then remove the dirt and it becomes usable again.

If you are a follower of Jesus, your value to God will never change though you may sin. All you need to do is to confess and repent of your sin. You can expect God’s loving forgiveness when you confess your sin.

If you are not a follower of Jesus, you are also valuable to God that’s why he sent his son Jesus to die for your sins. The Bible says, “For this is how God loved the world (and that includes you): He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NLT)

You can make a decision today to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior. He is the only who can save you from your sins. You can enter heaven because of what Jesus has done for you. It's not what you have done, like your good works or being religious, but what Jesus did on the cross.