

David's Box Buster! Psalm 139

It's so easy to put God in a box of our own making. It must of also been so in the time of King David. King David, the man after God's heart, shatters our neat little God compartments in Psalm 139. He reveals God as unlimited in His *knowledge*, His *presence*, and His *power*...**PLUS!** David then takes this belief about God and relates it to everyday life (19-24).

What a splendid model for us to imitate as we personally study Scripture. Please takes some time to **first** soak in Psalm 139 yourself as an active learner partnering with the Spirit.

1. God is all-knowing (verses 1-7). King David describes God as knowing everything. Our outer activities. Our hidden thoughts driving our emotions and choices. God knows all! And is so good and caring that He lays His protective hand gently on me to guide.

How does David respond to such a God? "*You are so awesome; you blow me away!*" (v. 6). "*And at times I want to run and hide from You!*" (v 7). I admire the honesty of this man!

2. God is always-present (verses 8-12). David then goes on to list the remotest places he can imagine. He concludes that even in these extreme places God's caring hand will guide David and His strong right hand will protect Him. Darkness and light are the same to God. He sees everything, even penetrating through the dark smokescreens we throw up. God's initiating, protecting, caring presence is available everywhere at any time. Wherever we flee, God is already there with His caring, conquering presence.

"A spiritual kingdom lies all about us, enclosing us, embracing us, altogether within reach of our inner selves, waiting for us to recognize it. God Himself is here waiting our response to His presence. This eternal world will come alive to us the moment we begin to reckon upon its reality."¹

3. God is all-powerful (verses 13-18). David could have pulled out the telescope to gaze at the majestic mountains and the Milky Way to reveal God's limitless power. Instead, he takes a microscopic view that points us to the miracle and wonder of reproduction.

God can do anything and everything.

God is **all**-powerful. No "easy" or "hard" exists for God because nothing ever diminishes His power. The psalmist sketches out the intricacy and wonder of a baby growing in his mother's womb. All our days are already written in God's book before they come to pass. Our mental circuits fry, and our hearts are stirred.

How could our limited reasoning ability ever fully comprehend this? David, the man after God's own heart, responds in the only way **he** can, and **we** can.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well (Psalm 139:14).

David worships God for how He designed us!

David further astounds us as he compares God's precious thoughts *toward me* (NLT) as so vast that they outnumber the grains of sand. Pick up a handful of sand at the beach and count the grains as they sift through your fingers. Then multiply your *one* handful by *all* the handfuls of sand in the world! God bankrupts our limited thoughts with His vast love-thoughts.

God knows us inside and out. God's presence is always with us. And He can do anything consistent with His character. WOW! This *good, great* and *generous* God is the One whose love keeps on pursuing *me*.

Did you notice the radical change of mood in the Psalm beginning with verse 19?

4. God is holy...and calls us to be like Him in holiness (v19-24 with 1 Pt 1:15-16). Real life jolts David's thoughts back. Holiness in God means that He is whole, entire, complete, and perfectly pure. Like many of us, David deflected from personal response to truth by focusing on "those out there." His thoughts quickly moved to those around him who did not follow the Lord wholeheartedly (19-22). God did not chasten David for identifying with God's holiness but turned his focus to what is essential. "*David, it's first and foremost about you*" (23-24).

How about us, do we first allow such truth about God to search us?

- "*Search me personally to know my inner workings*" (23a).
- "*Test me to expose any anxious thoughts that disrupt intimacy with you*" (23b-24a).
- "*Lead me side-by-side with you in the pathway You set out for me before time*" (24b).

Use these brief thoughts to prick your reflection as you take a week and soak in this majestic Psalm each day.

ⁱ A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God* (Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, 1993, used by permission), p. 48.