

We live in a day when most people are looking for some type of significance. Most people want to feel as if they are important; that they are needed and that they have meaning. The world in which we live tries to get people to look for meaning in areas that don't really give it. **What most people don't realize is that real meaning comes from a relationship with God.**

Psalm 139 is a Psalm of David. It was written by David for the choir director, which means this was written to be not only publicly read and taught, but also sung. The message of the Psalm is critical:

MEANING, SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUE TO LIFE IS FOUND BY ONE'S PERSONAL REALIZATIONS ABOUT GOD AND ONE'S PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

The greatest meaning in life will come to one who realizes there is a link between you and the Holy, Sovereign God of the Bible. When you realize this you will begin to realize that you are really special. You are really worth something. Your life does matter. Your life does make a difference.

As we read through this Psalm we cannot help but carefully notice the use of the personal pronouns: "You," "me," and "I." **What these pronouns teach is that God is a Personal God who has a Personal interest in each individual.** To David, who wrote this Psalm, God was very personal to him and that is where he found his meaning.

Dr. Chuck Swindoll said that the 24 verses of Psalm 139 answer four important personal questions (*Living Beyond the Daily Grind*, Vol. 2, p. 357):

1. How well does God know me. **139:1-6** This solves the problem of identity.
2. How close is God to me. **139:7-12** This solves the problem of loneliness.
3. How carefully has God made me. **139:13-18** This solves the problem of self-image.
4. How much does God protect and help me. **139:19-20** This solves the problem of fear/worry.

Now we think Dr. Swindoll is right on in his assessment of this Psalm and I want to somewhat use his general outline to expound this text.

There are four very personal facts brought out in this Psalm:

PERSONAL FACT #1 – God completely knows us as individuals. **139:1-6**

There are ten facts we learn about God's knowledge of each one of us:

Fact #1 - God has searched us and known us. **139:1**

That word "search" speaks of a very careful examination and exploration. God has intimate knowledge of us. We would be wise to get to know Him because He sure knows us.

Fact #2 - God knows when we are sitting and resting. **139:2a**

Every time we sit down in front of a television or a computer or every time we sit down to read a book or His Word, God is completely aware of it.

Fact #3 - God knows when we are up and active. **139:2b**

God knows all of our daily activities. He knows our every action and move.

Fact #4 - God knows and understands our thoughts. **139:2c**

This is so wonderful to know about God, because there are times we don't even know why we think the way we think. God does. God knows what we think, why we think even before we think.

Fact #5 - God carefully analyzes the path on which we walk. **139:3a**

God knows every place we go. He very carefully scrutinizes the path upon which we are walking.

Fact #6 - God carefully analyzes when we lie down. **139:3b**

God is in the bedroom. Do not ever forget about this. Sometimes a child becomes afraid in their room at night and we need to teach that child that he is not alone. When one is down on a bed being wheeled into surgery, he needs to know you are not in that surgery alone. God is in there. He is monitoring and watching.

Fact #7 - God has intimate knowledge of all of our ways. **139:3c**

God's eye is continually on us and He is either approving or disapproving of what we are doing.

Fact #8 - God knows everything that leads us to every word we speak. **139:4**

God knows everything we say. Rarely will one ever have to repent of silence. But the one who talks a lot, sins a lot. James said it is important that God's people realize the key to spirituality is to put a bridle on our tongue.

Fact #9 - God encloses us from what is behind and what is ahead. **139:5a**

God protects His people from every angle. Even when we don't sense it, we are surrounded by the protection of God.

Fact #10 - God has laid His hand on us. **139:5b**

Think of this, the hand of Almighty God is actually on His people guarding and guiding.

David was thinking about this and the thought of God's knowledge about him was staggering. No other being has this kind of knowledge about a person, which is exactly what he said in **verse 6**.

PERSONAL FACT #2 – God is always close to us as individuals. **139:7-12**

There is no place anyone can go where God is not there. God is everywhere present as it relates to every human being. **Verse 7** makes the point very clear. No one can get away from the presence of God.

One time a believer was challenged by a person who asked “Where is God?” The well-grounded believer said before I answer that let me ask you a question, “Where is He not?” There are seven realities David brings out about God's Omnipresence.

Reality #1 - If you ascend to heaven, God is there. **139:8a**

One can climb the tallest mountain or fly up in a jet 30,000 feet or take a spaceship into outer space and God is there. No matter whether the first heaven—our atmosphere; the second heaven—the stellar heaven or the third heaven—God's Throne, God is there.

Reality #2 - If you die and are in Sheol, God is there. **139:8b**

Sheol refers to the realm of the dead. No one can escape God by dying. In fact, when one dies, one immediately faces God.

Reality #3 - If you go east, God is there. **139:9a**

Reality #4 - If you go to the remote parts of the Sea, God is there. **139:9b**

Jonah tried to flee from God going way out into the Sea, but God was there.

Reality #5 - Wherever the believer goes, God's hand leads. **139:10a**

Reality #6 - Wherever the believer goes, God's hand holds. **139:10b**

Reality #7 - Whenever things are dark for the believer, God is there. **139:11-12**

Because of the presence of God, His people will never lack His provisions, His protection and His resources. For the believer, the fact that God is close to them is encouraging, but for the unbeliever this news is threatening.

PERSONAL FACT #3 – God is the One who made us as individuals. 139:13-18

God has ordained the life of every human being on earth. God is intimately and sovereignly involved in the conception, fetal development and birth of every baby. I wish every politician and every doctor would give very careful consideration to these verses because if they did, abortion would be seen as cold-blooded murder that kills a life that is formed by God.

I want to say this. I do not know how any believer can vote for politicians who support abortion. When we get before God, this will be a judgment issue because God is the one who made every baby.

When God is removed from the fact of creating life, you remove the sense of value to the life. There are four critical facts brought out about God's great work in every baby:

Fact #1 - God formed us. 139:13

In Hebrew the pronoun "You" is emphatic. God, Himself, personally formed your life. Your life was no accident no matter how or by whom it began. Your life is not a fluke of mother nature. Your life was ordained by God, Himself. God was in it. This forming of you was done when you were in your mother's womb. God actually "wove" you together, which means God actually shaped you.

God formed your inward parts, literally in Hebrew "kidney." In ancient times, this literally came to mean all inner vital organs. God actually formed your heart, lungs, kidney, liver and all your inward parts.

Fact #2 - God made us. 139:14

You are fearfully and wonderfully made. We have been intricately designed by the hand of God. Don't ever let someone tell you that you evolved from an ape. You exist because of God. I am convinced this is one reason why we are seeing more and more suicides. Young people are not taught they are made by God. They have no sense of worth, no sense of accountability, no sense of the sanctity of their own life and no sense of judgment. But know this—God made us.

Fact #3 - God framed us. 139:15

God skillfully designed your frame. This has to do with your skeletal system. At birth a baby has about 275 bones. This material structure is due to the genius of God. We have a certain body height and type because of Him. People want to change their frame through cosmetic surgery. Taller people want to be shorter and shorter people want to be taller. Truth is, we are what God designed us to be.

Fact #4 - God planned us. **139:16**

God planned the moment we would be born and He also planned the number of our days. Our days have been ordained by God. We had a date of birth and we will have a date of death.

As David thought about this, **verses 17-18** tell us that he became overwhelmed. He could not even begin to grasp the magnitude of God in this. Thinking about God this way was precious to David.

PERSONAL FACT #4 – God is the One who protects us and cares for us as individuals.
139:19-24

There are three wonderful realities to see here:

Reality #1 - God can eliminate our wicked enemies. **139:19-22**

According to **verse 19**, David did not want to be associated with the wicked and he wanted God to slay them. We have no business being a friend of an enemy of our God.

Wicked people are people of bloodshed (**139:19**). Do you understand this? People who kill are wicked and evil. They are not protestors, they are wicked and evil. It doesn't matter what the color of their skin.

Wicked people speak against God (**139:20a**). Wicked people are irreverent. Professors and teachers who try to eliminate God or mock God are wicked. They are not confused, they are wicked. Wicked people take God's name in vain (**139:20b**).

Verses 21-22 say David hated those who hated God. He was not some neutral pacifistic wimp. David loathed those who loathed God.

In fact, he hated them with the utmost hatred and contempt and he considered them to be his enemies. Some people say it is wrong to hate. Godly people have a godly hatred and they hate wickedness.

Reality #2 - God can eliminate all anxious and hurtful ways in us. **139:23-24a**

David asked God to use His microscopic sovereignty to look into him. David wanted God to examine his heart and route out anything that was evil or hurtful in his relationship with God.

Reality #3 - God can lead us into the everlasting way. **139:24c**

God who made us can lead us all the way into eternity.

Psalm 139 has been called “the most glorious Psalm in all of the book.” It has been said that Psalm 139 is “one of the sublime compositions in the world.”

PARTING THOUGHTS:

- 1) God watches over you from the time of your conception.**
- 2) God was actually involved in designing your organs and muscles and personality.**
- 3) God determines our structure, including our height before we were born.**
- 4) God watches out for those who tamper with His property.**
- 5) Our ultimate value and meaning comes from a relationship with God.**