

Attributes of God

Week 3 – Omniscience and Omnipresence

Omniscience: God’s complete and infinite **knowledge** of all things, including past, present, and future events, as well as the **thoughts** and **intentions** of all beings.

1. God is all-**knowing** (Romans 11:33-34, 1 Chronicles 28:9, Psalm 139:2, Matthew 9:4, Mark 2:8, John 2:24-25)

“God is not removed from the things He knows. He always has direct, immediate perception of all that He knows.” – MacArthur and Mayhue

2. God is self-**knowing** (John 10:15, 1 Corinthians 2:10)

3. God is all-**foreknowing** (Isaiah 46:9-10)

“God does not merely look down the corridor of time and know who will believe in Him. While that is certainly true – and is part of His omniscience – He knows who will believe because He has predestined them to believe.” – Beeke and Cosby

4. God is all-**seeing** (Genesis 1, 16:13-14, Hebrews 4:13)

5. God is all-**perceiving** (1 Samuel 16:6-7, Psalm 33:15, Psalm 147:5)

6. God is all-**scrutinizing** (Matthew 10:29-30, Psalm 147:4, Psalm 139:1-4)

7. God is all-**remembering** (Genesis 8:1)

You may be asking:

- In Genesis 3:9 God asks Adam, “Where are you?” Did He not know where Adam was? (Hint: God’s purpose)

“God is not in need of information, so why is he asking a question? When God asks questions in the Bible, it’s usually in order to provide information to those he is addressing—so that in actual fact, by posing this question, he’s asking Adam and Eve to face up to where they really are.” – Alistair Begg

- If God is all-remembering, what about Him forgetting the sins of His people? (Hint: cognitive vs. judicial)

Take aways – Omniscience

1. When we pray, remember that God already knows everything. We don’t need to inform Him.

“God already knows everything there is to know. He knows the thing that you’re trying to tell Him and He knows it more perfectly than you do.” – A.W. Tozer

2. God knows His people. As a believer, remember that God knows you and will never not know you.

“Viewing ourselves as under the eye of God’s omniscience, would cause reverence in the worship of God. God sees the frame and demeanor of our hearts, when we come before him. How would this call in our straggling thoughts? How would it animate and invigorate duty? It would make us put fire to the incense. We must worship God with the utmost zeal and intenseness of spirit. To think that God is in this place would add wings to prayer, and oil to the flame of our devotion!” – Thomas Watson

3. God also knows unbelievers. As we pray for them to come to faith in Christ, we can rest in the fact that God knows them.

Omnipresence: God is everywhere **present** with His whole **being** at all times.

1. God is **everywhere** (John 4:24, Psalm 139:7-10)

“God is neither shut up in any place, nor shut out from any place.” – Edward Leigh

2. God is **beyond** (Job 9:8, 38:31-32)

“No place can be imagined that is deprived of the presence of God, and therefore when the Scripture anywhere speaks of the presence of God, it joins heaven and earth together. He so fills them that there is no place without Him... Not a part of heaven, nor a part of earth, but the whole heaven, the whole earth, at one and the same time.” – Stephen Charnock

3. God is **immediate** (Genesis 26:3, 31:3; Exodus 3:12; Joshua 1:5; Isaiah 41:10; Haggai 2:5; John 1:14; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 28:20)

4. God is **inward** (John 14:17, 20, 23; Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 3:17)

You may be asking:

- What about in Scripture where God “moves down” from heaven, e.g. Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:7), Sodom and Gomorah (Genesis 18:21), and Ten Commandments (Exodus 19:20)? (Hint: anthropomorphisms)
- If God is present everywhere, is He also present in hell? What about 2 Thessalonians 1:9 that indicates unbelievers in hell will be “away from the presence of the Lord”? (Hint: “presence” == “countenance”)
- If God is present everywhere, then why are believers called to “be filled with the Spirit”? (Hint: “controlled”)

“[The filling of the Spirit] is not commanding empty Christians to acquire something they don't already have. Each of us possesses the entire Holy Spirit from the time we repent and believe.” – John MacArthur

“To be filled with the Spirit is to yield ourselves willingly to His sanctifying work as He prepares us for that final day.” – R.C. Sproul

Take aways – Omnipresence

1. Even though God is omnipresent, His divine nature is distinct from the nature of created things.
2. God’s omnipresence means He is providentially involved in all things at all times.

“He is not everywhere without acting everywhere... He governs by His presence what He made by His power and is present as an agent with all His works... Every creature has a stamp of God, and His presence is necessary to keep the impression standing upon the creature.” – Stephen Charnock

3. Let your inability to completely comprehend God’s omnipresence fill you with wonder and praise.

“If God be infinite in His glorious essence, learn to admire where you cannot fathom.” – Thomas Watson