

Lesson Two: *What God Thinks about Us*

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Scripture Reading: Psalm 139
"Too wonderful for me"

The Mind of Christ

When you trusted in Jesus Christ as Savior, He gave you the Power to think the way He thinks: *"For who has known the mind of the Lord, that He may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ"* (1 Corinthians 2:16). Would you *"let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus"*? (Philippians 2:5). Allow His mind to develop **new** pathways of thought . . . *to think upon things that are true . . . pure . . . and lovely* (Philippians 4:8).

Psalm 139 is a psalm written by David—a beautiful song of God addressed *"to the Chief Musician."* The psalms were the hymnal of God's people.

The psalm has **four different stanzas** of **six verses each**. Each stanza represents one of God's attributes or character showing how they intersect with our lives. God is always looking out for you and has your best interests in mind. With only **24 verses**, **49** times the pronouns **"I," "me,"** and **"my"** appear. This is a very personal psalm.

God's Omniscience: The All-Seeing, All-Knowing God (Stanza 1 Verses 1-6)

God's knowledge of us is where David begins.

"O, LORD [O Adonai]"—the personal name of God. David had a relationship with God that allowed Him to address God in this manner. So do we. We say, *"Abba, Father,"* "which means 'Papa,' a term of endearment. *"And Papa, You have searched me and know me. You know everything about me" (1).*

"My thought afar off"

God knows my thinking from afar. He even knows every move I make—when I sit down and when I rise up, or whenever I stand **(2)**.

"All my ways"

God knows our active life—a whole day's activities. He even knows our thoughts in sleep—and those thoughts we have forgotten. Considering how often we forget, that is very kind of God **(3)**.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our sins from us

(Psalm 103:12).

God never forgets; however, God forgets the one thing people want most forgotten . . . their sins. He remembers them no more. God forgets our sins not because He has many things to do, but because He wants to.

God's Love for You

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

Your value to God is seen through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God proved His love for you at Calvary.

The Lord Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"* (John 11:25).

No one ever cared for me like Jesus.

All of this said in Psalm 139 about God is true of Jesus Christ—for He is the manifestation of God for us. He can do in your life what no one else can. You develop your self-worth based upon what God thinks of you in Christ.

"A word on my tongue"

"LORD, You know when I've said kind, tenderhearted, forgiving words to others, and You know when I've blurted out things that should never have been said. My words are no surprise to You. You knew in advance" **(4)**.

"You hedged me behind and before."

The All-knowing God is also the All-Present God. Behind, that none may attack in the rear. Before, that He may search out the way and meet our foes. God's omniscience goes

into the future to protect and guide us **(5)**.

“Too wonderful for me”

God’s thoughts about me are beyond my comprehension. His love is beyond my understanding **(6)**. I need someone to understand me and love me like this.

God’s Omnipresence: The All-Present God (Stanza 2 Verses 7-12)

“Where can I go from your Spirit?”

David concludes that however far away he may travel, he can never get away from God **(7-8)**.

“The wings of the morning”

Neither change of hemispheres nor distance can alter our closeness to our ever-present God **(9)**.

“Your right hand shall hold me.”

David appreciates that God’s long arm is moved by His love alone **(10)**.

“The darkness shall not hide from You.”

Since darkness and light are the same to God, you are secure **(11-12)**. Are you in a dark place right now? Does your situation seem absolutely dark and hopeless? If so, welcome the Lord Jesus in, for He is “the light of world.” Open your Bible and allow Him to speak with you through His Word.

God’s Omnipotence: The All-Creative, All-Powerful God (Stanza 3 Verses 13-18)

“For You knit me in my mother’s womb.”

“For” explains why you need not fear. Since God created you, He knows you intimately, and He is always with you. He knew all about you before you were born. You are the creative genius of God **(13-15)**.

“The days God fashioned for me.”

God saw you before you were born and scheduled and recorded each day in His book **(16)**.

“How precious are your thoughts to me, O God!”

“Precious” means “valuable.” His thoughts about you are tailor-made and that makes them precious. God’s thoughts are more than mere “thoughts,” however. They include His purposes and His care for you wrapped in His love. *How great is the “sum” of them!*

"**Sum**" is in the plural, which means His thoughts of you just keep on growing (17).

"I cannot imagine how many times you think about me"—greater than the grains of sand on all the shorelines of all the beaches, seas, and oceans—and that is while you're sleeping. And then when you awaken, God is still with you, thinking about you (18).

David's Trial (Stanza 4 Verses 19-22)

David turns his attention to his present situation. His enemies were attacking him. These enemies were hostile to God as well as David, and were using the Lord's name for an evil purpose. In loyalty to God, David affirms his rejection of those who hated God. Do you have people in your life causing you anxiety?

David's Prayer (Verses 23-24)

"Search me, O God, and know my heart." God's "searching" begins and ends the psalm. David then wondered: Was *he* causing anxiety in other people because of *his* actions? *"Examine me and know my anxious thoughts."*

We need God to search our hearts because we become so comfortable with our **mental strongholds** we don't even realize they are there: *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds"* (2 Corinthians 10:4). A **stronghold** is a thought pattern that forms a fortress around the mind, holding it prisoner to faulty thinking.

Forget Not:

"Bless the LORD, O my soul . . . for He has done great things . . . may I forget not all His benefits" (Psalm 103:1-2).

*"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be known to God"* (Philippians 4:6).

It's a choice to have a thankful heart.

Faith-rest in Him. That's not something you do on the outside; it is something you do in your mind. God is waiting for you to trust Him.

The Peace of God

Move into the center of your hurricane where you will find calm. The Lord Jesus is there . . . the great **I AM**. Let God give you spiritual eyes to see His love.

“Lead me in the way everlasting.” (24b)

. . . the way planned from eternity by the Eternal God—leading to our eternal home. The Lord Jesus said, *“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”* (John 14:6).

How precious are Your thoughts to me, O God!

Make a big part of your thinking of what God thinks about you. He understands you perfectly and intimately. That should never make you afraid; it gives you confidence. The LORD changes not. He is just as faithful today as He was in David’s day.