



Praying to an All-Knowing God

Psalm 139



Introduction

How do you pray when you pray?

Do you pray:

- Generic prayers
- Memorized prayers
- Written prayers
- Safe prayers or
- Honest, specific and bold prayers?



Francis Asbury knew how to pray and ask God for great things for the kingdom of God.



King David was also a man of prayer who knew how to be honest with God and pray about the concerns on his heart.



We can pray with confidence because of who God is.



I. God is all-knowing (Omniscient). Verses 1-6

God's knowledge is perfect. God knows all things and he knows them exhaustively.



A.W. Pink wrote, "God...knows everything; everything possible, everything actual; all events, all creatures, of the past, the present, the future. He is perfectly acquainted with every detail in the life of every being in heaven, in earth, and in hell...Nothing escapes his notice, nothing can be hidden from him, nothing is forgotten by him...He never errs, never changes, never overlooks anything."



But the thing that amazes the Psalmist the most is...God knows me.



Why should we pray if God knows it all already?



Jesus answered that in Matthew 6:6-8

"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him...So pray like this, Our Father."



Jesus taught the disciples to pray because God knows our needs.



II. God is present everywhere (Omnipresent).
Verses 7-12

We cannot hide from God, but why would we want to?



Jesus said in John 3:19-21, *“This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come to the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God”*



The unbeliever wants to deny God's existence and hide from him, but the believer finds great comfort in God's presence.



God is not like the pagan deities whose power was limited to the hills, rivers, valleys or plains. Our God is everywhere and he is Sovereign – Lord of all.



III. God is all-powerful (Omnipotent).
Verses 13-18

God knows me because he made me.
He is the Creator of all.



We are fearfully and wonderfully made.

We were woven together in the depths of the earth – a metaphor for the secret place – the womb. It is a powerful statement for how God sees the unborn child.



God knows the length of our days.

We are in his thoughts continually.



IV. God is all-holy. Verses 19-24

David's zeal here is not just personal. He is concerned for God's holiness and justice.



There is a tension here. In the New Testament we are told to "love our enemies and pray for them". Matthew 5:44



David is being honest about how he feels and his desire is to see God remove the wicked from our world.
But David is also honest about himself and so he prays, 'God, search me too'.



Conclusion

We can pray with confidence because of who God is – all-knowing, ever present, all-powerful, all-holy.



Would you pray for our church and ministries today?