

"TO KNOW HIM IS TO LOVE HIM"

8. Nature of God: His Omnipresence

Unlike God's power, His presence is an attribute that is not most obvious to us. We often forget that God is everywhere.

"Where can I go from Your Spirit?

Or where can I flee from Your presence?"

(NKJV, Psa 139:7)

(NKJV, Psa 139:8), "If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there."

These verses are a great declaration of God's omnipresence.

What is Omnipresence?

The prefix "*omni*" denotes "*all*", and "*presence*" is "*occupying a location*", so omnipotence means "everywhere". It also implies with it an attribute of uniqueness. To be in more than one place at one time requires attributes that we've already determined are unique to God. Therefore by logical extension, God is the only one who is omnipresent.

(NKJV, 2Ch 2:6), "But who is able to build Him a temple, since heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him?..."

To get a better idea of the scope of God's omnipresence, let's look at the universe.

Here are some basic facts about it:

Light travels at 700,000,000 mph. It takes light 11 minutes to travel from the Sun to the Earth. It takes light 10 hours to travel from the Sun to the end of our solar system (past the planet Pluto). It takes a beam of light over **100,000 YEARS**, just to cover the distance length of our galaxy (the Milky Way). It is believed that the universe contains about **100 BILLION galaxies** (like our Milky Way). On average, each galaxy contains **100 BILLION stars**. The total adds up to more than 10 BILLION-TRILLION stars. It would take a beam of light more than 100's Trillions of years to traverse the entire universe.... In contrast, the age of the Earth may be 7,000 years or 4.5 billion years old.

As large as the universe is, it is finite, it has limits. But we know that God is infinite. God is everywhere in the universe...and He is beyond the universe as well!

God is everywhere...even where we are

(NKJV, Jer 23:23-24), "Am I a God near at hand," says the LORD, And not a God afar off? [24] Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says the LORD; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the LORD."

God is not far away. He is not confined to a place called Heaven. He is everywhere. When we worship God in service, we visualize "ascending to the throne room in Heaven". The Lord's "throne of grace" that we can boldly approach seems to be a distance away. Our finite minds illustrate the difference between our holiness (or more accurately lack thereof) and that of God with physical distance.

(NKJV, Mat 18:20), "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

Jesus is there with us. We don't go anywhere... He comes to us. Technically, He is always with us, it's just that when we gather in His name we become aware that He is.

The Lord's omnipresence should comfort us.

(NKJV, Deu 31:6), "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

(NKJV, Psa 23:4), "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."

We have numerous assurances that the Lord is always with us. He cannot NOT be somewhere! No matter where we are. No matter what we are doing. He is with us... with all of us at the same time...to protect and to comfort us.

Group Discussion

- We have heard it said that God cannot be in the presence of sin. Is there Scripture to support this belief? And what does that say about His omnipresence?
- Do we really acknowledge God's omnipresence? (In other words, in the light of this study, would we do some things differently knowing that God is everywhere!?)