

"TO KNOW HIM IS TO LOVE HIM"

9. Attributes of God: His Omniscience

God's omniscience is an attribute that at times we probably wish He didn't have.

**"Great is our Lord, and mighty in power;
His understanding is infinite."**

(NKJV, Psa 147:5)

This verse draws a connection between God's greatness with His limitless power and limitless understanding (or knowledge). Not only limitless knowledge of facts, but limitless intelligence, and limitless ability to apply that knowledge.

What is Omniscience?

The prefix "*omni*" denotes "*all*", and "*scient*" is "*knowledge*", so omniscience means "*all knowing*."

(NKJV, 1Ch 28:9), "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts."

(NKJV, Psa 139:1), "O LORD, You have searched me and known me. [2] You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. [3] You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. [4] For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether."

(NKJV, Mat 6:32), "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things."

(NKJV, Rom 8:28-29), "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. [29] For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Like our key verse Psalms 147:5, those verses from Romans show us how God's omnipotence and omniscience are connected. His infinite knowledge and infinite power guarantees that everything that has happened, is happening, and will happen is according to a very specific plan. God cannot be "surprised". He never makes "adjustments" to His plan. There is nothing that we can do or not do to cause His plan to go off-course. God cannot learn anything. He already knows everything. There is

nothing that He doesn't know. God cannot forget anything. Everything that God knows He has always known. (ie. There was never a time when God didn't know everything)

God's Omniscience is the one attribute that man believes he can attain.

*(NKJV, Gen 3:5-6), "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, **knowing** good and evil. [6] So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree **desirable to make one wise**, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate."*

Satan attempted to diminish God's omniscience to be something that Eve could obtain. He didn't try to convince her that she would be powerful, ever-present, or any other of God's attributes... only that she would have knowledge equal to God's.

(additional reference: Rom 1:21-22)

God's omniscience directs His selective revealing of knowledge to us.

(NKJV, Num 13:2), "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel..."

God already knew what and who was in the land and yet He had Moses send spies out. His holding back of that information revealed the lack of faith in all but Joshua and Caleb.

Jesus foretold of His death and resurrection. But He didn't painstakingly outline to the Apostles exactly what would happen. (of course after-the-fact they could see what Jesus was talking about). But the withholding of the details that would've made it painfully obvious revealed things about the Apostles.

When the Lord withholds knowledge FROM us, He reveals knowledge ABOUT us.

Group Discussion

- If God knows all, then why do we pray? Pray alone? Pray in groups?
- What are some reasons why God would withhold information from us?
- Since God is omniscient and omnipotent there is no such thing as coincidence. (Though there may be a varying degree of significance to such a "divine alignment".)
Do you recognize these "coincidences" for what they are?