

# Who Is Like Our God: Omniscience – Week 3

(Bulk of material taken from “The Attributes of GOD” by Steven J. Lawson)

## INTRO

A.W. Tozer – “**What comes into our minds when we think of GOD is the most important thing about us.**”

- Our view of GOD shapes our words, actions, and thoughts, and purpose.
- One psalmist tried to consider the enormity of God and mind-blown wrote:

**Psalm 113:2-6** - *Blessed be the name of YHWH from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of YHWH is to be praised! YHWH is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens! **Who is like YHWH our GOD**, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?*

Last 2 Weeks: The **Aseity, Eternality, Creativity, Omnipotence, and Sovereignty** of GOD. Because He is Self-Existent, Eternal, All Powerful, and Created all things, He has the right to rule over all creation. Tonight: The Omniscience of GOD.

## HOOK

Over vacation, we visited a huge, HUGE playground and it featured a slide three stories high. To get to the top, everyone had to climb a series of ladders. Dominick froze up on one of the ladders while I was spotting him. His waist was at the height of my head. I could easily catch him if he fell, but everything in his mind told him he was on the edge of certain and imminent danger.

- How similar I act with God.

## BOOK

**Romans 11:33-34** - *Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! 34 “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counselor?”*

## LOOK

“Omni” – All; “Science” – Knowledge

God holds all knowledge, and there is nothing He does not know. All of the past, present, and future are ever present in His mind. He never learns anything, has

to reason something out, or waits to see what will transpire. Nothing ever catches Him off guard. He knows ALL things comprehensively, perfectly, and immediately.

## HIS OMNISCIENCE CAN BE UNDERSTOOD IN FIVE WAYS

### 1. Exhaustive Knowledge

God knows everything down to the smallest detail. He knows each of the stars by name and even the number of hairs on your head. Jesus said that a small, unimportant bird like a sparrow is noticed by God when it falls. He knows all the activities of each individual person in every place at all times. He knows our thoughts, our motives, and what we will do next.

- **Ps. 147:5** – *His knowledge is infinite.*
- **Job 37:16** – *His knowledge is perfect.*
- **1 John 1:5** - *God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*
  - There are no blind spots in His understanding.

A.W. Tozer – “God knows all that can be known. God knows all causes, all thoughts, all mysteries, all enigmas, all feelings, all desires, every unuttered secret.”

### 2. Eternal Knowledge

**Isaiah 46:9-10** - *I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all My purpose...’*

1. Everything He knows, He’s known from eternity past.
  - **EX.** We’ve grown in knowledge from K-12<sup>th</sup> grade.
    - He has never had a development of knowledge nor acquired it.
2. He knows the future because He is the One who foreordained it.
  - Testing a “god” in Isaiah – It’s prophecies come to pass. God can speak of His future actions as if they’ve been done already, because He has done them.
    - **EX.** I will say, “I guarantee that I will drive my car up to the Lighthouse at \_:\_\_\_ PM on April, 14<sup>th</sup> 2021.” You may say, “Of course you know the exact time without doubt because it has already been done and can’t be changed.” This is true of God. What will be done He can say with absolute certainty, because He who is eternal and outside of time has already done it.

**This should give Jesus-followers peace** because we can trust God with the affairs of our lives! He knows what's around the corner, sees what I don't see, and everything will work out for His glory and our good. Why? Because He has already done it.

- Prayer: He knows the best answers to the prayers we bring. He brings everything into account when He answers our prayers.
- We can praise God for the prayers He answers with "no."

### 3. Immediate Knowledge

God knows ALL things simultaneously (at the same time). He never has to call to memory, to add to His knowledge, or be more knowledgeable in one area than another. No one has ever been His informant.

- **Isaiah 40:13-14** - *Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows Him his counsel? 14 Whom did He consult, and who made Him understand? Who taught Him the path of justice, and taught Him knowledge, and showed Him the way of understanding?*
  - Rhetorical questions with a singular obvious answer. "No one."

**This should give Jesus-followers peace** knowing He can hear all our prayers, knows all our needs, and gives everyone perfect answers at the same time.

- We've never brought anything to Him which He doesn't know more than we do. We aren't clueing Him in to what's going on down here. Do we give Him advice on how His plan is going? Prayer has never been for His benefit. It's always for ours. It's not an attempt to sway Him, but to be aligned with Him.

### 4. Possible Knowledge

God knows what would have happened had He chosen differently.

**Matthew 11:21-23** – *“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For **IF** the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they **would have** repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. 23 And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For **IF** the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it **would have** remained until this day. 24 But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.”*

- He doesn't make decisions arbitrarily. He knows the outcomes – the butterfly effect – of every decision because He ordains the outcomes according to His sovereign will.

## 5. Penetrating Knowledge

**Proverbs 15:3** - *The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.*

He sees through walls, what's done in secret, and in darkness.

**Psalm 33:13-15** - *The LORD looks down from heaven; He sees all the children of man; 14 from where He sits enthroned, He looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, 15 He who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds.*

**Psalm 139:11-12** - *If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," 12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.*

- He knows what's going on behind the closed doors of your home. That's both violating, convicting, and comforting.

He even sees what's going on behind the closed doors of our hearts.

**Proverbs 5:21** - *For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his paths.*

- He sees through our rationalizations, knows our motives, and understands who we truly are.

**Psalm 139:1-4** - *O LORD, You have searched me and known me! 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You discern my thoughts from afar. 3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.*

- "searched" = to spy out (EX. The 12 spies in Numbers)
- "known" = intimate, choosing love
- "sit down, rise up" = the idea of our whole day
- "discerned" = sifts through, scrutinizes
- "You KNOW it all."

- When there's a mistaken perception about me, God knows the truth... BUT when I put on a mask, I'm only fooling myself that EVERYONE is fooled. God is not fooled.

**This should give Jesus-followers peace** because He knows every layer of our wretchedness and LOVES us anyway.

**God's omniscience gives Jesus-followers peace for three reasons.**

1. We can **rest** in His knowledge of the future.
  - a. **Romans 8:28** - *We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*
2. We can **rest** in knowing we are always heard.
  - a. **Jeremiah 29:12-13** - *Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*
  - b. **1 Peter 3:12** - *For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.*
3. We can **rest** in knowing He loves us while knowing us completely.
  - a. **Psalms 66:19-20** - *But truly God has listened; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. 20 Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!*

## RECAP

- GOD holds ALL knowledge!
- His knowledge is exhaustive, has no boundaries in time, is all-simultaneous, understands all possibilities, and even penetrates the human heart.
- This truth is convicting because we know our sin and motives are always seen by Him but comforting because He still chooses to love us.
- His omniscience gives us peace for three reasons. 1) The future is secure, 2) We are always heard, and 3) We have security in His love.

## TOOK

**Challenge 1:** Pray with humility.

**Challenge 2:** Sleep on the pillow of providence. – Pastor Ben