



Christian Life Fellowship
Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ



I GOD AM all present

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Introduction:

There are lots of things that I don't understand, yet believe. It is difficult for me to understand how God can be present everywhere. He is God and unlimited in space and time and knowledge. God can be with you when you are at school, on the way to work, in your home and everywhere with everyone all at the same time.

King David figured this out. He wrote these words as part of a conversation and affirmation of what he believed about God. **Psalm 139:7-10 -Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me; your right hand will hold me fast.** From this Psalm and other passages in Scripture we learn that God is omnipresent. He is everywhere. Now that can be comforting or frightening, depending on your relationship with God. If your relationship with Him is close, it's very comforting to know that no matter what you face in life or no matter where you are in this universe, God will be with you.

Whatever happens in your life, remember that it comes through the screen of His love with your best interest in mind. In your trial, in your temptation, in your testing, He is there with you. You can have confidence in the knowledge that you are never alone; the all-knowing and ever-present God is with you. There can be no place where you are that God isn't there. God's people have openly confessed his presence in every place. God cannot be contained to just one place as pagans think.

Solomon confessed a great truth as soon as he had built the temple: **1 Kings 8:27 - But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!** Solomon is not denying that God dwells upon the earth; in wonder he is stating that God is not limited to any one place.

As deity, Jesus Christ promised his disciples to be present with them at all times. "And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world" (**Matthew 28:18**).- Even when we do not "feel" his presence (because of sin, suffering, dejection, depression, grief and so on) He is still with us. The church is the temple where His Spirit resides (**1 Corinthians 3:16**).

God is present in all places; however, our concept of Him must not be of Him filling space, as water fills a jug, for He has no physical or material dimensions. We must not make the mistake of thinking that God, in whom everything exists, is limited by anything. He has no limits and exists outside as well as in all creation. It is as spirit

that He is everywhere in heaven and on earth. We are mortal beings with physical bodies that hold our spirit. We cannot understand God who is not limited and bound by flesh and blood. God Himself is present everywhere in His majesty and power.

When we say that God is all-present, we mean that He is everywhere. There is nothing that can have existence apart from Him. All creation exists in Him as thought exists in the mind. There is no place where God is not.

Jeremiah 23:24 - Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?"

“Most of our problems are not circumstantial. Most of our problems are perceptual. Our biggest problems can be traced back to an inadequate understanding of who God is. Our problems seem really big because our God seems really small. In fact, we reduce God to the size of our biggest problems.” In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day...Mark Batterson.

I. God being present everywhere comforts me because I know I am not alone.

One of the things Jesus suffered during his journey to the cross was the agony of being alone. I believe that is why He promised to always be with us. Being alone and feeling the loneliness of not having anyone there with you is dreadful, but it is not true.

When Daniel faced the lions den, don't you think he took courage in an ever-present God? When the three Hebrew men were thrown into a furnace that was extremely hot, don't you think they were comforted to know God was with them? Can you imagine what the king thought when he saw the fourth being in the furnace walking around with them? What an astounding moment! When Moses led the people of God out of Egypt and they came to the Red Sea, don't you think it was comforting to know an ever-present God? There is nothing God fears and no place where He is not.

If we could only wrap our thoughts around this truth, that God is always where we are, it would revolutionize our life. We don't have to beg Him to be there. We don't have to “get to where He is” because He is everywhere. All we need to do is acknowledge this truth and live life in the knowledge of that truth. Knowing that He is here takes away fear. Knowing that He is here fortifies my confidence. In a sense, knowing that He is here frees me. Even when no one is physically with you, you are not alone. God is there with you. Some of you are lonely. Maybe you are single. Maybe you are widowed. Maybe you travel a lot and are separated from family and you miss their company. **YOU ARE NOT ALONE!** God is with you.

When the people of Israel journeyed in the wilderness for forty years, God was with them. To remind them of His presence, He led them with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

II. God being everywhere present gives me incentive to live my life to please Him.

The presence of God should be an incentive for us to live our lives in a manner that would please Him. As we are careful not to do anything wrong in the presence of our parents, how much more careful should we be in the presence of God! "Shall a man be hid in secret places, and I not see him?" ([Jeremiah 23:24](#)). Although God is everywhere, we do not see Him because He is a spirit and cannot be seen with our eyes. "God is spirit, and they who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth" ([John 4:24](#)).

In his classic study on God's attributes, the Puritan scholar Stephen Charnock gives three points as to how God's presence will help us.

- **God being everywhere present shields me against all temptations.**

Moses beheld Him who is invisible, and was strengthened against the costly pleasures and luxuries of a prince's court ([Hebrews 11:27](#)). The temptation to enjoy life to the full and saturate himself with pleasure was all around him and yet believing God's presence, he chose to endure affliction with the people of God.

When we pray, "Lead us not into temptation", we do this because we believe that God is near and able to hear our prayers. He is not a god afar off.

- **God being everywhere present spurs me to holy living.**

David did his best to follow God because he considered God was always with him and aware of where he was and what he was thinking, saying or doing. **In Psalm 139:3 – David says, “You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.”**

Being aware of God’s presence around us should strengthen us to make choices for living a life of holiness. If you knew that someone was always with you protecting you, watching you, listening to you, and being with you, it would impact everything about your life!

- **God being everywhere present removes distractions in worship.**

One of the reasons why people draw near to God with their lips **only** is because they are not really convinced of God's omnipresence. If God is nearer to us than we are to ourselves, then this would surely make a radical difference in our worship.

Distractions are huge barriers to worship; things that grab our attention and won’t let our thoughts stay focused on God. Barriers include sin, selfishness,

Conclusion:

Alexander Maclaren once said, “Not mere omniscience, but a knowledge which knows him altogether, not mere omnipresence, but a presence where he can nowhere escape, not mere creative power, but a power which shaped him, fill and thrill the Psalmist’s soul.”

Think today about your concept of God and His omnipresence. He is wherever each one of us is. The knowledge of His presence being everywhere should comfort us and spur us on to living lives that reflect that knowledge.

wrong attitudes and the focus on that blessing rather than on God who gave the blessing. Other barriers include the nagging thought of what we need to do or what we should have done, where we plan to be tomorrow, or what we forgot to do before we came to worship. We bow down in His presence. Remember worship is not simply going to the temple.

In the conversation Jesus had with the Samaritan woman at the well the indication was that God can be worshipped anywhere. Her understanding was limiting in that she thought worship could only happen on a mountain. But Jesus told her that God sought for those who would worship Him in Spirit and truth because that is the kind of worshiper God seeks. **John 4:20-24 “Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."**