

God is All-Knowing

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.

God is *all-knowing*. That phrase might send shock waves through our system. That means that God knows all of the sinful and stupid acts that we have ever committed in our lives and all that will follow. He knows all of our thoughts before we even give expression to them.

That is why it is great that the text begins with *O Lord*. This is a personal, covenant name for Yahweh. It is the “promise keeper” name for God, his protecting presence. God knows our weaknesses, not to take advantage of them, but to help us overcome them. God knows our trouble, not to exploit them, but to help us with them.

The fact that God is all-knowing can also be of great comfort. He knows all of our needs. He knows all of our weaknesses. Not only does he know all about us, he also provides everything we need even before we realize it. He knows our need for a Savior and provided one in Jesus. We can with Peter say “Lord, you know all things.”

A list of ways that the Lord knows us and provides care is listed below:

- *searched me and known me!* God is omniscient; i.e., He knows everything. This includes knowing us—our actions, our thoughts, even our future—with perfect intimacy. (TLSB)
- *when I sit down...rise up* – God knows every move the psalmist’s makes (including sitting down and rising up, but much more than those two movements).
- *discern my thoughts from afar* – The point is that God not only knows every move people make, but knows their motivations as well, what they are striving for in them. All of these things God evaluates, for the verb is “to discern, to perceive” (s.v. Ps. 49:1). He not only knows everything we do but also evaluates all of it.
- *my lying down* – This means one’s entire daily routine.
- *a word is on my tongue* – The idea is that the psalmist has not yet been able to frame the words that he wants to say, God knows everything that will be said. The point of the illustration is that this much about this detail of life, he certainly knows all the activities and intentions we have.

The last phrase of verse 4 sums it all up when it states: **O LORD, you know it altogether.** This includes our need for a Savior. And that has been provided for us. It also includes all of our daily needs.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for knowing me completely and taking care of all that I lack. Amen