

# Gleanings of Grace

## Psalm 139

### Lesson 24

This psalm could be titled "It's All About Me". Although God is mentioned many times in this psalm, King David used personal pronouns to refer to himself even more. Surrendering to God becomes a desire in our lives when we begin to know His character. It is also His desire that we understand how very precious we are to Him. In this psalm, David basks in the wonder of what God knows about him and what God has done for him personally.

#### OBSERVATION: Psalm 139

1. Read Psalm 139 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the psalm, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns/titles that refer to *God* or to David as he referred to himself using *I*, *my*, and *me*.  
**Key Words:** *LORD/God, Spirit, and I/my/me*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used in verses 4 and 12. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.
4. The psalmist poses several questions. Mark the question marks (?) by circling them. List the four questions in verses 7 and 21.

## **Background:**

1. Before we delve into this psalm that shouts to us our importance to God, let's spend some time looking at some of the attributes God must have to be able to fit the descriptions of Him in the psalm.

**Omniscient** (knows everything) Luke 9:47

**Omni visual** (sees everything) Genesis 16:13

**Omnipresent** (present everywhere at the same time) Jeremiah 23:24

**Omnipotent** (all powerful) Job 42:2

**Creator** Nehemiah 9:6

**Foreseer** (knows the future) Isaiah 46:9,10

**Loving** John 3:16

- a. Add some other characteristics of God that you see in Psalm 139

## **Read Psalm 139:1-6**

1. This psalm begins with the words, *O LORD, You have searched me and known me*. The three verses that follow amplify verse one with the words *understand*, *comprehend*, and *acquainted*. Consider these words. What do they say to you about God's *knowledge* of you?

- a. Using verses 2-4, list what God knows about you.

2. Consider the first phrase of verse 5. In what ways is this a good thing to you?

3. *And You laid Your hand upon me.* What does John 10:28,29 add to your understanding of this phrase?
  
4. Some may view the fact that God *knows* us so well, that He has *hedged us behind and before*, and that He has *laid His hand upon* us as something to dread. Yet, what is David's response in Psalm 139:6?
  - a. Paul responded similarly in Romans 11:33. What did he write?
    - 1.) What are some examples of the awe you experience when you consider God's ways and thoughts towards you?
  
  - b. What does Isaiah 55:8,9 remind us about God?
    - 1.) How do you apply this truth when you don't understand His ways? Ponder before you answer.

**Read Psalm 139:7-12**

1. David moved from God's *knowledge* of us to His continual presence. Scan through verses 7-12 and list the places where God is.
  - a. What understanding does God's declaration in Jeremiah 23:24 add?
  
2. Ponder the words of Psalm 139:10 as you write them.
  - a. Notice the two words *even there*. Consider some of the painful places you have found yourself. What does it mean to you that *even there* He *shall lead you and His right hand shall hold you*?

3. If I say “surely the darkness shall fall on me” (Psalm 139:11a). What are some things we might be saying when we say words similar to these?

a. What did David declare in verses 11,12 about:

*darkness*

*light*

b. Record the words from Job 12:22.

1.) How do these words personally speak to you?

### **Read Psalm 139:13-16**

1. Scan verses 13-16 and list what they pronounce about **you**.

2. Considering these verses, what do you think God wants us to understand about ourselves?

3. ...*marvelous are Your works...* (verse 14). Define or list synonyms for the word *marvelous*.

a. Record the words of Genesis 1:27.

b. Concluding that you are one of God’s *works*, what does it say to you that you are *marvelous*?

4. *The days fashioned for me* (Psalm 139:16). What does it mean to you that God has *fashioned your days*?
  - a. In addition to *fashioning your days*, what does God do according to Psalm 56:8?
    - 1.) Reflect upon your *wanderings* and your *tears*. What is your reaction when you realize not one has passed without His notice?
5. The reality that God knows our thoughts and ways is truly *wonderful* and beyond our understanding. Now, in verse 17, David moves from our thoughts to God's thoughts. What do you learn about God's thoughts in verses 17,18?
  - a. Add the truth of Jeremiah 29:11.
  - b. Using your own words, describe God's *thoughts* toward you.

### **Read Psalm 139:19-24**

1. In Psalm 139:19-22, there seems to be a shift in David's thinking as he writes about the *wicked*. Notice his attention is not how the *wicked* have affected him, but what they have done against the LORD. What did David say about them?
2. List the four statements David made regarding his thoughts/feelings about the *wicked*.
  - a. What do you think David was professing?
  - b. Explain your understanding of how a believer should relate to those David described in these verses.
3. David closed this amazing psalm requesting of God the very things he declared of God when he began the psalm. David welcomes God's searching of his life. List the requests David made of the LORD in verses 23,24.

- a. In inviting God to search him, David would want to know what the tests revealed about him. What is your understanding of what God does with His “test results”?

Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.

- b. What have you discovered to be the benefits of God’s *searching* in your life?

4. Write David’s final requests.

- a. Rejoice as you record the graceful promise of Psalm 25:8,9

- b. In your own words, describe God’s *everlasting way*.

### **REVIEW: Psalm 139**

1. What did this Psalm teach you about:

God’s character

Your value

2. What are some ways of God that might lead you to declare: *such knowledge is too wonderful for me?*

3. Share one way this lesson has challenged you.

*Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning,  
For in You do I trust;  
Cause me to know the way in which I should walk,  
For I lift up my soul to You.  
- Psalm 143:8*

## Observation Worksheet

### Psalm 139

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, You have searched me and known me. <sup>2</sup> You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. <sup>3</sup> You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup> For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. <sup>5</sup> You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it. <sup>7</sup> Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? <sup>8</sup> If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. <sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, <sup>10</sup> even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me. <sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," even the night shall be light about me; <sup>12</sup> indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, but the night shines as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to You. <sup>13</sup> For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. <sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them. <sup>17</sup> How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! <sup>18</sup> If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with You. <sup>19</sup> Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men. For they speak against You wickedly; Your enemies take Your name in vain. <sup>21</sup> Do I not hate them, O LORD, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? <sup>22</sup> I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies. <sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; <sup>24</sup> and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.