



Teaching God's Word to Train Disciples

Fellowship BIBLE CHURCH

Audio of Pastor Don Griffin's sermons is available at
<http://www.fellowship-katy.org>

The following messages appeared on billboards and buses in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

1. What Part Of "Thou Shalt Not . . ." Didn't You Understand? - God
2. We Need To Talk. - God
3. Keep Using My Name In Vain And I'll Make Rush Hour Longer. - God
4. You Think It's Hot Here? - God
5. Tell The Kids I Love Them. - God
6. Have You Read My #1 Best Seller? There Will Be A Test. - God

Learning to Relate to God His Omnipresence and Omniscience Part 5

Just who is God? What is God like? If we are to know God personally as the Scriptures say we can and should, and if we are to avoid the perversions about God that we find in our world, we must learn what God is like and who God is. That is what we have been trying to do for the past 4 Sundays. We want to know who God is and what He is like so that we can relate to Him properly.

GOD IS EVERYWHERE (OMNIPRESENT)

The question is, "Where is God?" It is interesting that historically speaking, people have tried to confine God to a certain geographical location. For

example, many of the Jews felt that God dwelt actually in the temple. That's where He lived. And the Syrians believed that they had the god of the valley.

Many people today picture God as a faraway being who lives in heaven, and occasionally breaks into the world to do some miracle. Some people have the idea that God is somehow resident in a church building. When I was a young man, some of my relatives would not drive through the church driveway on any day other than Sunday because they considered the doing of that to be sacrilegious.

Some people today wouldn't want to come to a building like this for church because it doesn't have a steeple or stain-glassed windows, which is, in their minds, an indication that God must not be here. The Bible teaches us that God is "omnipresent."

When we speak of God's omnipresence, we are speaking of the fact that He is not confined to 1 place. Neither is part of Him in one place and another part of Him in another place. God is everywhere in the fullest sense of His being.

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.'

If you could take a space craft and travel at the speed of light for 100,000 years, when your spaceship reached that point 100,000 light years away, God would be there. That's because God was already there before you left.

The universe does not contain God, God contains the universe. Just as the sea is the environment of fish, God is the environment of his creation.

A catechism asks: "Why is there but one God?" The answer is: "There is only one God because God fills every place in the heavens and the earth, and no room is left for another."

1. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE OMNIPRESENCE OF GOD

The omnipresence of God is very hard to understand because we have nothing to compare to it. Is God all powerful? Yes, and we can slightly grasp that concept because we have a certain amount of power and strength. Is God all wise? Yes, and we can conceive of that because we have some degree of wisdom and knowledge. But there is nothing we can compare omnipresence to. We can't even be two places at once.

2. GOD CAN BE IGNORED BUT CANNOT BE AVOIDED

There is no place that you can go without God being there because the universe and all of creation is filled with God. You can never get away from God geographically. You can only get away from Him in intimacy.

The prophet Jonah found this out the hard way. Jonah was commissioned by God to preach to Nineveh. Jonah did not like his mission because he knew that God would show the Ninevites mercy. These people were the mortal enemies of Israel and Jonah wanted no part of God's forgiving their sins. So he tried to flee from the presence of God. Instead of going to Nineveh, Jonah got on a boat sailing in the opposite direction headed toward Tarshish. He was trying to get as far away from Nineveh, and as far from God as he could. What Jonah found out was that God was with him on the ship, and God was with him even in the belly of the whale.

If you know and live for God, God's omnipresence is a comfort because you know that you will never be anywhere where God is not with you.

If you need help, you may call some other person to come and help you. When you call on God, He doesn't have to come to you; He is already with you.

On the other hand, if you do not know and live for God, you've got problems because you can never escape the immediate presence of God. The hunted ostrich hides its head in the sand, thinking that if it can't see its hunters, they also can't see him. Many people are like that ostrich. They think that if they can't see God, then they are o.k., but that's not true.

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?"

No one can hide from God because He sees everything in the universe. Wherever you are and whatever you are doing, God is always there watching your every move.

3. GOD IS PRESENT IN THE HARDEST OF TIMES

One of the things that sets God apart from false gods is the fact that He is personal, and he wants to have an intimate relationship with all of his people.

"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me" (Psalm 23:1-4).

The best two words in Psalm 23 are two little words in verse 4: "You are with me." The shepherd is walk-

ing with us, step by step. If God is with us, we have nothing to fear.

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING (OMNISCIENT)

Has it ever occurred to you that nothing ever occurs to God? He never has to stop and think about anything.

God is just like your teenager-you can't tell him anything because he already knows it all.

The word "omniscient" refers to God's mental capabilities. Literally it means "all knowing." God knows everything about everything and everyone all of the time.

Have you ever been around anybody who acted like a "know it all?" Well with God, it's not acting; He is the true "know it all."

I Jn. 3:20 says, "God is greater than our heart, and knows all things."

Ps 147:5 says of God that "His understanding is has no limit."

It is hard to think of anything not having a limit. The ocean may be huge, but it has a limit. But what God knows has no limit. It's stating the fact that God has every bit of information on everything.

"And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered." (Matthew 10:30)

1. God knows everything that has happened in the past

There is no way that we can even begin to comprehend the enormous number of events that have tran-

spired on planet earth since day one, but God knows them all. He knows the smallest details about the changes that have been made in the weather since the creation of the world. He also knows everything that you have ever done or thought in your entire life.

God knows about our secret scars: The things that have happened to you in the past that sometimes still affect you in your present life.

Emotional scars start forming in our lives when we're young. Sometimes the scars come from the families we grow up in. Sometimes they come from other children.

Whatever their source, they hurt us, and God is concerned.

I will be glad and rejoice in your love, for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul. (Psalm 31:7)

Record my lament; list my tears on your scroll are they not in your record? (Psalm 56:8)

No one in this world may understand the deep hurts that sometimes surface in your heart, but God does.

2. God knows everything that is happening in the present

Not one of the most common kinds of things that you do every day ever escapes His notice.

O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. (Psalm 139:1)

God has an intimate knowledge of our deepest thoughts.

2You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. 3You discern my going and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. 4Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord. (Psalm 139:2-4)

God does not miss a thing. The fact is; we can sometimes fool our spouses, our parents, and our boss. We can even fool ourselves — but we can NEVER fool God.

God knows about your secret sins. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. (Psalm 90:8). .

A secret sin is something that you do or think in private—something that you do that you don't want anyone else to know about. It might be something newly come on the scene, or it might be something you have struggled with for a long time.

One woman wrote: I did something stupid — something I knew was wrong. I wandered into an online chat room and found myself flirting with a total stranger. My marriage was in a difficult season, and to be blunt, the attention felt really good. But sin, no matter how great it feels at first, is like a lesion that doesn't heal. It just keeps getting bigger and deeper until it's treated. I needed the Holy Spirit's conviction and God's healing mercy. I received both, but not before my secret turned me into a nervous wreck. I'd think, What if someone discovers what I've done? What would they think of me?

Whatever it is, God knows all about it.

21For a man's ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths. (Proverbs 5:21)

The amazing thing about the omniscience of God is that no matter what we have done, he knows all about it, and he still loves us! If we could realize this truth and apply it to our own lives, it would change

us. And if we could love and forgive like God, it could change our world.

3. God knows what you should do when you don't know what to do

The kingdoms of Israel and Judah had many kings. One of the better kings of Judah was a man named Jehoshaphat. Second Chronicles 20 gives us the story of a time when Jehoshaphat and the nation of Judah were in serious trouble.

2 Chronicles 20:1 After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to make war on Jehoshaphat. Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Sea. It is already in Hazazon Tamar" (that is, En Gedi).

The three nations mentioned here were ancient enemies of Israel who lived just across the Jordan River. This was a coalition of nations that had banded together to wipe out Judah, and there was no way Jehoshaphat and his people could stand up against them.

3 Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah.

Jehoshaphat and his people were in danger of being obliterated. In verse 20 Jehoshaphat said something in prayer that has been special to me for a long time.

2 Chronicles 20:12 O our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you. "

At this point, Jehoshaphat was at one of those times that come sooner or later in all of our lives when we don't even have a clue as to what we should do.

You may be in a situation just like that right now. When you look at the obstacles against you, they are far more than you can handle, and you don't know what to do.

That's when you and I need to do what Jehoshaphat did. We need to look to the Lord. God knows what we need to do when we don't know what to do.

APPLICATIONS

a) Go to the Lord first

For some strange reason, seeking wisdom from god seems to be the last resort for many people. We read books. We seek council from other people, and we spend a lot of time thinking about what we should do. And it is not until everything else fails that we really get serious about seeking god for wisdom. The truth is that god should be the first One we look to when we need wisdom and direction.

b) Live by faith, not by sight

I say that because many of the things the lord will tell us to do don't always look like the most likely thing to succeed. But the all knowing one makes no mistakes. If god says to walk around the city for seven days and then shout on the seventh day, that's what you need to do. If god says to build a giant ark on the dry ground for from any body of water, that's what you need to. Always obey God.

c) Never feel alone

Sometimes when I have gone to see my mother, which is about a 5 hour drive, I have had some wonderful fellowship with God as I drove down. The interesting thing is that I can never drive fast enough or go far enough that god is not present. And to my

knowledge, it is not because god is riding in the car with me. It is because he is everywhere.

One of the hardest things about facing the battles of life is the feeling of being alone with no one who really understands. Always remember that god is with you wherever you go and that he is not with you simply as a curious observer. He is with you as someone who cares and wants to help you.