

HE'S HERE

Psalm 139:7-12

You could clearly see it happening right about the age of four. Of course it had begun in less obvious ways since the birth of the young son . . . that ever present connectedness that defined the father/son bond.

Even before the birth, the anxious father had selected in his mind the perfect bike for his little guy. But he disciplined himself to wait until his boy turned two to buy it. He wanted plenty of time, albeit two years, to put it together and have it ready for the big moment. And no, there would be no training wheels. Just the presence of his dad would be enough and would deepen the bond.

On his fourth birthday, mom and dad brought the creatively wrapped box containing the bike to their child who had been anxiously waiting. Immediately the father/son duo went to the driveway to begin a lifelong experience.

At first there was insecurity and fear as the father said, "Trust me, I'm right here." The pictures could never capture what was happening. Up and down the sidewalk, father and child with dad holding on, protecting from the fall, steering the course, as the son asked, "Ya' there dad . . . ya' there?" It was spoken not so much as a question but for the reassurance of his presence.

In only a few days, you could see the father running now beside the bike, holding on less tightly, and saying, "I'm right here, son. We're doing great." Then finally, the father could be seen simply running by his side, "I'm here; let's keep going."

In time they rode together, grew together, until one day the son had a little guy of his own. Yet the sense of the father's presence never left the son who himself was now the father. There is that constant awareness and confidence, security, protection, in hearing his dad reaffirm, "Son, I'm right here." The visits, phone calls, letters, and texts continue to strengthen the bond.

As flawed as such an attempt might be to somehow capture a small snippet of the omnipresence of God, it might help us grasp how such an inexplorable attribute can affect us today. To somehow picture in our minds the ever-present heavenly Father who has such a personal interest and stake in each of us as individuals is nothing short of overwhelming. It's more than the mind can conceive that He knows us by name, is "intimately acquainted with all *our* ways;" and because He is the one personal God, He never stops reassuring us, "I'm right here . . . trust Me."

Perhaps even more astounding is the reality that in our "connectedness" and unbreakable "bond" in Christ, our character is transformed by His omnipresence. The effect on our lives and on those around us gradually and in part reflects the security, safety, and protection God desires to reveal through each of us as members of His body.

LIFE RESPONSE

1. This week, MEMORIZE and MEDITATE on Ephesians 3:17-19, "*...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.*"
 - (a) Write this prayer in the first person on a 3x5 card. Make this your prayer this week as you read and meditate on Psalm 139:1-12.
 - (b) Highlight those references that relate to the omnipresence of God in the context of your personal life (again in the context of Psalm 139).
 - (c) What conclusion can you make from this exercise?

2. Think for a moment, about particular circumstances, challenges, fears, apprehensions, choices, etc. you are presently facing, will face, or avoid that would be directly affected by the overwhelming truth of God's omnipresence.
 - i.e. A business relationship or critical contract.
 - Conduct on a date or choices in your social group.
 - Language, thought life, what you watch.
3. When we think about God's omnipresence the word transparency come to mind, As we attempt to capture the expanse of God's omnipresence and our transparency before Him let's try to embrace what that means as members of a family, Mini Church, Cell group, etc.
4. Imagine the *physical* presence of God throughout any given day. What, if anything, would change in your choices, actions, responses, etc?

Psalm 139:7-12

*Where can I go from Your Spirit?
 Or where can I flee from Your presence?
 If I ascend to heaven, You are there;
 If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.
 If I take the wings of the dawn,
 If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,
 Even there Your hand will lead me,
 And Your right hand will lay hold of me.
 If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,
 And the light around me will be night,"
 Even the darkness is not dark to You,
 And the night is as bright as the day
 Darkness and light are alike to You.*

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

- An attribute - That which *distinguishes* or *identifies* a subject or person.
- The importance of knowing the attributes of God.

Perhaps nothing impacts our identity, serves to distinguish who we are more than knowing the attributes of God as one who is created in His image.

THE ATTRIBUTE OF OMNIPRESENCE God is present everywhere

A RHETORICAL QUESTION:

vs 7 "Where can I go from Thy presence?

Where can I flee from Thy presence?"

Answer: Absolute, defining, deafening silence

Why would a person want to know how to flee from God?

Answer: Psalm 139:1-6

What does it mean to be in the presence of God?

Answer: Has to do with God's omnipresent holiness.

A HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLE:

“If” - - series of contrasts/extreme possibilities

...if I ascend to heaven – space shot,

You’re there

...if I lie down in Sheol – beneath earth,

You’re there

...if I take the wings of dawn – speed of light sunrise

You’re there

...if I dwell in the bottom of sea – depth of West Mediterranean sea

You’re there

No escaping the presence, holiness of God

Total transparency

Think of it! With all our failures, denials, desires to escape, God continues to love us and keep us in His presence of holiness.

vs 8-9 Has to do with God’s omniscient grace

The omnipresence of God is an indispensable consolation to righteousness – Lewis Sperry Chafer

THE INCOMPREHENSIBLE CONCLUSION:

vs 10-12 “Even there Thy hand will lead me, and Thy right hand will lay hold of me.”

Provides personal security, confidence

“Right hand” symbol of accomplished victory

Heb. 1:3, 8:1, 10:11-12, 12:1-2

vs 11-12 God is not intimidated by that which concerns us.

“overwhelmed” – caught off guard, fall under attack, snapped.

Has to do with God’s sovereignty.

THE RELATIONAL POSITION:

Old Testament Presence of God - - external

New Testament Presence of God - - internal

The “ifs” become “ins”

Begins in spiritual birth

2 Cor. 5:17

Rom. 8:11-12

Builds in understanding

Eph. 3:17-19

Becomes our identity

1 Cor. 6:19-20

