

Situation where a person is trapped and has exhausted all possible options for escape
I asked Dani for an illustration on 'nowhere to run' – Hobo in an alley...not talking about
'Nowhere to run' not supposed to be intimidating but awe inspiring...God knows / sees all
Remembering God's divine omnipresence (Everywhere) and omniscience (Everything)

It suggests that human efforts to hide one's actions, guilt, or destiny from God is futile
We know this to be true, but in David's time there was an understanding hide from gods
Ancient Near East gods at the time were local and territorial: god of a city, land, or people

- If you left a territory, you left that god's authority – Bound to temples – Escape notice

Pagan gods could be escaped; True God cannot be avoided – only trusted or resisted

Documentary on snipers – Had to get into position without being noticed

A lot of times we try to out run / out distance / hide from God's sight...it's not possible

Big Idea - You can't outdistance God

Has to be one of most comforting Big Ideas we've ever had.....no matter...God is there

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. ¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," ¹²even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

verses 1:6 David confessed God knows him completely – Every word, thought, destination

- Now asking is there anywhere to go to escape God – Something to evade / embrace

Have ever taken a complete vacation – Phones, emails... | Can I vacation from God = No

3 truths, from text. that we cannot do because God is everywhere / knows everything

1. **We cannot: Flee from God's Presence (7-8)**

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

God is everywhere, we can't escape Him—whether in worship, suffering, sin, or death
Most people like the idea of God being close—until they don't

- We want God near when we're afraid, hurting, or in need
- But we also want distance when we're ashamed, or rebelling | Marriage & Fights

David asks a question that every human heart asks: Can I get away from God

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

It sounds like David is a fugitive...where can I hide from God...awe of nearness

- 'Where shall I go' - This isn't a question of geography; it's a question of theology
David isn't looking for a hiding spot; he is marveling at the fact that there isn't one

If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

Some people take verse very literally...If I'm in Heaven...If I'm in Hell – True | However

- Remember this is poetry...This is about the heights and lows in life...represented
If I ascend to heaven, you are there! = Spiritually high, successful, blessed – Companion of joy
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! = Grave...place of dead | Buried by circumstances

For those going through "Sheol" right now—depression, grief, failure—verse 8 is lifeline

Purpose behind this is that God is everywhere with you...highs and lows...are you aware

Room seems empty – Turn on Radio – Turn on TV – Laptop | Energy was there...receiver

Takeaway – Recognize that God sees your spiritual position | Three ways to do that

- a. **Stop the 'Spiritual Performance'** – God knows if you're struggling...be honest
- b. **Trade Anxiety for Relief** – Omni's of God create anxiety...still wants you near
- c. **Practice Radical Transparency** – If God knows your blind spots...ask Him to shine light
If God knows exactly where you stand...then there is no reason to hide from presence

2. **We cannot: Outrun God's Grace (9-10)**

If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

David vivid imagery= no matter how fast or far one travels...never outrun God's grace

- 'Wings of the Morning' – Represents the East where the sun rises and starts to shine
- 'Uttermost parts of the sea' – Represents the edge of the world for an Israelite

Speed of light = 186,282 miles per second...7.5 times globe per second...God's grace

Even if you could travel faster and farther humanly possible...not diminish God's nearness

¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

⇒ How cool is 'Even there' – Points back to everything David has been talking about

- Farthest places imaginable and even the realm of death there is God's grace

No location, circumstance, condition places us outside God's care | Where Jesus? Even there

⇒ 'Your hand shall lead me' – Symbolizes God's active guidance

- This is the language of a shepherd or a father, not a distant observer.
- God does not merely accompany His people; Directs their steps...difficult / unclear
- The verb implies ongoing action—God keeps leading, not just once, but continually

⇒ 'Your right hand shall hold me' - represents strength, authority, and faithfulness

- This speaks to God's preserving grace – Weak...grip strong | Unstable...God won't slip

I hate flying...made for 5'3" – Turbulence gets me...look at the flight attendant = Calm

Takeaway – Rely on God when you're drifting into the unknown

- a. **Remember God is already there** – Walking on a foggy bridge

You move forward one step at a time, secure in His presence

3. **We cannot: Hide in Darkness (11-12)**

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,"

- Difficult interpret word for 'cover me' is the same in Gen.3:15 – Bruise/crush | 2 ways
 - Is it that darkness will cover me...meaning that I'm hiding in my sin
 - Darkness will cover me...being crushed by my circumstances...inclined to believe

Darkness often symbolizes: Fear – Depression – Guilt – Uncertainty

¹²even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

- Even in your darkest moments...sin or circumstances...God's light is there!

Financial Crisis – God's Light | Family Loss – Light | Loneliness – Light | Despair – Light

The light of Christ has guided and guarded you through every circumstance of your life

Imagine being in a submarine at the bottom of the ocean...dark...alone...light of the sonar

- Have you felt the bottom – Have you experienced the darkness – SEE THE LIGHT

Takeaway – Rest in God when your vision feels clouded

Sometimes our vision gets clouded...when you're in the dark you cannot see well!

But this text give hope for those who are clouded and in the darkness right now

- a. **For the fearful:** God is present even when we cannot see the outcome
- b. **For the guilty:** You cannot escape God's sight - not just judgment, but His redemption
- c. **For the discouraged:** Life's darkest valleys are never out of God's reach...illuminates

Nowhere to run sounds like you're stuck in an alley with a crazed hobo

Actually you have nowhere to run from God's grace, compassion, and love