

# **Living in Union with Christ**

**Session #1 - Living in the Presence of God**

**All Saints Church  
2024-01-14**

**<https://georgekong.me/asc/living-in-union-with-christ.zip>**

# introductory question

How often, during the course of a normal day, are you aware of the presence of God with you?

# series overview

- a follow-on to the Union with Christ class
- focus on our experience of knowing and loving God
- survey
- affective
- sharing personal stories

you are here

## Sessions

### **1) Living in the Presence of God**

- 2) Taste and See - The Affections and Loving God
- 3) Union With the Present, Loving Lord Jesus Christ
- 4) Your Sanctification Story in Christ
- 5) Your Calling in Christ and Christ in Your Calling
- 6) United with Christ in His Suffering and in Our Suffering
- 7) United with Each Other Through Christ

# Psalm 139 - search me, O God

O Lord, you have searched me and known me!  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.  
You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
Even before a word is on my tongue,  
behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.  
You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is high; I cannot attain it.

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,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me.  
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light about me be night,"  
even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light with you.

For you formed my inward parts;  
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
my soul knows it very well.  
My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes saw my unformed substance;  
in your book were written, every one of them,  
the days that were formed for me,  
when as yet there was none of them.

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
If I would count them, they are more than the sand.  
I awake, and I am still with you.

Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God!  
O men of blood, depart from me!  
They speak against you with malicious intent;  
your enemies take your name in vain.  
Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord?  
And do I not loathe those who rise up against you  
I hate them with complete hatred;  
I count them my enemies.

Search me, O God, and  
know my heart!  
Try me and know my  
thoughts!  
And see if there be any  
grievous way in me,  
and lead me in the way  
everlasting!

# Psalm 139 - the "bring it on" response

How did you feel as you heard that psalm read?

It starts with an extensive presentation of the presence of God with us - not an indifferent, philosophical omnipresence; it's personal, individual, and affective:

- "[You] lay your hand upon me."
- "... your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me."

The psalmist responds affectively: "How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!"

The wicked have the opposite response - they hate God. The psalmist concludes with an unreserved welcoming of God's presence and scrutiny, to enable him to not be like the wicked. In modern, colloquial language, he prays "bring it on!"

- "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!"

# Psalm 1 - delight, meditate

Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree  
planted by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.  
In all that he does, he prospers.  
The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

# proactivity

Seek the Lord while he may be found ... (Isa 55:6)

... seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness ... (Matt 6:33)

... whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (Heb 11:6)

... if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding,  
if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures,  
then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.  
(Prov 2:3-5)

... forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press  
on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.  
(Phil 3:13-14)



# my story

spiritual awakening in late high school and early college years

- conviction to be proactive in relating to God
- Bible memorization
- monastic summer

# your stories

- activities or experiences which have made you more aware of the presence of God with you
- a "search me O God" moment or a "bring it on" moment in your life
- ways in which you have been proactive in your relationship with God
- actions you could take in order to be more aware of God's presence, more responsive to God's presence, or more proactive