

GOD: A Short Autobiography

“GOD is Everywhere...Always!”

Psalm 139:7-12

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

NKJV - "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, 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 fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; 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."

ESP - "¿A dónde podría alejarme de tu Espíritu? ¿A dónde podría huir de tu presencia? Si subiera al cielo, allí estás tú; si tendiera mi lecho en el fondo del abismo, también estás allí. Si me elevara sobre las alas del alba, o me estableciera en los extremos del mar, aun allí tu mano me guiaría, ¡me sostendría tu mano derecha! Y si dijera: «Que me oculten las tinieblas; que la luz se haga noche en torno mío», ni las tinieblas serían oscuras para ti, y aun la noche sería clara como el día. ¡Lo mismo son para ti las tinieblas que la luz!"

MESSAGE - "Is there any place I can go to avoid your Spirit? to be out of your sight? If I climb to the sky, you're there! If I go underground, you're there! If I flew on morning's wings to the far western horizon, You'd find me in a minute - you're already there waiting! Then I said to myself, "Oh, he even sees me in the dark! At night I'm immersed in the light!" It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to you; night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to you."

"The proper study of a Christian is GOD. The highest science, and the greatest study which can ever engage the attention of a Christian, is the Name, the Nature, the Person, and the work of the great GOD he calls Father.

*There is something **exceedingly improving to the mind** in the study of GOD. It is a subject so vast, that all our thoughts are lost in its immensity; so deep, that our pride is drowned in its infinity.*

Other subjects we can grapple with; in them we feel that we are very wise. But when we come to this master science, finding that we cannot reach its depth, and that our minds eye cannot see its height, we turn away with the thought that, "I am but of yesterday, and know nothing." No subject humble the mind more, than the study of GOD....

*But while this subject **humbles the mind, it also expands it**. He who often thinks of GOD, will have a larger mind than the man who simply plods around the globe.... The best study for expanding the soul, is the science of Christ, and Him crucified, and the knowledge of GOD in the glorious Trinity. Nothing will so enlarge the intellect, nothing so magnify the soul of a man, as a deep study of the great subject of GOD.*

*And, while humbling and expanding, **this subject is very encouraging**. Do you want to lose your sorrow? Do you want to drown your worries? Do you want to conquer your fears? Then go, plunge yourself in GOD's deepest sea; be lost in His immensity; and you will emerge, refreshed and invigorated. I know of nothing that can so comfort the soul; so calm the swelling billows of sorrow and grief; so speak peace to the winds of trial, as a sincere study of the subject of GOD. **It is to that subject that I invite you, this morning...**"*

- Charles Spurgeon, 1855

I. GOD's Presence is **UNIVERSAL**.

II. GOD's Presence is **RELATIONAL**.

III. GOD's Presence is **SUPERNATURAL**.

I. GOD's Presence is **UNIVERSAL**.

"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?"

- David here asks 2 rhetorical questions...
 - *There were two brothers, one was eight years of age and one was ten years old. They were always in trouble. In fact, in their town, if something went wrong, the town just sort of figured that those two kids were somehow involved. Well because of their reputation, their parents decided they've got to do something. The parents had heard about a preacher who had a way with kids, that was his reputation, so the mother asked if the pastor would come over and speak to her two boys. He agreed to. And he said, "I first want to meet with the eighty-year-old, the youngest, in the morning first, and then after that I'll meet with the ten-year-old." So the preacher came to their house, he was his a big man, deep booming voice, very intimidating, that was the whole idea he though. So he got the eight-year-old in the living room and he stood over the top of him and he kind of wanted the kids to realize that God sees everything they're doing and is everywhere when they're doing it. And so the preacher in a deep booming voice said to the eight-year-old, "where's God?" Well the little boy was so intimidate by this, he dropped his jaw, eyes got as wide as saucers, didn't say a word, followed up by a second question. The preacher asked, same question, "Where's God?" No answer. The third time the old preacher stuck his finger in the boy's face, "Where's God?" With that the little boy jumped up, ran out of the room, ran into his bedroom, into his closet, slammed the door. His older brother quickly followed him and said, "What's up?" And the eight-year-old turned to his older brother and said, "We're really in trouble this time dude. God's missing and they think we done it." (GODISNOWHERE!)*
- **Others have tried to "run" or "flee" from GOD in Scripture:**
 - *Adam and Eve... Gen 3*
 - *Nebuchannezar... Dan 4*
 - *Prophet Jonah... Jon 1*
- David then answers his own questions: **GOD is everywhere...always!** - **"If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, 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 fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; 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."**
 - David is declaring GOD's attribute of **OMNIPRESENCE**. This comes from 2 Latin words. "**Omni**" meaning 'all' and "**presence**" meaning where GOD dwells. This word literally describes the fact that GOD is everywhere present, in the fullness of His being, at every point in the universe, simultaneously, at all times.

- **MESSAGE** - "If I climb to the sky, you're there! If I go underground, you're there! If I flew on morning's wings to the far western horizon, You'd find me in a minute - you're already there waiting!"

- **Jer 23:23-24 NLT** - "Am I a God who is only close at hand?" says the Lord. "No, I am far away at the same time. Can anyone hide from me in a secret place? Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and earth?" says the Lord."
 - **NKJV** - "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the LORD.
 - **"God is present in all places; we should not think of him, however, as filling spaces, for he has no physical dimensions. It is as pure spirit that he pervades all things, in a relationship of immanence that is more than we body-bound creatures can understand. One thing that is clear, however, is that He is present everywhere in the fullness of all that He is, and all the powers that He has." - J.I. Packer**

- **Aren't there special buildings? Countries? - NO!!! (Jn 4:21-24)**

- **An atheist was walking through the woods. "What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!" he said to himself. As he was walking alongside the river, he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned to look. He saw a 7-foot grizzly bear charge towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing in on him. He looked over his shoulder again, and the bear was even closer. He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw that the bear was right on top of him, reaching for him with his left paw and raising his right paw to strike him. At that instant the Atheist cried out, "Oh my God!" Time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent. As a bright light shone upon the man, a voice came out of the sky. "You deny my existence for all these years, teach others I don't exist and even credit creation to cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?" The atheist looked directly into the light, "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps you could make the BEAR a Christian?" "Very well," said the voice. The light went out. The sounds of the forest resumed. And the bear dropped his right paw, brought both paws together, bowed his head and spoke: "Lord, I thank you for your goodness this day. Please bless this delicious food, which I am about to receive, Amen."**

- **Acts 17:27-28** - "His purpose was for the nations to **seek after God** and perhaps feel their way toward Him and **find Him** - though He is not far from any one of us. For in Him we live and move and exist."
 - **Boy submerged in a swimming pool...**
 - **"Because God is everywhere in the fullness of his Spirit, needy souls praying to Him anywhere in the world receive the same fullness of His undivided attention. Because God is omnipresent He is able to give His entire attention to millions of individuals at the same time....this is why Paul speaks of the ascended Christ as filling all things, and Christ's availability everywhere in the fullness of his power!" - J.I. Packer**
 - **Back in 1968, on Christmas Eve Apollo 8 was orbiting** and Christmas Eve they gave a great gift to the whole world, the three astronauts aboard Apollo 8 took turns reading Genesis 1:1-10. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Why?? They were saying, "God is now here, we feel it, this is so unique and God is awesome. We get it."
 - *Madelyn Murray O'Hare the atheist sued NASA for allowing them to say that over the airwaves.*
 - **In the Apollo 11 mission Buzz Aldrin on the lunar surface** brought the elements of communion with him and broke bread and fellowshiped with GOD and he was also declaring GOD is now here.
 - *A cosmonaut from Russia came back and proudly said to an audience, "I've been to space and I did not see God." Someone in the audience turned to his buddy and said, "If he'd have stepped out of his spacesuit, he would have seen God!"*
- **BE VERY CAREFUL: Don't confuse this biblical truth of God being everywhere with a false teaching known as PANTHEISM.** It's very different than omnipresence. The biblical teaching of the **OMNIPRESENCE** of God says that God is present in his creation though he's separate from it. But **PANTHEISM** says God is his creation, they're one and the same, there's no distinction between them, God isn't just active in the world, God is the world. "Pan" means 'All' and "Theos" means 'god'. PANTHEISM clearly teaches that "All is God, and God is All." (*Wicca, earth-worship, hyper-environmentalism*)
 - **Example:** The Bible would affirm that right now where you're sitting with your Bible open listening God is with you. Pantheism would say, "The chair you're sitting in is God, the earth that holds it up is God, when you go outside and see the trees and the bushes and the grass, all of that is God, it's all one and the same."

II. GOD's Presence is **RELATIONAL**. - "If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make **my** bed in hell, behold, 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**."

- **Here David is speaking of his personal application of GOD's OMNIPRESENCE.** It was a constant comfort, and a continual reality for him. As a believer, David had an special relationship to the Presence of God's Spirit - for him it was **RELATIONAL**.
 - **Psalm 23:4 NLT** - "Even when I walk through **the darkest valley**, I will not be afraid, for **you are close beside me**."
 - **Psalm 16:7-9 NLT** - "I will bless **the Lord who guides me**; even at night my heart instructs me. I know **the Lord is always with me**. I will not be shaken, for **he is right beside me**. No wonder **my heart** is glad, and I rejoice. **My body** rests in safety."
 - **Deut 31:7-8 NLT** - "Moses called for Joshua, and as all Israel watched, he said to him, "**Be strong and courageous!** For you will lead these people into the land that the Lord swore to their ancestors he would give them. You are the one who will divide it among them as their grants of land. **8 Do not be afraid or discouraged**, for **the Lord will personally go ahead of you**. He **will be with you**; he **will neither fail you nor abandon you**."
 - **"In 2009 a Dutch artist set up a local telephone number in the Netherlands and urged people to call and leave a message for God.** Johan van der Dong said he set up a phone number with voicemail to give people an opportunity to pause and contemplate life. Callers who use the number will hear "Hi, you are speaking to God. I'm not in right now, so leave a message after the beep."
 - **Matt 28:18-20** - "Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given **all authority** in heaven and on earth. Therefore, **go and make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Teach these new disciples** to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: **I am with you always, even to the end of the age**."
 - **A Japanese town believes divine help played a role in getting rid of litter in parking lots and on roadsides.** The town of Nagato, in Japan's Nagano region, wanted a way to control the garbage dropped by tourists passing through on their way to nearby ski areas. The city decided to place statues of a Buddhist figure at parking spots on the main road through town. In the four months following the appearance of the statues, which were carved by local residents, litter almost disappeared. The Japanese news agency NHK interviewed drivers and found that the religious statues had a unique influence. One driver who was interviewed said, "I can't drop litter now, not with the statue looking at me."

III. GOD's Presence is **SUPERNATURAL**.

- The New Testament reveals to us a third and final dimension that is available to the believer in Jesus Christ. Through the New Covenant, the Spirit of God is able to empower and strengthen disciples in a **SUPERNATURAL** way:
 - **Acts 1:8 NLT** - "But you will *receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you*. And **you will be my witnesses**, telling **people about me everywhere**—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
 - **Eph 5:18 NLT** - "Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, *be filled with the Holy Spirit*."