

Series: **God is...So What?**

Today's Title: **"God is All"**

September 18, 2022 – *Select Passages* – Sermon 5 of 16

---

**Objective:** To help people know God's power and presence and how they impact our life now and in the future.

---

### ***Opening Prayer***

What was your favorite game in the neighborhood you grew up in?

Mine was 'kick-the-can' – which was a hybrid hide-n-seek game played when it was dark – in the days before everyone had a fenced-in-yard.

When you were 'IT' – there would be an empty soda can set up in near you. The person who was 'IT' had to locate where everyone was hiding in the neighborhood – between the houses, etc.

When you found them / called them out – they had to come and stay in an area marked as the jail.

Everyone would be freed if one of the kids still hiding was able to run and kick-the-can – without you calling them out first.

If this happened – everyone would hide again – and you were still 'IT'.

If you found everyone, then the 1<sup>st</sup> person found would be 'IT' for the next round.

As an adult – I don't play kick-the-can anymore.

But I still like to know where certain people are – mainly my wife and kids.

This is why I have the ‘Find My’ app on my phone. It’s a wonderful help for parents.

In fact, it’s a wonderful help for spouses too.

If you’re unfamiliar with this app, when other iPhone users give permission for their location to be shared with you, when you open this app, you can see where these people are. I don’t have to call Kim to see what time she will get home. I can look on the app and see where she’s at on her drive home.

We can see where our kids are – and know they arrived safely at their destination.

Knowing someone’s location can be a big help.

It can be a bit creepy...but it’s normally a big help.

Have you ever wondered, “*Where is God?*”

Is He in heaven?

Is He located in some other place in the universe – a place we haven’t discovered yet – a place undiscoverable?

Today we’re going to answer that question – and we’re going to talk about the power of God – as these 2 attributes are connected.

Of course, we will talk about why these perfections of God are important – why this matters to all of us.

## God is omnipresent.

Omnipresence = present everywhere

God – who created all things – is not stuck in His creation – not limited to His creation – but His presence is throughout His creation – and even beyond it – but not in a spatial sense, but a sense of existence.

He is in heaven – but He’s also in hell – he is everywhere. ***There is nowhere that God is not.***

**Psalm 139:7-10**

“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.”

This is the primary Biblical text regarding the omnipresence of God.

The Psalmist, David, expounds on more than God’s omnipresence – and because of that we’ll revisit this Psalm a few times in our series.

**Vs. 7** asks the primary question, which **vs. 8-10** answer.

“Where shall I go from Your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from Your presence?”

Is there anywhere I can go where God is not there?

**NO** – as David explains with the examples of the ‘ends of the earth’ in **vs. 8-10**.

But in **vs. 10**, we see not only the presence of God, but His active presence.

“...Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.”

In **vs. 10** God is active helping me – leading me – holding me – supporting me – guiding me.

So, we see a picture here not only of the omnipresence of God, but we see His presence is an active presence.

Deism is a belief about God that became popular in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries – and is still a belief held by many people today. (None Greater, by Matthew Barrett, p. 172)

A Deist believes that God created everything – and then He stepped away from His creation and lets it exist on its own – without His involvement.

Like winding up a top – and walking away as it spins.

But this is a false belief about God.

David – in **vs. 10** of this Psalm refutes that belief.

God is not absent, disconnected, or disassociated from His creation.

He maintains an active presence in His creation.

2 categories theologians often use in describing the presence of God is His essential presence – and His gracious presence.

I'll talk more on this in a few minutes.

God is omnipresent – He is everywhere – not bound by a body or limited by anything in His creation.

He is everywhere – at the same time – in full measure.

He isn't in one place more completely than in another.

All of Him – is present in all places.

Part of God is not in one place – and part of Him in another.

He is everywhere present with His whole being at all times. (Basic Theology, by Charles Ryrie, p. 46)

**Jeremiah 23:24** – *God speaking*

“Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.”

His presence in a church gathering is not greater than any other place.

It is true that His presence is experienced, manifest, in lesser or greater ways in different places.

In a worship service – we may experience the presence of God – we may be blessed by the presence of the Spirit of God in a special way, but that does not mean His presence here is greater than across the street at the park.

It simply means God manifests His presence in some places to bring blessing – and other places His presence

is not as tangible or evidenced by His blessings, but His presence is the same in both places.

**God is omnipotent.**

Omnipotent = all powerful

Definition: God is able to do all His holy will.

(Systematic Theology, by Wayne Grudem, p. 216)

**Psalm 62:11**

“God has spoken plainly, and I have heard it many times: Power, O God, belongs to You...”

- How useless would God’s wisdom and will be if He did not have the power to execute His plans?
- Without power His mercy would be mere pity.
- His promises would be empty sounding wishes.
- His threats of judgment nothing more than a scarecrow.

(Adapted from The Nature of God, by Arthur W. Pink, quoting S. Charnock, p. 53)

God’s omnipotence means nothing can prevent Him from doing what He wants, except His own character. God cannot do anything that would be inconsistent with His being.

- God cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18).
- God cannot deny Himself or those He has saved (2 Timothy 2:13).
- God cannot be tempted with evil (James 1:13)

God cannot cease to exist – cease to be God – or act in a way that is inconsistent with His perfections.

(Systematic Theology, by Wayne Grudem, p. 217)

Although His power is without limits, His use of power is qualified by His other attributes.

His power is always exercised in harmony with His character – never in violation of His character.

Without His unbounded power, He could not be merciful or just.

It's His power which makes His mercy possible and enables Him to enact justice.

"It is He who made the earth by His power..." (Jeremiah 10:12)

Yet **Habakkuk** tells us in these awesome displays of power "His awesome power is hidden", because it appears to us these things, like creation and His acts of judgment and saving, must use all of God's power (**Habakkuk 3:4**).

*That's a remarkable statement when we realize that by the power of His words alone – God created the heavens and the earth.*

**But in these things God never breaks a sweat.**

Jesus even refers to God's power as a proper name.

Again, the high priest asked Him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"

And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

**Mark 14:61-62**

Just because God has the power to do something, that doesn't mean He will do it.

Jesus, when He was being arrested, said,  
“Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and He will at once send Me more than twelve legions of angels?” **Matthew 26:53**

He could have done it – but that was not His plan.  
Just because He can, doesn’t mean He will – or He should.

### ***Apply it... So What?***

You can never be somewhere God is not present.

This should bring the believer great comfort –  
knowing that no matter where we are – no matter  
what is happening – God is with us.

He is present.

**Psalm 23:4**

“I will fear no evil, for You are with me...”

**Acts 17:27** – *Paul speaking on Mars Hill*

“...they should seek God...He is actually not far from each one of us...”

We are never alone – even when nobody is with us.  
God is always with us.

Christ is present in each believer.

The presence of Christ in us – the indwelling Spirit  
of God – is one of the greatest blessings we have in  
the Church Age.

It’s the presence of God – and thereby the power of  
His Spirit in us – that makes obedience possible –



and makes living the Christian life a realistic endeavor.

The indwelling Spirit of God in every follower of Christ – is a blessing – but also a down payment on the future (Eph. 1:13-14) – when we will once again – just like Adam and Eve in Eden – enjoy the undisturbed and undiluted presence of God.

God has always been present in the world.

In a general way, this refers to His ***Essential presence*** which sustains, preserves, and governs His creation. (Col. 1:17)

But we experience His blessings most in relation to His ***Gracious presence*** which gives new life, justifies sinners, and sanctifies those who believe in Christ.

So, the ***essential presence*** of God has always been a reality in His creation.

But His ***gracious presence*** has been experienced by people throughout history in various ways.

***Adam and Eve experienced the gracious presence of God*** through their interaction with Him in the garden of Eden – before they sinned.

According to the prophetic promise God made to Eve (Gen. 3:15), He made a covenant with Abraham (Genesis 15) that one of His offspring would be the promised One who would crush the head of the serpent.

***Joseph experienced the gracious presence of God*** as he endured years of harsh treatment and suffering, only to be raised to the highest levels of the Egyptian state. Through the *gracious presence* of God Joseph was not only able to save his family, but the nation of Egypt - and likely millions of lives through the 7-year famine.

***Moses experienced the gracious presence of God*** by the power and grace God extended to Him.

The Hebrew people saw the *gracious presence* and power of God displayed through the 10 plagues, the waters of the Red Sea, and the pillar of fire and cloud that protected and guided the infant nation in the wilderness.

***The nation of Israel experienced the gracious presence of God*** by His sustaining power and mercy in the wilderness, even though they continually rejected Him, worshiped idols, and longed for their slavery in Egypt. Despite their disobedience, God promised to be with them and give them rest in the promised land.

The *gracious presence* of God was demonstrated in the sacrificial system of ancient Israel, which was a

foreshadow of the perfect and complete sacrifice which was to come.

The presence of God was manifest in a special way in Israel's place of worship – first the tabernacle, and eventually the temple.

When Solomon finished building the temple – it was one of the great wonders of the world.

At the dedication service – which is recounted in **1 Kings 8**, Solomon has great humility about this amazing temple – that was built for God – as a 'home' for God.

But Solomon realizes this temple is not really God's home.

**1 Kings 8:27** – context – Solomon's dedication prayer for the temple

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You; how much less this house that I have built!”

On the Day of Atonement, the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies in the temple – and sprinkle blood from the sacrifice on the mercy seat, which was the top of the Ark of the Covenant. This atoned for the sins of the nation, which looked forward to the sacrifice that *“...would once and forever deal with sin so that humanity's communion with God can be forever healed.”*

(None Greater, by Matthew Barrett, p. 176)

The presence of God in the O.T. was sporadic and selective. His Spirit would indwell specific people for a period of time – for special occasions or duties. Moses longed for the Spirit of God to indwell all of His people.

But Moses said... “Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, that the LORD would put His Spirit on them!”

**Numbers 11:29**

O.T. prophets wrote about a future time when the Spirit of God would dwell with believers.

**Ezekiel 36:26-27**

“And I will give you a new heart, and a new Spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes and be careful to obey My rules.”

**Joel 2:28**

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.”

When Jesus was born – we see the fulfillment of many of these prophecies.

**Matthew**, quoting from Isaiah, says:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).” (1:21-23)

In opening of John's Gospel, he writes,  
“And the Word became flesh **and dwelt among us**, and we  
have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

This is what Moses and the other O.T. prophets  
longed for.

God's Spirit dwelling with His people.

Although there was a dilemma with the incarnation  
that many religious people couldn't get past.

- How can God – who is omnipresent – take on flesh?
- How can the invisible God – be visible?

Answer: When God – the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Triune  
God – became flesh; *“His divine nature was united to but  
not contained with the human nature.”* (God Is, by Mark Jones, p. 74)

By taking on flesh Jesus did not lessen His deity,  
although He limited the exercise of His deity.  
He was fully man – and fully divine.

But then – Jesus started talking of His impending  
death and departure.

This caused the disciples to be afraid – anxious –  
troubled.

Jesus responds by telling them,  
“Let not your hearts be troubled...I will come again and will  
take you to Myself...”

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans...”

**(John 14:1-2, 16-18)**

In **Matthew 28**, in what’s known as the Great Commission, Jesus gave His followers their mission – to “...go and make disciples of all nations... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

10 days later this promise is fulfilled on Pentecost as the Spirit of God indwells the followers of Jesus (Acts 2). **Moses’ desire and the O.T. prophecies of the prophets was finally fulfilled.**

The Spirit of God now indwells every believer. Each one of us who has faith in Jesus experiences first-hand the gracious presence of the Lord!

**Romans 8:9**

“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.”

**Ephesians 3:16-17**

“...that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...”

But our experience of the gracious presence of Christ – although far exceeding the experience of the

O.T. followers of God – still seems limited – hampered due to our sin.

It is true that we can:

“...quench the Spirit” – 1 Thess. 5:19

“...grieve the Holy Spirit” – Eph. 4:30

Our “flesh sets its desire against the Spirit...” – Galatians 5:17

But in the future – when God redeems the creation, we will return to the perfect Edenic state that Adam and Eve experienced as they enjoyed the presence of God. We will have that same experience.

**Revelation 21:3-4**

“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

When we think of the power and presence of God, they are not mere theoretical ideas.

These perfections about God make a huge difference in the life of the believer.

In our life now – we experience both God’s power and His presence.

Granted, they often seem muted or hard to distinguish from other parts of our earthly experience.

But if we could stand side-by-side with an O.T. saint – and compare notes – we would have blessings they only dreamed about.

And when we look ahead – to heaven – the amazing blessings of the indwelling presence of God in us – and His resurrection power at work in our lives – will seem like a small appetizer before the great feast!

Never forget – or underestimate the unlimited presence and power of God – and the blessing they are in our life.

Close in prayer