

HE KNOWS ME, Part 1

I want to begin this morning with question: “*What does God know about you?*”

Probably, for most of us here this morning, the immediate thought is, “*He knows everything about me.*” That is true, of course, but this morning I want to begin to explore with you, that He knows everything about me. Does He know what you are thinking this very moment as you listen to me beginning this lesson? “Of course,” you say. “**There isn’t anything He doesn’t know?**”

Well, does that mean that He knows what you did last night? Does He know what you said last night? Does He know even the thoughts that went through your consciousness but you did say to anyone?

Does He know what you are going to do tonight? Does He know what you are going to say tonight? Does He know even the thoughts that will be conscious of tonight?

Again, we say, “*Of course, He knows everything about everyone and everything, past, present and future.*”

We say that, and I am sure we really believe that because for us, when we think and speak of God, one of the things that most of us unquestionably accept is that He is omniscient. That is just a big word that means He knows everything; everything that is knowable, that has a real existence, even if it is only a thought or imagination of someone’s mind, He knows it. That is what 1 John 3:20 says, isn’t it? *God knows everything!*

Not only is He an eternal being, we say He is *omniscient*, and He is *omnipotent*, which means that He is all powerful; there isn’t anything He cannot do. We also believe that He is *omnipresent*, that He is everywhere at all times.

We also believe that God is a person, or being. He is not just some philosophical idea, or some impersonal, natural force. The Bible describes Him as Spirit, that is, a being or person who exists in the form of a spirit. Whereas we exist in the form of a physical human being, God is a being that exists in the form of Spirit.

And He knows us. He knows us better than anyone knows us. He knows us better than we know ourselves. Would you say that is true? I think it is true, and when I try to get my mind around that thought, it absolutely baffles me!

That's what the Psalmist wrote, isn't it, in the **139th Psalm**. Listen to the first six verses of that scripture:

O LORD, you have searched me and known me! 2) You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. 3) You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. 4) Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. 5) You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. 6) Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

The Psalmist says, “*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.*” What's he saying? He is saying what I just said. The fact that He knows me better than I know myself absolutely baffles me!

Sometimes we say that we know someone. We might ask, “*Do you know so-and-so?*” And we say, “*Yes, I know them.*” But we don't mean that we know everything there is to know about them. Wives might say they know their husbands, but how well do they know them. How well do parents really know their children? Sometimes people are surprised by what people say or do. Sometimes we have to admit, “*Well, I didn't know that about them.*”

But God? That is a different matter isn't it? How well does He know us? The more we study and learn about Him, the more we are going to realize that He knows far more about us than perhaps we have even thought about. And when we begin to understand better just what He knows about us, I think it is going to absolutely change our way of thinking about God, and change our life!

O LORD, you have searched me and known me! He knows me. In fact, the Bible says, He knew us before we were even born.

That's what Jeremiah the prophet learned. In **Jeremiah 1**, Jeremiah began his prophecy by telling about how he came to be called by the Lord to be one of His prophets. Beginning in **verse 1**, we read:

The words of Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah, one of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, 2) to whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. 3) It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, and until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah, the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month. 4) Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 5) "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

The prophet Isaiah said almost the same thing. In **Isaiah 49:1**, he said: *"Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name."*

The Psalmist wrote about the same experience. In **Psalms 71:5-6** he said, *"For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth. 6) Upon you I have leaned from before my birth; you are he who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you."*

In the **139th Psalm, in verses 13-16** he wrote,

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14) I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. 15) My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. 16) 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."

In the New Testament, the apostle Paul indicated that this was true of him as well. In **Galatians 1:15**, he affirmed that God had set him apart **before he was born**, and called him by His grace.

Well, let's think about this for a few minutes, and consider the implications of His knowing us before we were born.

Number one, the fact that God knew us before we were born suggests something to us about how we got here and how we are made. Do you remember the story of man's creation? It is found in Genesis chapter 2 if you want to go back and re-read that. God took the dust of the earth, that is, the very physical, inert, non-living stuff and fashioned it into the form of a man. Genesis 2:7 then tells us God breathed the breath of life into the nostrils of that form, and man became a living soul.

Now before that happened, there were already many kinds of living things, both plants and animals, as is clearly described in Genesis chapter 1. There were living things, but with the creation of Adam, we have a living soul. That is, we have a living thing that is qualitatively different from every other living thing. Genesis 1:26 makes it clear that man and man alone is made in the image of God; that is, as a being of spirit.

What exactly is the difference between the soul and spirit is difficult to say. In some passages of scripture they seem to be synonymous, but in other passages, there is clearly some kind of distinction.

- For example, in **Hebrews 4:12**, the writer there, speaking about the infinite word of God says, *"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."*
- In **1 Thessalonians 5:23**, in bringing his thoughts to a close, Paul said to the Christians in Thessalonica, *"Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

As I said, just what the difference is between the soul and spirit is hard to say, but we can say that man is a spirit being.

Hebrews 12:9 describes God as the Father of spirits.

Numbers 16:22 says the same thing about God. At the time of Korah's rebellion, and the ground opened up and swallowed the rebels, the people were terrified. Verse 22 says, *"And they fell on their faces and said, 'O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and will you be angry with all the congregation?'"*

In **Numbers 27**, as Moses was approaching the time when he would pass away, he began to be concerned about who would lead the Israelites after his death. Beginning in **verse 15**, we read:

Moses spoke to the LORD, saying, 16) "Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation 17) who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be as sheep that have no shepherd."

In **Zechariah 12:1**, the prophet of God said, *"The burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel: Thus declares the LORD, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him."*

Thus, when in **Psalms 139**, the Psalmist writes, *"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14) I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made"*, at least in part he was talking about God placing a spirit He had made with the body of that person that even at that moment was being formed.

And of course we remember the words of **Ecclesiastes 12:7** that speaks of the appointed end of every man, that *"...the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it."* Where did our spirit come from? It came from God, didn't it? There is nothing about the human reproductive system that accounts for the spirit. We do not get the spirit from the uniting of our father and mother's genetic materials. God gave us our spirit, and thus He has the right to reclaim it when we have finished those days He planned for us before we ever saw the first of those days. Whether it was in actual fact that God created the spirit that we are, or in His mind, he saw that spirit that we now are; in either case, as God said to Jeremiah, *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you."*

Imagine that. He knew us before He formed us in our mother's womb. That was even before your mother knew you; before she had the slightest suspicion that she might be pregnant with you. God already had you in His mind, and heart. You existed before you began that nine-month process that brought you into this world.

Now think about that, and ask yourself a very important question: Since God is the Father of spirits and since He knew you even before He began to knit your body and spirit together in the womb, do you think it is even remotely possible that He doesn't have your absolute best interest at heart?

Let me repeat that: *"Since God is the Father of spirits and since He knew you even before he began to knit your body and spirit together in the womb, do you think it is even remotely possible that He doesn't have your absolute best interest at heart?"*

You know the answer to that question, don't you? You know He does! The words of **Jeremiah 29:11** were spoken to the people of Israel in a very different kind of context, but I think they fit very well in this discussion I'm having with you this morning. In order to impress upon you what God said on that occasion, I want to read those words from several different translations.

- KJV *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*
- NKJV *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*
- NASV *'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.*
- NIV *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*
- ESV *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*
- MSG *I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out--plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.*

Does God know us? Of course He knows us. He knows every possible thing there is to know about us, and in spite of that, He loves us! In spite of that He wants to forgive us. He longs for us to have that life that He has, eternal life, and so I ask you this morning, don't you think it is time to humble yourself before this God

who knew you before you breathed your first breath, or cried your first cry? Don't you think it is time to humble yourself before this God who will still know us after we breathe our last breath and cry our last cry? Do we have anything to hide? Do we have anything to lose? If your soul is not right with God, won't you humble yourself right now and come while together we stand and sing.