

## Daily Encouragement – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August

### Psalm 139

1 You have searched me, Lord,  
and you know me.

This truth becomes a prayer in v23. Thus the whole Psalm is wonder that God knows my thoughts, amazement that he still loves me, leading to a prayer that he would dig deeper and sort me out!

2 You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

3 You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.

4 Before a word is on my tongue  
you, Lord, know it completely.

5 You hem me in behind and before,  
and you lay your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.

Many different words are used for 'knowing'. This is more than God's omniscience, it is personal, intimate heart-searching knowledge.

Next, David delights in God holding him firmly. He is not simply stating God's omnipresence, or wanting to escape from God, he is thrilled by the certainty that nothing, absolutely nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus.

7 Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,

10 even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.

11 If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me  
and the light become night around me,'

12 even the darkness will not be dark to you;

He always sees us - even when we cannot see the light at the end of the tunnel, even when we cannot even see our God (Psalm 88v18)

the night will shine like the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

13 For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.

15 My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. 'Knit' and 'woven' imply careful detailed design.

16 Your eyes saw my unformed body;  
all the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.

17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God!  
How vast is the sum of them!

18 Were I to count them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand –  
when I awake, I am still with you.

God is the great creator of all things - but this section marvels that He created ME! He made me just the way He wanted. He planned and formed my body, my mind, my circumstances, and my upbringing. In love for me He did what was best for me and so He could be glorified in my life! That's a stunning thought!! I am 'God's handiwork' (Eph 2v10).

This next section seems to us an ill-fitting intrusion into our devotions. But if we recognise God's holiness, then we must hate sin.

19 If only you, God, would slay the wicked!

Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty! David wants nothing to do with evil people.

20 They speak of you with evil intent;

your adversaries misuse your name. Their main sin. Odd that atheists use God's name to swear.

21 Do I not hate those who hate you, Lord,  
and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?

22 I have nothing but hatred for them;  
I count them my enemies.

23 Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

We don't necessarily see our own faults. This is a hard prayer, but if we really long to be like Jesus, and to live for him, we will pray for his refining in our life.

24 See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

This is the way to eternal joy!

Gordon

Pray these words as you listen, [Search me O God](#)