

## The All-Knowing God

### Introduction - John 21:15-17

1. I want to talk in this lesson on the omniscience of God; what is it and how should it affect our lives?
  - a. “After the resurrection of Jesus Christ, several disciples, including Simon Peter, went fishing on the Sea of Galilee. After a miraculous catch and a meal on the shore, Jesus speaks directly to Peter and asks him three times, ‘Do you love Me?’ Each time Peter responds yes—but on the third occasion, he adds, ‘Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.’”
  - b. “This was not a casual statement. After three years with Jesus, Peter had seen enough to recognize that this kind of knowledge belongs only to God. In saying this, Peter affirms Jesus’ equality with God and His ability to know what no mere human can know.”
2. Peter’s declaration invites us to reflect on the reality of God’s all-encompassing knowledge. The question for us is simple: what does it mean to serve a God who knows all things.

### I. God Knows All Things

#### A. Theological Term: Omniscience

1. The theological term for this is omniscience, from the Latin *omniscientia*—‘all knowledge.’ Simply put, God is all-knowing; He possesses all knowledge of all things.

#### B. The Omniscience of God: A Fundamental Attribute of God

1. While the term itself is not found in Scripture, the truth is clearly taught throughout the Bible.
  - a. His understanding is infinite (Psalms 147:4-5).
  - b. Does not learn, nor is counselled (Isaiah 40:12-14).
  - c. Unsearchable wisdom (Romans 11:33).
2. The quality of omniscience is a defining element of God’s being; His knowledge has no limits—no boundaries of time or space. He never learns, because His knowledge is already complete. His understanding is perfect—beyond anything we can comprehend.

### II. God Knows All Things - Present, Past, Future

#### A. God Knows All Things Present

1. All creation lies open before God—nothing escapes His sight (cp. Psalms 50:10-11; Luke 12:6).
  - a. Sees all mankind, even the underworld (Psalms 33:13-14; Proverbs 15:11).
  - b. Knows all our thought from afar (Psalm 139:1-4)
  - c. Even the hairs on our head are numbered (Matthew 10:30).
2. God knows everything that exists and everything that is happening—but He also knows what could happen under any circumstance.”
  - a. God knew that the city of Keilah would hand David over to Saul—even though it never actually happened (1 Samuel 23:12).”
  - b. Jesus taught that certain cities would have repented if they had seen the same miracles—showing that God knows not only what is, but what could have been (Matthew 11:20-24).
  - c. God’s knowledge is not limited to what is happening—He fully understands every possible outcome, every choice, and every path.”

#### B. God Knows All Things Past

1. Because God is not limited by time as we are; He sees all of history perfectly and completely. Because of this, Scripture repeatedly teaches that nothing in our past is hidden from Him:
  - a. Every word will be accounted for (Matthew 12:26)
  - b. Every deed will be judged (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).
  - c. A “book of remembrance” before God (Malachi 3:6)
2. When Scripture speaks of a ‘book of remembrance,’ it doesn’t mean that God forgets and then needs to be reminded. This is what we call anthropomorphic language—using human terms to describe God.

### C. God Knows All Things Future

1. Because God is not limited by time, His knowledge extends perfectly into the future. He does not wait to discover what will happen—He already knows.
2. Throughout the Old Testament, God demonstrated this perfect knowledge through prophecy (Isaiah 46:9-10).
  - a. "Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy" (Daniel 2:45).
3. Time and again, the prophecies recorded in the Old Testament—whether about nations or the coming Messiah—are fulfilled just as God declared. God knows the future perfectly, and prophecy demonstrates that.

## III. What God's Omniscience Means for Us

### A. It Challenges Us - God Knows Our Sin

1. Nothing is hidden from His sight. Every secret sin is exposed before Him. The thought you never spoke—He knows it. The sin no one else sees—He sees it.
  - a. "For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do" (Hebrews 4:12-13).
2. Thus, God's all-knowing nature calls to humility and repentance (Psalms 51:2-3; James 4:6).
3. And yet—God loves us despite His complete knowledge of us.
  - a. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).
4. Our entire lives—every fall and failure—have always stood open before Him. God knows our darkest secrets, yet still loves us.

### B. It Comforts Us - God Knows Our Pain and Struggles

1. It is comforting to know that God is fully aware of our pain and our struggles—and that He cares for us."
2. David also understood God's omniscience as a source of comfort (Psalms 56:8 NASB).
3. In a world of billions, it's easy to feel overlooked or insignificant—but God knows each of us personally and cares for us deeply (1 Peter 5:7).
  - a. "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:28-31).
4. God's omniscience reshapes how we understand prayer. We do not pray to inform God—He already knows. We pray to humble ourselves, to strengthen our faith, and to align our will with His. Prayer lifts our hearts to Him and deepens our dependence on Him (Matthew 6:7-8).

### C. It Guides Us - God Knows Our Path

1. God's perfect knowledge means we can fully trust His guidance (2 Peter 1:3; James 1:5-6).
2. Because God knows the end from the beginning, His direction is always right.
  - a. God's knowledge is perfect and cannot be improved (Deuteronomy 4:2; Psalm 19:7-8).
  - b. There are no overlooked circumstances.
  - c. His commands always reflect a perfect understanding and come from complete wisdom.
3. Faith is trusting a God who knows what we do not.

## Conclusion

1. God's omniscience—the reality that He knows all things—should shape how we live. It compels us to live with integrity, trust in His comfort, and seek His guidance. Just as Peter found peace in knowing that Jesus knew all things, we too can find peace in the fact that the God we serve is all-knowing and always present, understanding our struggles, guiding our paths, and calling us to holiness.