



The Lord's Prayer as a Guide Through the Psalms
Dominican Republic Mission Project, Trip 2007 Daily Study

Psalm 139

¹ 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.
⁷ Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?
⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.
¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,"
¹² even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.
¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

(See your Bible for v.14-24)
(English Standard Version)

Submission

(From Matthew 6:10b – "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.")

Submission is not a tasteful word in our day. Our culture bulks at the thought of submitting to authority of any kind. The authority of parents, the state, the church, and ultimately of God Himself is rejected – whether in word or deed – by modern man. 21st century man has made himself his own god. He says "I have rights," or "How dare you tell me my belief is not as good as your own," or "I am not at fault, but you must blame society or my circumstances or someone else."

This post-modern view does not lend itself to submission. As believers, saints called by a living Creating, Speaking, and Saving God, we are to be different. Jesus tells us that His burden is easy and His yoke of authority and service is light. He tells us that it is joyfully submitting to Him as our Master that we will find rest and peace.

Do you find joy in submitting to God? To His laws? To His punishment? To the trials He allows into your life to mold you into Christ's image? David found great joy in submitting Himself to God because he took time to understand WHO God is and what He is like. David rejoiced in God's incommunicable attributes. Although we are created in God's image, these are the attributes that are left to God alone.

- Omniscience: (vs. 1-6) God knows everything: past, present, and future. Because He is also sovereign, He has willed and determined all that He knows. From these verses, what does God know?
- Omnipresence: (vs. 7-12) God is everywhere. There is no secret place we can go to escape Him or His sight. Read Rom. 8:35-39
- Omnipotence: (vs. 13-16) God is all powerful. David praises God for His power in creation and makes it personal by giving God praise for his own creation.

Think on these attributes of God and ask yourself:

- o Why would unsaved man hate them?
- o Why should the Christian rejoice in them?
- o Why should all men submit to them?

An understanding of the greatness of God leads David to stay far from evil (vs. 19-22). David then ends the Psalm with a submissive plea to God in (vs. 23-24). He appeals to those attributes that he has already praised God for. What does he ask of God?

Submission to our Heavenly Father is sweet. Can you say that? Do you bask in the pleasing smile of an omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent? Or is your relationship not right with Him? Have you submitted to His as Lord and Savior? Read Psalm 2. All men will submit to Him one day. We can submit as His children or as His enemies. Which will it be for you?

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NOTES:

Lord, All I am is Known to Thee

(Isaac Watts, Based on Psalm 139:1)

Lord, all I am is known to Thee:
In vain my soul would try
To shun Thy presence, or to flee
The notice of Thine eye.

Thy all surrounding sight surveys
My rising and my rest,
My public walks, my private ways,
The secrets of my breast.

My thoughts lie open to Thee, Lord,
Before they're formed within;
And ere my lips pronounce the word,
Thou knowest the sense I mean.

O wondrous knowledge! deep and high:
Where can a creature hide?
Within Thy circling arms I lie,
Beset on every side.

So let Thy grace surround me still,
And like a bulwark prove,
To guard my soul from every ill,
Secured by sovereign love.