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God Knows Us
Psalm 139:1-18

*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 far away.*

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,
O Lord, you know it completely.*

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

⁶ ***Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.***

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can 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 settle at the farthest limits of the sea,*

¹⁰ *even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.*

¹¹ *If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,"^[a]*

¹² *even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.*

For it was you who formed my inward parts;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ ***I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.***

*Wonderful are your works;
that I know 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 beheld** my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.^[b]*
¹⁷ *How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!*
¹⁸ *I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end^[c]—**I am still with you.***

***God knows EVERYTHING about us.
God is ALWAYS With us.
And God LOVES us.***

But we don't always believe that, do we?
 Psalm 139 can help us.
 It is a ***Psalm of JOY.***
 A Psalm that we should ***know***, and take to ***heart***.

Those first two verses tell of the ***JOY OF BEING KNOWN.***
*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 far away.*

This is so foreign to us, especially in 2026.
 We live in a world of ***masks***,
 of AI and keeping up appearances online.
 Most people hide behind personas on social media,
 They hide behind the filters used for the pictures taken on their phones....

I even spoke to a friend this week who learned that home sellers
can put AI enhanced pictures on their listings...
 so when she went to see the 'real' house,
 it was absolutely nothing like it had been depicted online!

WHY do we live like this?
 Sometimes we do it for acceptance, right?
 We might even wonder—
if people really knew me, or saw me, or met me----
 would they ***actually like me, would they still love me?***

Here's something amazing---

God knows us, and God loves us BECAUSE OF IT!

David says in this Psalm that the Lord has searched us and known us—

That Hebrew word for “searched” means a deep knowledge...

God knows our habits, our thoughts, our words before we even speak them....

So, what about our failures? Our sins? Our mistakes?

God knows all of that too,

and God still loves us.

It's actually why Jesus died for us...

All out of love.

The truth is, we do NOT have to wear a mask

in the presence of God,

We are ***accepted, loved, and embraced---***

because we are COMPLETELY KNOWN.

David goes on in the Psalm to talk about

The JOY of being RELENTLESSLY PURSUED by God!

Verses 7-8 say:

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ *If I ascend to **heaven**, you are there;*

*if I make my bed in **Sheol**, you are there.*

David realizes in this Psalm that God is ALWAYS present,

God's presence is inescapable.

Whether we are enjoying life, soaring to the highest heights,

Or sinking in the pit of despair or grief,

God is WITH US.

There is ***no distance*** that can separate us,

And ***no darkness*** that can hide us from God!

Ever heard those horrible stories of people

whose computers are taken over by rogue actors?

And these criminals have access to their files, AND their computer cameras!

Super creepy, right?

That's not something any of wants.

We don't want a stranger knowing everything about us,

Or watching us, right?

It can be overwhelming when our internet searches follow us around on the web,
And the computer starts suggesting new products for us!
It's disconcerting when our digital footprint is mined, searched, and used!

So, is God like that? Is God a COSMIC POLICEMAN?

Absolutely not!

God is not out there to spy on us.

God is there to love us.

God is like a loving PARENT----

pursuing us, so we know we are loved and accepted!

When we feel lost, or abandoned, lonely or afraid,

God reaches out to us,

God runs after us!

To bring us love, and grace....to give us new life!

David goes on to talk about the JOY of being FORMED BY GOD!

For it was you who formed my inward parts;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ ***I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.***

Wonderful are your works;

that I know very well.

We are NOT ACCIDENTS.

God formed each and every one of us, carefully, and lovingly.

God made you.

When David says that God ***knit us together***,

he means that we are like works of art!

We are crafted by God with *purpose, and meaning*.

We are unique, there is no one like you....or you...

Jeremiah 18 compares God to a ***potter and we are the clay***.

God knows the date of our birth and our death, and everything in between.

When we feel insecure, we can go back to these words in Psalm 139,

And rest in the assurance that ***WE HAVE VALUE***.

And it is ***NOT based*** on our appearance, or our possessions,

Or even our achievements.

Nothing we do can earn God's love, nothing can take it away.

Who we are is based on the identity of God—our Creator.

We are each a MASTERPIECE.

Most of us LONG FOR someone to truly know and love us.

But we don't necessarily want them to
know every detail of our lives, right?

I mean, the thought of being searched and known through our computers
Is creepy and weird.

But think about being known by someone who CARES for you—

Who loves you!

We can find comfort in knowing that God truly knows us and
God is the Savior who entered this world to save us,
To give us new and everlasting life!
That can be comforting!

We are God's beloved children.

We are ***CREATED BY AND FOR GOD***,

For God's work in this world.

We each have purpose,

We each have a mission and plan for our lives....

And that comes from the love of God.

God loves us....that we might love one another.

Our God knows ***EVERYTHING about us.***

Knows us ***completely.***

And all of that ***knowledge*** comes from a place of ***LOVE!***

What if we could ***COMPLETELY TRUST*** the God
who ***knows US completely?***

Think about that---we are NOT defined by anyone labels or names,

we are ***not defined*** by our achievements or our possessions,

we are ***ONLY defined*** by the love and grace of God.

As Christians, our identity is simple: We are beloved children of God.

And we have a God who is ***all-knowing, all-powerful,***
All-compassionate, and all-forgiving.

THAT'S the God who knows us completely.

What would it mean for us to TRUST in that knowledge and love?

How can YOU trust the God who knows you?

Psalm 139 is a Psalm of JOY!

*For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.*

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

*Wonderful are your works;
that I know 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 beheld my unformed substance.

*In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.^[b]*

So much in our world today *devalues our bodies, our hearts and our minds.*

So many people *try to define who we are.*

But what if we could find the love and acceptance we long for?

We can!

It is found *in God.*

It is found in our *relationship with Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 13:12 says it this way:

*¹² For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face.
Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.*

One day *we will know as much about God*
as God knows about us!

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran Pastor and Theologian who defied the Nazis by participating in a plot against Hitler in 1944.

In 1945, he was *arrested and put to death* in a concentration camp.

But just before his execution, he wrote many letters, and papers,
and a poem called ***"Who Am I?"***

In that poem, he contrasted what others said about him,

With what he knew of himself.

The poem ends by him saying to God,

"Whoever I am, you know, I am YOURS."

He knew the thing that is most important being a Christian.

We are God's.

We are ***fully known and fully loved.***

God ***knows EVERY DETAIL*** of our lives,

And God has complete ***LOVE AND GRACE*** for us.

God is all-knowing, all-loving, all-forgiving.

So, we can ***completely trust***

the one who ***knows us completely.***

How could you take Psalm 139 to heart?

How could you hear it, believe it, and live into it?

Because it is a Psalm of ***comfort, peace, and strength.***

And most of all, it is a Psalm of JOY.

If you want to know ***WHO you are, and WHOSE you are,***

You need look no further than our loving God.

Hear the ***Good News of the Gospel.***

God knows us.

We can ***completely trust*** the God

who ***knows us completely.***

And for that Good News, all God's people can say together, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE