

The Omniscience of God

The omniscience of God refers to God's comprehensive knowledge of all things. This includes the past, present and future, as well as things actual and possible. It means that nothing lies outside the scope of God's immediate, perfect knowledge. Psalm 147.5 says, "Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit." Theology is very practical: how we think about God and his word has a significant influence upon our life, for better or for worse. This is clearly seen in how the teaching on God's omniscience relates to our day-to-day lives.

God knows all things, including our hearts (see 1 Samuel 16.7; Acts 1.24; Hebrews 4.12-13). He knows our thoughts, our attitude, our affections, and even our motives. He knows *why* we do what we do. He sees what we're thinking about. Thus, though we may be able to hide much about ourselves from others, we cannot hide anything from God. This should cause us to seek a pure heart before him.

God knows our deeds (see Proverbs 5.21; Job 31.4; Revelation 2.2, 9). He knows our *bad deeds* and he will hold us accountable for them (e.g. Matthew 25.41-46). Yet, he also knows our *good deeds* and he will remember them and reward us for them (e.g. Matthew 25.31-40). So if you are living in sin, beware for God knows all. And if you are living right, rejoice for God will not forget what you do for him.

God knows our hardships (see Isaiah 40.27-31; Job 23.8-10). He knows what we're going through. He understands the pain that we feel (see Hebrews 4.14-16). This should give us a great sense of comfort and strength. To know that God knows is indeed reassuring. For he knows exactly what we can handle and he will not allow us to face more than we can bear with his strength.

God knows the future (see Psalm 139.4; Isaiah 46.9-11). He knows everything that will happen in the future. He knows what will happen to us as well as the choices we will make. Thus, we can fully entrust what lies ahead into his hands. In light of such comprehensive knowledge, we should trust in God with all our hearts, cast off our anxious spirit, and realize that God will see us through everything that we face in this life. For along with God's knowledge is his power and presence to help us through.