

## The Omnipresence of God By Trey Sullins

Do you ever feel like someone is watching you? Usually there are people watching or checking up on us at many points of the day, but someone is watching us all time! Of course, this is God Almighty. The Bible explains to us that God is everywhere and can see all things. This concept is foreign to us as we can only see what is within our field of vision and sometimes our eyes still have a hard time seeing things. While on the surface many might think that God's always watching presence is weird or scary, we want to discuss how it is actually a blessing!

First it is a comfort to us. How can someone watching our every move be a comfort? It helps us to understand that we are never alone. In Psalm 118:6 the psalmist says, "the Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" The writer understood that with God always with him there was nothing to worry about. This comfort also comes by way of guidance. If God is always with us, then we know that He is leading us (Psalm 23:3). Whether directly as in David's day or through the word in our day, God is always leading us.

What if God was not with us? What comfort would there really be in life? When you have struggles in life, what do you do? Hopefully, you turn to God in prayer! But without God promising to be with us we could turn to no one with our concerns or problems. Without the knowledge of His protection, care, and guidance life would certainly be much harder.

Second God's presence is an encouragement to us. The word "encourage" in the Bible means to "call to one's side" or "strengthen." While comforting us helps us when we are struggling and keeps us from struggling, encouragement keeps us strong and pressing forward. Think about whenever someone you love brings you close and challenges you to keep getting better and better. That is what this word referring to. His presence encourages us in our daily lives and also in our worship and service lives (John 4:23-24).

Do you remember those times in life where you receive a really sincere compliment? Not a compliment where you knew someone was just being nice or making conversation. Hopefully after those times you were so uplifted that you wanted to do your best to continue meeting that standard. That kind of challenge is how we should feel towards the encouragement of God's presence. Knowing that He knows should make us always look for ways to be better and do more for Him.

Third His presence is formidable. The word "formidable" means inspiring fear or respect. This is probably everyone's first thought when they think about God watching them. We might think "uh oh, He is watching all those bad things I did?" This is legitimate thought and hopefully it challenges us to stop ourselves from doing wrong. Proverbs 15:3 says, "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good." He certainly knows when we do wrong. But fearing God is not just about Him knowing when we sin. Fearing God is about having the proper respect.

We probably all remember doing something bad when we were younger and then we tried to hide it from our parents. Usually we realize hiding things from them does not work. With God it

never works. Understanding that God is omnipresent helps us to know that we cannot hide anything from Him including ourselves. Jonah figured this out the hard way. With this proper respect we will not try to hide anything from Him. Because we know that everything is already out in the open, we can just serve Him honestly.

Fourth it is sobering. The Bible uses the idea of a sober mind many times. It means to have a sound or right mind. When we think about all the problems of life, how insignificant we are in a sea of people, or even the frailty of our very existence life can be very daunting. But knowing that God cares and loves us enough to be with us at all times, brings us back down to earth. In 1 Kings 8:27 Solomon realized that God did not need the temple. Such a structure according to man's judgment is of great importance. However, to God we are important, and we have a great purpose in life.

In the end, someone is watching us. That someone is the great and mighty God of all. But this constant presence is not a bad thing. It is a good thing to have in our lives and if we understand it properly as many in the Bible do then we can find many blessings from it. He sees you when you are sleeping. He knows when you are awake. Unlike Santa Clause God really can see us! How do you live under the omnipresent God?