

## 1. ROBIN WILLIAMS

In 2014 his death shocked the world. In the eyes of the world he was one of the best, the brightest and most beloved actors ever to appear on the big screen. A close friend paid tribute to him and rightly described him as a man who "made us laugh, big time." People close to him described him as a man who was AS funny off-stage as he was on it. He was one of the most successful and greatest entertainers the world has witnessed.

But on the morning of August 11, 2014, news of Robin Williams' death began to spread. The articles tell us that he took his own life.

His death was shocking to me and I'm sure it was for most of you. Because I found it hard to believe how someone who made us laugh so hard was so sad within. Here was a man who appeared to be carefree, untroubled and in good spirits, but in reality, the way he died reveals to us that he was deeply distressed.

## 2. APPEARANCE VS. REALITY

His life was a helpful example of the dichotomy between **appearance** and **reality**.

Most of the time, what we see is DIFFERENT from what is **true**.

And the reason we're often unable to **discern** what is **true** from what is **false**, is simply because we're human.

What we know about others has many limitations.

But **what if, what if** someone could **tell the difference**?

What if, there was someone **out there**, who knew everything about you?

## 3. GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING

The Bible is **clear** about many things, and one of those things is that\_\_God knows everything.

For the God of creation, there's no difference between **appearance** and **reality**.

He's completely aware of everything and anything.

What we know about other people MAYBE **limited**, but the knowledge God has of other people is unlimited.

God knows **everything** about you, the person sitting next to you and **every human being** on this planet.

#### 4. PSALM 139

And our psalm for this morning, Psalm 139 reveals this astonishing and mind-blowing truth.

God is beyond our **comprehension**, but at the same time, he is **deeply personal**.

In other words, God is both **immense** and **intimate**.

He is “out-of-this-world” but at the same time, personally involved in all of our lives.

#### 5. GOD KNOWS YOU PERFECTLY

And so, how is God personally involved in your life?

First, God knows you perfectly.

Look at verse 1:

“O Lord, you have searched me and known me!” (v .1)

The word “**searched**” here literally means “**to dig.**”

It's used to describe the **searching** and **digging** that takes place when **archeologists** search for precious items.

In a similar way, God has thoroughly searched you, and because of this, he knows you perfectly.

This means no part of you is **hidden** from his **knowledge**.

So if God knows you perfectly, what exactly does He know about you?

### *He Knows Your Thoughts (v.2)*

Firstly, he knows your thoughts.

"You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar" (v.2)

God is fully aware of every thought that appears in your mind.

He knows what you're thinking right now. He knows what you think **about me** and the person sitting next to you.

And what makes this even more astonishing is that he knows your thoughts "from afar."

**What this means** is that God knows what you're going to think, before the thought **crystalizes** in your mind.

He knows **now**, everything you're going to be thinking about later.

Listen, you're not the only one who's fully **aware** of your **thoughts**. God knows them, and he knows them PERFECTLY.

### *He Knows Your Actions (v.3)*

God doesn't only know your THOUGHTS, **he also knows your ACTIONS.**

"You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways" (v.3)

In other words, God is fully aware of everything you **do...**

He is "acquainted with all your ways." He knows all your **habits**; whether **good** or **bad**.

He is fully aware of all the things you do, that you don't even **realize**.

God knows all your ways. He knows them all.

### *He Knows Your Words (v.4)*

God not only knows your THOUGHTS and ACTIONS, He's also perfectly aware of everything you say.

"Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether" (v.4)

God knows **perfectly** every word you have spoken from **BIRTH** until **NOW**.

And again, this gets even more **fascinating**, because this verse also **shows us** that God knows the **words...** you've not even **spoken** yet. Let's read verse 4 again:

"Even **before** a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether" (v .4)

God knows what you'll say before you say it.

Whether you **whisper** it under your breath, or you **utter** it in private, or you **bite your tongue** to keep yourself from saying what you really wanted to say, God knows.

God knows you perfectly.

He's not **distant**, he's **near** and He's **aware** of everything you think, everything you say and everything you do.

### *God Surrounds Us*

And the **reason** God knows you perfectly is because He is close to you. Look at verse 5:

"You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me" (v.5)

God surrounds you. He is **behind** you and in **front** of you.

"We cannot turn back and so escape him, for he is behind; we cannot go forward and outmarch him, for he is before." – Charles Spurgeon

God has boxed you in. He has surrounded you.

And **depending** on the relationship you have with him, His overwhelming presence in your life will either be intimidating or comforting.

No **thought** you **think**, no **word** you **speak** and no **action** you **take** ESCAPES God's knowledge. He knows everything about you. He knows you perfectly.

### *Your Response*

How you doing?

...How do these truths make you feel?

Overwhelmed? Amazed? Some of you feel comforted by these truths.

I would guess they **blow your mind**!

It's hard for us to **wrap** our **minds** around **the fact** that God knows **everything** about us.

...And this **response** is **expected**...because it's exactly how, David, the author of this Psalm, felt\_\_\_ that is why he said in verse 6:

"Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it" (v.6)

He is **stunned** by how **deeply** and **intimately** God knows him. This knowledge **exceeds** his **comprehension** and even his **imagination**.

It's like when we **see** or **experience** something **out of this world**, and it **blows our mind**, and we try and figure it out but we can't and this **creates** in us a sense of **frustration** and **amazement**.

[Grand Canyon]

And this is how these truths about God should make you feel.

They should **blow your mind**!

The fact that God knows everything about you...**thoughts....words....deeds...**should cause you to say, "**such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it**"

...BUT there is more. God does not **merely** know you **perfectly**...

## **6. GOD IS WITH YOU CONTINUALLY (7-12)**

God is with you Continually.

Firstly, **he is with you at every LOCATION**.

**"Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?" (v.7)**

In this Verse, David poses two **rhetorical** questions.

These questions are meant to **make a point** NOT **demand an answer**.



And the point he's trying to make is that God is with you **continually**.

God is with you wherever you go.

And this point is further explained in Verse 8.

"If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there." (v.8)

Now the words "heaven" and "sheol" describe the furthest locations **upwards** and **downwards**. They represent the **highest heavens** and the **deepest part of the earth**.

And at these locations, God is there.

In Verses 9-10 David continues to emphasize God's inescapable presence.

There is nowhere on this planet you can go without God being there.

God is with you continually; and he is with you at every location...

If God is with you at every location, this must also mean **he is with you in every situation**.

"If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,' even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you" (vv.11-12)

**Light** or **darkness** makes **no difference** to God.

His vision is as clear in the night as it is in the day.

For God, no environment or atmosphere or context is off limits.

He's here, he's there, he's everywhere and he sees everything, everywhere, at all times.

### *In Every Situation*

If God is with you in every situation, this definitely means he's also with you when you find yourself in what is known as "the dark night of your soul."

When you find yourself in the midst of a difficult and challenging situation, God is with you.

Many of you here are in the midst of a difficult situation.

- For some of you, it's health related. You are dealing with some major health issues.
- Some of you have major financial issues.
- Or your issue might be in the form of an addiction that will destroy your life if you're not delivered
- Your marriage might be on the rocks...you and your spouse cannot reconcile, there is no peace in your home

These dark **nights** are tormenting your soul. God seems **far** and **distant**.

This morning, I am here to remind you of the truth that **God knows**. Whether you believe it or not **He is with you**. He knows you perfectly.

And He is with you in **every situation** ESPECIALLY when you're **down and out**.

And he has sent me to remind you that He has not **abandoned you**. He is **near** and He **cares**. He is **gracious** and **loving** and **powerful** and will work all things out for **your good** and **His glory**.

**Wherever you are, whatever you are going through...**

*“his hand shall lead you, and his right hand shall hold you,”  
verse 10 declares.*

## 7. GOD MADE YOU WONDERFULLY (13-16)

God knows you perfectly, he is with you continually and cares for you because...**he made you, and he made you wonderfully.**

Look at verses 13-15.

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb" (v.13).

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well" (v.14).

"My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth" (v.15)

These three verses we just read contain some of the most **extraordinary** truths about you.

The words "**formed**," "**knitted**," "**made**" and "**woven**" are worth highlighting because they communicate the **intimate** relationship God has with you.

In other words, you're not a mass-produced item. You were **individually** and **personally** handmade by God himself.

**God gave you your features.** Your internal make up and external appearance was his idea.

Personality. **God also gave you your personality.**

Introvert/extrovert /Smart or athletic.

All this, every part of you, everything about you was made by God himself. You are **fearfully** and **wonderfully** made.

Even though these truths are the truest things about us, if you're like me you find yourself **despising** who you are, and **desiring** what you do not have.

[38 no beard]

### *God Says*

Like me, if you find yourself despising who you are, I hope these truths are helpful.

I hope the fact that you're fearfully and wonderfully made by the God of creation revives and sustains contentment in your life.

### *Everyday of Your Life*

God not only made you wonderfully, but he also **mapped out every day of your life**. Look at verse 16:

"Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them" (v.16)

Before you were formed in your mothers womb, God had **scheduled** every day of your **life**. You are here today, because God **planned** for you to be here today.

God has been **involved** at every stage of your life. He knows everything about you.

## 8. GOD THINKS ABOUT YOU CONSISTANTLY

And because of this, he **thinks** about you **constantly**.

“How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand” (vv .17-18a).

God’s thoughts towards you are precious and they are numerous. They are “more than the sand.”

In other words, God thinks about you all the time.

Whether you are **fast asleep** or **awake** you are on God’s mind. There is never a moment God does not think about you.

## 9. RECAP

- God knows you perfectly
- God is with you continually
- God made you wonderfully
- God thinks about you constantly

## 10. YOU SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO HIM

So far, David has been **expressing** with poetic beauty the intimate relationship God has with us.

Then, from Verse 19, there's drastic change in his tone.

**v.19** Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me! **20** They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain.

What is going on?

One minute, David is like, God you know me, and you think about me, and you made me, then suddenly, **it's slay the wicked!!**

I've never seen Verses 19 – 20 on a **Christian t-shirt**. I've never heard a worship song based on these Verses...memorise.

What IS HAPPENING here??? One moment David's tone and words are **warm** and **pleasant**. Now, they're **violent** and **unpleasant**.

In verse 19 David desires the wicked to be slayed by God.

He goes on to describe the wicked as those who “**speak against God with malicious intent**” and “**take God's name in vain.**” In verse 20 he refers to them as “**enemies of God.**”

Why the sudden change?

Does this portion of the Psalm even belong here?

It seems like a misfit?

**A square peg in a round hole?**

**What is going on?...**

**Based on first impressions** this part of the Psalm does seem like a **misfit**.

But a **close examination** reveals that it actually **fits perfectly**, with what has come BEFORE and what will come AFTER.

In fact, this is one of the **ways we should** respond to the truths about who God is and how he relates to us.

**And our response should be: an unwavering devotion to Him.**

And this **devotion** or **allegiance** to God is further **clarified** in verses 21 and 22. Which reads:

**"21 Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? 22 I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies."**

David here is **pledging his allegiance to God**. The **wicked are God's enemies**, and **because** of this, they are his enemies.

David's **love for God** is the **motivation** behind his intense hatred of evil.



He's so **consumed** with who God is and how **intimately** God knows him, he begins to **love what God loves, and hate what God hates**.

**I love my wife and my two children to bits...**

In a similar way, David's love for God is the motivation behind his hatred for wickedness....**And this is because all wickedness and sin is ultimately against God.**

What about you?

How do you view sin in the world or in your city?

How do you respond to **murder, rape, theft, adultery, injustice, slavery, or racism?**

Does your devotion to God cause you to hate all forms of sin and evil and wickedness as much as He does?

## **11. SIN WITHIN**

Now, if we were to stop here, we would assume that this is calling everybody to **be religious finger pointers**.

It's as if, David is pointing the finger at everybody else.

But then, what David says next changes the focus. He actually starts pointing the finger at **himself**. He says in verse 23 and 24:

**23 "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!"**

**24** “And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!”

Here, David is **asking** for God to **search him** and **know him**.

But wait a minute, hasn't that already happened? Hasn't he already made it **clear** that God knows him **fully**?

Why...

The reason is, not that God may **know**, because he knows **everything**, but that he, that is **David**, may know his own **heart**.

In verses 19-22, David points out wickedness in others. But he then asks God to search him, because he is aware that he too is a sinner, and **sin** and **wickedness** LURKS within his own heart.

“We have become so preoccupied with some of the major sins in society around us that we have lost sight of the need to deal with our own more “refined” subtle sins.” – **Jerry Bridges**

Do you tend to **maximize** sin in the lives of others, and **minimize** sin in your own life?

If you were to ask God to search you in order to reveal subtle sins in your life, I wonder what He would show you?

All of us are sinners.

We are either **religious hypocrites** or **rebellious hedonist**.

The religious: points the finger at others

The rebellious: shakes their fist at God.

One **denies**, but the other **defies**.

## 12. HOW WE CAN COME TO GOD

So then if this is **true**, if there is wickedness in all of us, if we are all religious or rebellious at heart, how then, like David can we ask God to search us and trust that He will lead us in the way everlasting?

This is how: The reason David could approach God and ask with confidence to be searched, is the same reason the Prodigal Son who failed miserably could run into the **open arms** of his father.

[Retell Story]

The reason the prodigal son could return home, though he had blew it, was because **he had a need** and **realized** his father was the only one that could meet his needs.

He came humbly, expecting to **serve food at the table**, but he ended up becoming the **guest of honour** at the table.

Like the prodigal son, we're all in need. But our need is not food or shelter, but forgiveness of sins and a right relationship with God, our Father.

And God our Father has provided for us in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

### **13. RESOLVED**

Because of Christ you don't need to fear that he knows you perfectly.

Because of Christ, you can know he is with you in every season.

Because of Christ, you can have a personal relationship with God, your creator and the one who sustains you.

Because of Jesus, you can trust that God will reveal sin not to condemn you, but to heal and grow you.