

I Am Known

*A 5-day Devotional About Knowing
and Being Known*

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Dear Friend,

Before you read this devotional, I have a question for you. You will read that God knows you and loves you. Do you know Him? Because the promise of knowing and being known is to those who have committed their ways to the God who created them.

Yes, He knows us no matter if we surrender our lives to Him or not. He is our Creator, so He knows us well. But to know Him? That's different. Because knowing Him brings the awareness that we are known by Him. And there's nothing more comforting than knowing the God who made you.

If you want to know this God, I am going to write a simple prayer for you here. I encourage you to pray this prayer with your whole heart. You can read the devotional first and come back to this prayer if you need to, or do it before. Either way, I encourage you to begin a relationship with the God who knows you.

Prayer: Dear God in heaven, I come before you in Jesus' name and I acknowledge I need a Savior. I want to know You and I want to be known by You. I ask that You come into my life and make me new. I know I am a sinner in need of the cleansing power You offer and I believe Jesus died for my sins. I give You my life and I thank You for laying Yours down for me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Friend, I pray that every promise you read in this devotional becomes real to you. I pray you will not only know about the God who knows you, but you will experience Him like never before. I'm praying for you!

With Love,

Shanda

Day 1: You Search Me

Psalm 139: 1-6

“Oh, Lord, You have searched me and known me.” Psalm 139:1

In some of the darkest moments of my life I have literally thought the words, “No one understands me.” It was in these moments I felt I had nowhere to turn and no one to turn to. Feeling like no one knows you, the deep parts of you, can leave you feeling lonely and rejected.

In Psalm 139:1, there are two words that catch my attention right away: *search* and *know*. David, the writer of this Psalm, was in awe because God, the Creator of the universe, searched and knew him. But this Psalm is personal to each one of us. God desires to search and know every man and every woman. And that is exactly what He does.

There is a difference between knowledge and knowing. Knowledge is to have information; knowing is to have intimacy (Gen 4:1). And no matter if we have a knowledge of God or whether we’re still trying to figure out what we think of Him, He knows us. He is intimately acquainted with every fine detail of every fiber of our being (Psalm 139:3).

To some, this may seem like a violation of privacy, but to me, it brings comfort. We have to realize that God knows everything about us and still longs to have a relationship with us. Have you ever tried to keep hidden the details about your life you wish never happened, or the failures you wish you could erase? God knows them and loves you anyway (Rom 5:8). How comforting is that?

God knows you, my friend. If you feel as though no one understands you, He does. He knows your schedule, your gestures and the things that make you laugh (Psalm 139:2). He knows the thoughts you think, whether they are positive, negative or anxious (Psalm 139:2). He doesn’t just know everything (Psalm 147:4-5), He knows you. From the heavens, He searches our hearts and ponders our paths (Psalm 33:13-15).

Why? Why does a God who can do anything and be anywhere care about the minuscule details of our lives? In our culture, being watched often comes with feelings of negativity and a sense of violation. But that’s because those watching are seeking to catch us at fault or find some error in our behavior. It is not so with God. His intentions to search and know us are because He is our Creator and He takes delight in His creation (Psalm 149:4).

Besides searching and knowing us, He surrounds us with His presence (Psalm 139:5). David says, “You have enclosed me behind and before and laid your hand upon me.” Daily, God surrounds us with His presence and sets His hand of favor upon us (Lam 3:22-23). He doesn’t just observe from afar, He dwells among us and inserts Himself into our routine of life.

Friend, God doesn’t just know the details about us no one else does. He knows the things we don’t even know about ourselves. The Bible tells us He knows the number of hairs on our heads (Matt 10:30), meaning He knows the insignificant details no one will ever take the time to find out about us. I pray God’s intimate knowledge of you will leave you in wonder as it did David.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, I thank You because You know me. You are intimately acquainted with the smallest details of my life and no one will ever know me like You. I thank You because I can come to You, regardless of my failures, and You will accept me, forgive me, and love me because You already know my shortcomings before I have realized them. Help me to see the wonder in Your desire to search and know me. In return, help me to seek a deeper knowledge of You and love You with all my heart. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Day 2: You Are There

Psalm 139: 7-12

“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?” Psalm 139:7

Have you ever just wanted to be alone? I’m talking about those times when you left your phone in another room, closed your blinds so no one knew you were home because you needed to be by yourself. I have. Or worse yet, have you ever experienced loneliness in a crowded room? Those times we feel the loneliest are the times we don’t choose to be alone but feel like we are.

David must have had those moments he felt alone. In verse seven of this Psalm, he asks, “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?” If you know David, you know he wasn’t asking God these questions because he wanted to get away from the presence of the Lord. He was asking a rhetorical question. David understood there was no place he could ever be where God’s presence didn’t already abide.

David gave examples of places he could go and still find God’s presence. They’re not your typical hangouts. He’s not talking about the grocery store, places of work, or the gas station. David mentioned the “wings of the dawn” which is light that shines from furthest east to furthest west, but God is still there (verse 9). He mentions the unlikely place of being stuck in the remotest parts of the sea, but God is still there to hold onto him and lead him (verse 10). He mentions Sheol, which is the darkest place where the dead reside. When our soul feels anchored to despair, God’s presence is there.

No matter how alone we feel or where we are in life, both figuratively and physically, God is always there. There is nothing we can do to keep Him from loving us (Rom 8:38-39). There is no place we can go that He does not see us. In the most difficult circumstances of life, we have the opportunity to experience more of His presence than any other time if we will but call on Him (Psalm 34:18). Even if all forsake us, God never will (Heb 13:5).

Friend, you may feel alone in a crowded room or be in the most well lit place but darkness surrounds you. Take comfort in knowing that darkness is as light to God (verse 12). He is the light that shines in the dark (John 1:5). David was a king chosen by God and he still had his moments when he felt completely alone. He had a heart after God’s heart and there were times he felt as though darkness surrounded him. We will face moments like these in our life. That’s just a part of living, but He promises to never, ever leave us without His companionship and presence.

God is omnipresent. There is no place we will ever go that He will not be there first. There is no ground He has not covered and nothing hidden He does not see (Luke 8:17). He sees you and He is with you when no one else is. When you feel alone and unseen, remember He is there and you can find refuge in His presence.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your faithful presence in my life. Thank You because when I am in lonely and dark places, You are already there. Your promise is to never leave or forsake me. Help me to remember to call out to You in the moments I am at my loneliest. Teach me to rely on You when I feel like I have been abandoned by those closest to me. I am thankful that no place is unreachable to You and darkness is as light because You are light. Thank You for Your constant presence. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Day 3: You Formed Me

Psalm 139: 13-16

“For You formed me in my inward parts; You wove me in my mother’s womb.” Psalm 139:13

My parents got pregnant with me when they were in high school. I always wondered how God could form me, plan my days and choose me if I wasn’t planned. That was hard for me to come to terms with for a good portion of my life. Do unplanned, unwanted accidents of the world take God by surprise? Not at all.

After God spoke the world into existence He did something amazing when He made Adam. God bent down, scooped up some earth and formed it into a man (Gen 2:7). Then He gave him life by breathing into Adam’s lungs. It’s not much different with every other human being born since Adam until today. God still forms. He still breathes life into our lungs (Job 33:4). And we are fearfully and wonderfully made no matter how we came to be (verse 14).

It doesn’t matter how you got here or who you may have taken by surprise, God still made you. Before your mom peed on that pregnancy stick or felt her first bout of morning sickness, God knew you were there. Don’t you just love that? Before you were thought of or anyone knew what gender you were, God saw your unformed body and heard your undetectable heartbeat (verse 16).

When I was pregnant with my firstborn, I clung to a verse for him that reminded me of God’s knowledge of this child growing in my belly. Jeremiah 1:5a says, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.” Friend, that verse is for all of us. God knew us before time began and He wanted us so He set us apart for His plans.

Think on the magnitude of this for a moment. We are talking about being known by God. But this takes being known by Him to a whole new level. He not only knows us, but He formed us. He wired our gifts and talents and gave us a personality like none other. His knowledge of us began long before we were born and continued as He skillfully put us together like a skillful tailor with cotton or an artist with clay. He didn’t just think good thoughts of us but He wrote those thoughts down in His book about us (Psalm 139:16). Isn’t that the epitome of love?

Friend, I don’t care how you got here, you are meant to be. Your existence may have taken someone by surprise, brought disappointment and shock, or could have been met with joy. It doesn’t really matter. Why? Because no matter the circumstance of your existence, God knew you before He spoke the world into existence. He knows you and you are fearfully and wonderfully made. Rejoice in that!

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, like David, I thank You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. I thank You because You have numbered my days and planned my ways long before I ever came to be. Help me to truly understand the magnitude of Your knowledge of me and help my soul to rejoice in that revelation. I pray I will walk in Your plans for me and live the life You have given to me. Thank You for taking the time to truly know me. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Day 4: You Think Of Me

Psalm 139:17-22

“How precious are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them!” Psalm 139:17

Have you ever been in love? I remember when my husband and I started dating. I couldn't get that guy off my mind. When I woke up in the morning, he was the first one I thought about. I couldn't wait to see him after work. I would think about what he said to me the last time I saw him and replay his words in my mind over and over.

I remember conversations my husband and I had that involved our future together. We would think about our future home and share dreams about the life we wanted to build together. Our thoughts for each other were only good and they were constant.

Do you know God thinks about you in much the same way? He thinks about you and He thinks about your future with Him. Jeremiah tells us His thoughts toward us are only good and to prosper us (Jer 29:11). David was in awe of God's thoughts toward him. He said they were numerous and wondrous (Psalm 40:5).

So, what do God's thoughts toward us have to do with Him knowing us? When you truly know someone and you love them, you think about them. You consider them in your thoughts and your plans involve them. It's the same with God. He plans our way because His thoughts toward us are good (Jer 29:11)

This causes me to marvel. David had a similar head-scratching moment when he said, “What is man that you take knowledge of him? Or the son of man, that You think of him?” (Psalm 8:4). Friend, we are talking about the God of the universe ... the Lord of all creation ... the Ruler over all the earth ... thinking about us. Taking us into consideration. That amazes me and leaves me in awe. What a God!

Before David mentioned God's thoughts toward us, he explained how He created us. Creation reaches a point of completion, but not God's thoughts. They are innumerable (Psalm 139:18). His loving thoughts of us are infinite.

I am also comforted in the fact that God's thoughts are higher than mine (Isa 55:8). God's thoughts toward us are never because He is trying to figure us out or wonder what we're going to do next. He is omniscient, meaning He is all knowing. His thoughts toward us can only be because we are on His mind, just like the young love we experience with the one we love most of all.

I pray you take comfort and marvel at His thoughts toward you today. He is thinking of you as you sleep, just like a mother stares at her baby with love and ponders their future. God loves you and thinks about you daily. When you awake, you are with Him, in His presence.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your good thoughts toward me. I thank You because You think of me daily and You plan my future with You. Like David, I am amazed that You would be mindful of me. Out of all the other people in this world, I am on Your mind. How amazing is that? I pray I will think on You as You think on me. Help me to keep my mind on You so that You will keep me in perfect peace, as Your Word promises. In Jesus name, Amen.

Day 5: Search Me and Know Me Psalm 139: 23-24

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts.” (Psalm 139:23)

I woke up very early in the morning one summer day. Nothing startled me. The ringing of my alarm clock didn't stir me to rise from my morning stupor. It was the anxious beating of my heart pounding in my chest and I had to take off running so my body would keep up with it.

It was one of the most miserable times in my life. The anxiety I felt over the “what ifs” of life crippled me and I didn't want to live. I envied the life of my cat because being able to sleep most of the day would at least keep me from facing the life I was unsure of.

David ends Psalm 139 in the same way he began it. At the beginning he said, “O Lord, You have searched me.” At the end he says, “Search me, O God.” Do you wonder why he starts with the understanding that he has been searched but ends with asking to be searched all over again? David realized there is an intimacy in being known by His God, and he didn't want to stop being known.

David wanted God to search two things: his heart and his anxious thoughts. The purpose: to find any harmful things lingering in his heart and his mind. He knew God could see the unknown things ... the deep things of David, and he wanted God to expose them so David would be completely led by his God.

No one understood loving God with all their heart more than David. He knew the condition of the heart is what matters most to God. When David was chosen to be king as a young shepherd boy, God chose him because He saw his heart (1 Sam 16:7). David also knew the only way to keep his heart pure before the Lord was to hide God's Word in it (Psalm 119:11). Therefore, David loved God's Word and clung to it.

David asked to be tried by God so his anxious thoughts were known. David was a king, yet he worried. He was anxious. I love that there isn't a thought that goes through our minds that God does not know (Psalm 139:2). David entrusted God with his thoughts, especially the crippling ones that caused anxiety.

Friend, God knows your thoughts and He understands them. Entrust them to Him and He will teach you how to cast your anxieties on Him (1 Peter 5:7). If I have learned one thing in my relationship with God, I have learned to be honest with Him. Why? Because He knows me so well, I might as well admit the truth. This has only drawn me closer to Him. He doesn't condemn me, He loves me. He helps me let go of the things that are hurting me and to cling to His ways.

My prayer for you is that you see the intimacy and love God has for you because He knows you. Like David, I pray you invite Him in to your heart and mind and ask that He reveal what He knows about you so there are no barriers of sin between you and Him. He knows you better than anyone, including yourself. Allow Him to lead you in the everlasting way.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, I pray You will search me and know me. I invite You to examine my heart and my thoughts. Expose me. Not because You don't know me, but because You know me better than I know myself. Thank You for knowing me like none other, yet loving me like no one else ever will. Help me to be honest with You because there is no part of me that is hidden from You. I thank You for Your pure and perfect love for me. In Jesus' name, amen.