

## 21 Days of Prayer: David's Wonder Filled Prayer

As we saw last week, we sometimes go through difficult stages in our lives that leave us in disarray and despair. Hannah found herself there and we learned through her example that we should never give up taking our suffering before the Lord. We should be persistent in prayer, honestly surrendering all the raw emotion we feel before Him, reflect on His faithfulness and speak victory into our battles.

This morning I want to move in our study on Prayer to  
4 Prayer Mindsets That Will Change Your Life

*How many of you want to have God's abundance in your life, your marriage, your children, and your work?*

Good, well it starts by answering 4 of life's most important questions.

*Who Am I? Is There a God? Do I Have a Purpose? How do I get started?*

### 1. Who Am I?

*Who are you?*

That sounds like an easy question but it really isn't. I am not asking you for your name - that's easy. I am asking you who you are.

The sad thing is that many people can't answer that question because they don't really know who they are.

We wear so many masks and costumes - living this elaborate game of perception - wanting people to think we are something or are not something. Wanting to be something or not be something. Often, we get lost in the masks we wear and the rolls we play and don't really know who we are anymore.

Life gets easier when you know who you are and you get comfortable in your own skin. What I mean by that is that the healthiest thing we can do for ourselves is to recognize ourselves for who we really are (the good and bad) and begin to work out that life.

*Who are we? How do we identify ourselves?* Usually, we identify ourselves by either our relationships or our activities. **Science tells us:** our relations and relationships play a key part in shaping and making us who we are.

Genes are seen as playing an ever-increasing role in making us who we are. They've been discovered to make us resistant or susceptible to diseases, our tendency to become overweight, and even determine our like or dislike for chocolate. We're the products of our genes and our social environments.

**We used to be able to blame Satan for our sins** — *“The devil made me do it.”* **Now, we can blame our genes** — *“I’m sorry, I’ve got a recessive gene and I can’t help myself.”*

Yes, our individuality and social setting are certainly a big part of our story. **It isn't very inspiring, though**, to see ourselves only as bits and pieces of protoplasm, whose movements are controlled and determined by genetic coding and our social environment, which are moving aimlessly around a ball of cosmic dust. **Please, there must be more to it than that!**

Which brings us to a second important question, that I think helps determine what our answer would be to the first question...

## **2. Is There A God?**

**If there isn't** then, genes and social environments might help you feel at home without having to answer the first question; which may leave you in a place where you have to with a certain degree of insecurity.

If there is a God, then learning what He thinks about you would have some benefit in bringing some certainty to your life. I kind of like that!

King David, writing to the director of music said in, **Psalm 139:1 NIV**, *“You have searched me, LORD, and **you know me.**”*

David acknowledged that God knew his true identity. *You know Me Lord. You have searched me and know me.*

I believe that the first step in finding an abundant life is figuring out who you are – and that requires answering this about God with a faith-filled, YES.

*God, since you know me better than I know myself, who am I?”* Show me who you made me - show me the me you created - good and bad. Help me embrace the good and God help me refine the bad for your glory.

**WE CAN KNOW THE ME - BECAUSE YOU CREATED ME**

The Psalmist celebrates God's divine activity in our creation. **In verse 13** he writes, *"For it was you who formed my inwards parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb."*

Science and high-school sex education classes have taken the poetry out of procreation and reproduction. The Psalmist's observation says—**God had a part in our creation.**

We may be tempted to take issue with God. **Our feet** may be too big, **our nose** crooked, and we might wonder if God mixed up our designs with someone else's. We might not like having allergies, or being near sighted.

Self-control, logic, and organization may not be our strengths. But one thing is certain—God made us and God doesn't make junk.

God KNOWS everything about me.

David clearly understood the All-knowingness of God. He contemplated the significance of God's omniscience in his own life. It's one thing to acknowledge the fact that God knows everything. It is another thing to realize that God knows everything **about ME!**

***O Lord, You have searched me and known me.***

The word "**searched**" indicates a thorough examination. It was a term used to describe someone diligently mining for gold and precious stones. God has all the dirt on me.

**"Know"** expresses the result of that searching. It's can be a general term with broad applications, but when it is used here it goes way beyond a casual acquaintance to the "knowing" of intimacy. God knows us to our core!

We do not serve an impersonal God who wound up the universe and let it fly. We are not unknown. God is fully aware of everything about us. Nothing escapes His notice. The following 3 verses expand on that knowledge.

**Psalm 139:2-4 NIV**, *"You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely."*

He knows about our **Physical activity** - He knows about our **Mental Activity**. **"From afar"** - reference to either time (future) or space or both.

He never fails to know what we really think or why we do what we do.

He knows about our **Life journey**.

*“You discern my going out and my lying down”*

God is intimately aware of both my public life and my home life.

He knows about my **Habits in life**.

*“You are familiar with all my ways”*

He knows every quirk, every habit, every move I make and why I make it.

He knows about **my Conversations**.

*“Before there is a word on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.”*

God knows about what we are going to say even before we say it.

David acknowledges that God knew every intimate detail of his personal life.

There is nothing about us that we can hide from God (unlike Adam thought).

No point in concealing our feelings or denying our true thoughts. God fully comprehends every aspect of our life.

This is frightening thought on one level. I mean, just imagine if someone you love and who loves you knew your every thought and habit?

But David found security in this truth. He considered God’s intimate searching knowledge of His being to be reassuring. God knew the truth about who he was, his thoughts and true motivations – no misunderstandings.

**And then in verse 5 David shifts** his thinking from this **all-knowing** God to this **Everywhere present** God.

**Psalm 139:5-8 NIV**, *“You hem me in **behind and before**, and you lay your **hand upon me**. Such knowledge is too **wonderful** for me, too **lofty** for me to attain. Where can **I go** from your Spirit? Where can **I flee** from your presence? If I go up to the **heavens**, you are there; if I make my bed in the **depths**, you are there.”*

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

You have **my back covered** and you **lead the way**. David acknowledged that God’s presence in his life was not restrictive or frightening but protective and safe.

Then again, this could refer to **my past** (behind) and **my future** (before). You have been there in my past and you will go ahead of me in my future. Your hand is upon me, *you have blessed me in the past and you will bless my future*. You are intimately involved in our life.

Knowing that, says David, is **too** wonderful, **too** lofty for me! I don't deserve it! I feel so very special in your eyes even though I know I am not. **LOVED**

AND there is no escaping your presence and hand of blessing in my life.

God you are AVAILABLE everywhere and always – You're not only all-knowing (omniscient), you are ever-present with me (omnipresent).

**Psalm 139:9-12 NIV**, *“If I rise on the wings of **the dawn**, if I settle on the **far side of the sea**, even there your hand will **guide me**, your right hand will **hold me fast**. If I say, “Surely the darkness will **hide me** and the light become night around me,” even the **darkness will not be dark to you**; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.”*

*Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?*

**Nowhere!** And try if I will, I can't hide from you!

I can look for a dark hole to hide in but if I do – you'll be there too.

Darkness and light are alike to You. You got knight vision!!! I can't get away from you even if I tried!

God is not limited by the spirit world.

He is not limited by geography.

He is not even limited by circumstances (darkness).

He is not just present; He is engaged all the time.

And it isn't like you're stalking me like some weirdo. No, you are there guiding and leading me toward safety. Your loving hand continually touches my life.

Even when all I see is darkness, You are there in all your glory and brightness.

When bitter, hurting, running away from you in anger, senseless and ignorant, You took hold of me and guided me.

In my flesh, in my heart, in my mind, I have failed you, But God you have given me strength for today and hope for tomorrow.

He is sitting right there beside you this morning. His has rested His hand upon you. You are not alone, in the dark. He wants to guide you and bring you safely on your way. Don't be afraid for "He is with you!"

We are intimately known and deeply loved. Often, we feel like, if someone really knew who I was in here, they would reject me. Well God is fully aware of every aspect of your life and He loves you anyway.

David says, *"Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is too high above my thinking, I cannot imagine it."* It seems too wonderful, too good to be true.

I'm not sure what impressed David more: that he served a God whose presence surrounded Him or that he served a God who knew everything about him and even still loved him, guided him and blessed him.

God knows the good, the bad and the ugly about us and continues to surround us with his love and pursue a relationship with us.

**Yes, we are human beings who are influenced by our genetic code and our social environment. BUT WE ARE MORE THAN THAT!**

As you seek to know who you are, remember 1<sup>st</sup>, **you are God's creation.**

**As Christians**, we're not just defined by our physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual attributes, we are also identified by God's saving grace in our lives.

Jesus died for us, and because of what Jesus did **we can identify ourselves as loved people, forgiven people, God's children, called by Him to be a part of His family, a member gifted in order to participate in the mission of sharing this wonderful good news of Jesus with others.**

*Which brings us to the third question...*

### **3. Do I Have A Purpose?**

Yes, if you have come to know Him and have come to know yourself – know this, God has always had a plan for your life – better than you imagine.

**Psalm 139:13-18 NIV**, *"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you **when I was made** in the secret place, **when I was woven together** in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed*

body; ***all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand— when I awake, I am still with you.***”

All the days ordained for me were written in a book before one came to be.. How precious your thoughts – how vast the number.

In **Jeremiah 29:11-14** God speaking to captive Judah revealed His mindset toward His people. He said,

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,”*

Some of you today don't know what you were created to be - find out - if you need help let's talk. Some of you know what you are created to be but for some reason haven't become it.

Fear, frustration, bad decisions, laziness, compromise, and sometimes even success have kept you from being what God made you for.

His thoughts about your days and what you could accomplish are vast! David said those thoughts are **innumerable** - more than the grains of sand. God thinks about us continually. His dreams for us are more than what we dream for ourselves - and when we awake – He is still right there with us.

**Psalm 139:18 NIV**, *“...when I awake, I am still with you.”*

That is so awesome!!!

Some people dropped out of school not knowing why they are here. Some just quit looking. Some are afraid to give up what they've got for what they were truly made for.

Look our decisions in life may make it harder for us to get to the dream He has for us. Our dreams are great, yes and it is good to pursue dreams, but I guarantee you this,

**Your version of your dream is not half as fulfilling as God's version of your dream for you!**

If I dedicated my whole life to being a business owner – I would have a lot more money - but I wouldn't be happier if I submitted my version of that dream to Him.

God's path may take longer but it's always worth traveling.

When it comes to us figuring out our identities, we often tie those to what we do. We may be doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers, artists, cooks or students. Our vocations tell a great deal about us, **but in reality**, they aren't really us. As has been said, we are **human BEINGS**, and not **human DOINGS**.

Our vocations can change without changing who we are.

There are times through accidents, disease or aging, when we lose the ability to do what we have always done or dreamed of doing. *Does that mean that we lose our identity, or even worse, our value?* NO!

*Who are we really?* This is the subject of Psalm 139.

When we settle the God question and come into a relationship with Him, He gives us purpose and meaning in our lives. No matter what our gifts and talents are, we are first and foremost the **children of God**.

Whatever our vocation we are called by God to be his children.

We have been created by God and called by God.

We have not just happened.

God was moving in our genetic code and social environment to not only make us uniquely ourselves, but also to make us who God wanted us to be.

Somethings, things contrary to His will and identity for us, we have to leave behind to move forward.

David was absorbed by the wonder and magnitude of God's thoughts for him, His plans were for Him versus His own. *We would do well to think in the same way – putting God's design and purpose first in my life!*

So, with that in mind God...

#### **4. How Do I Get Started?**

Lord, help me sync my heart to yours. I want to love what you love and hate what you hate. That is where David goes in...

**Psalm 139:19-22 NIV**, *“If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty! They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you? I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.”*

There is a battle engaged for your life. The world, the flesh, and the devil are all competing for 1<sup>st</sup> place in your life. God is the One who formed and created you and He is the only one who really is entitled to 1<sup>st</sup> place. He, in love, in great patience, and with great longing wants you to give Him that place.

Jesus said that much when He said that the greatest commandment was to...

**Luke 10:27 NIV**, *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’...”*

And Loving God for who He is, naturally led David to hate anything or anyone who didn't love what God loves.

You cannot embrace things that are directly opposed to what or who God loves. We should hate evil! If you don't hate evil things, what does that say about you? Either you are complicit or apathetic. Neither is good!

Those who Hate God and rebel against Him are enemies of the cross. *If they're your enemies God, they're my enemies.* I will not ally myself with them.

**Romans 12:9 NIV**, *“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.”*

And David then turns his attention upon his own heart and ways. God, if there is a shade of that love or appreciation for evil in me, please show me Lord.

**Psalm 139:23-24 NIV**, *“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

Expose any wickedness, frightful thoughts, or offensive & hurtful ways in me! He was willing for God to uncover and reveal to him anything that might stand in the way or hinder their relationship.

Like the words he used in the beginning, he says, You know my **actions, thoughts, paths, habits and words. *Reveal what's not right in me.***

And **Lead me** in the way, your way - in the everlasting way.

This last phrase is a shepherding term meaning to “tenderly herd” me toward the way will deliver everlasting results.

## IN CONCLUSION

The fact that we are created and called by God has the potential of **transforming our lives.**

We can choose to live our lives as mere blobs of protoplasm moving aimlessly around a piece of cosmic dust. **Or** we can choose to live in the reality that there is a spiritual dimension to our stories. That our lives are touched by God and that God has a dream for us as His children, called by His name.

We should choose to live with that wonderful and lofty identity; ***people who are created and called by God.***

The question before us now is, “*What will it look like if we live out our lives as people—human beings—who are created and called to His purposes?*”

**Romans 8:28 NLT**, “*And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*”

I challenge you to pray during these 21 days of prayer and beyond, using **Psalm 139**, find out the answers to these questions.

**Acknowledge** that *There is a God!* – *That you are known and valued by Him!*  
– *That He has a unique purpose for your life! Then start by assessing your own heart and cleaning up your act and then follow the eternal path!*

This mindset, found in Psalm 139 will transform, how you think about yourself, about God, and about your purpose in life.

And it all starts by beginning a loving relationship with God that consumes your heart, soul, mind, and strength and flows out in your love for others. That begins by acknowledging our sin, accepting Christ’s payment for that salvation and then letting God show us the areas we need to change and the path we need to take that has eternal results in our own lives first and then in the lives of those God has brought into our sphere of influence. **Let’s Pray**