

The Omnipresence of God

Intro: Three terms are commonly used to describe the all-encompassing nature of God. He is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent. Though we have shown that God is greater than the created universe, we do not affirm that He is outside the universe at some location far removed from us. Instead the Bible affirms that God is everywhere; and omnipresence is the condition of “being everywhere at once” (ISBE).

The Scriptures affirm God’s omnipresence

Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, Thou art there. If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, even there Thy hand will lead me, and Thy right hand will lay hold of me. (Psalm 139:7-10)

The Psalmist think of what is highest above him and then what is lowest below (Sheol). Then he thinks horizontally to what is furthest to the east (the dawn) and then when is farthest to the west (the remotest part of the sea). His statement is essential in whatever direction I go as far as one can go, God is there!

“Am I a God who is near,” declares the Lord, “And not a God far off? “Can a man hide himself in hiding places, so I do not see him?” declares the Lord. “Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?” declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 23:23-24) God in the totality of His essence without diffusion or expansion, multiplication or division, penetrates and fills the universe in all its parts (Strong). But what about the verses that speak of a location for God?

Passages that affirm a location for God should be understood in light of God’s omnipresence.

Some passages depict God dwelling in heaven and call attention to God’s exaltation above the earth.

**To Thee I lift up my eyes, O Thou who art enthroned in the heavens!
(Psalm 123:1)**

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain Thee, how much less this house which I have built! (1 Kings 8:27)

Passages that locate God in heaven are intended to communicate to us His exalted state over the creation; but not to convey that He is not present.

Other passages depict God as present on earth and call attention to God’s nearness to His people.

God was present in the ark, the tabernacle, and the temple.

And Hezekiah prayed before the Lord and said, “O Lord, the God of Israel, who art enthroned above the cherubim, Thou art the God, Thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. Thou hast made heaven and earth. (2 Kings 19:15)

**God was present in Jesus Christ
For in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form, (Colossians 2:9)**

**God is present in His church
in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:21-22)**

**God will be present in the eternal gathering of His people
And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, (Revelation 21:3)**

What all these texts make clear that because God is everywhere, He may manifest His presence everywhere and bring the blessing of His presence everywhere.

Implications of God’s omnipresence

It guarantees that the actual nearness of God and a real communion with Him may be enjoyed everywhere!

Idolatry by nature sees God as separate and aloof from man. The idol is an attempt to bring the gods near by means of a representation. But Paul showed the people of Athens that the real God is always near!

that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; (Acts 17:27)

“For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst.” (Matthew 18:20)

What an awesome idea this is, that no matter where we are we may have the same communication with God and know that He is present to hear and to respond. And do we think about this when we come together for worship?

It gives us confidence in doing His work

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.” (Acts 18:9-10)

**Do we remember that we are never alone when we do God’s work?
Would we have less intimidation, fear, and reluctance to serve if we remembered His presence?**

It assures the believer that God is at hand to save in every place from whatever danger or foe His people need salvation

The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer

and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:5-6)

Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," (Hebrews 13:5)

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me... (Psalm 23:4)

But the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me, in order that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was delivered out of the lion's mouth. (2 Timothy 4:17)

Does the presence of God help us in times of anxiety and need?

Conclusion: "Be with me Lord" (let's sing it together).