

Something to Pray About

May 2013 – Cindy Sears

O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. —Psalm 139:1-3 NKJV

God Is Here

God is omnipresent. What does that mean? It is not referring to pantheism, the belief that God is nature, that everything is God and that God is everything. Christians believe that God is the creator of all that is, but that He is a separate Being. We worship a *Person*, not a thing.

“Then He said, ‘Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD.’ And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire *a still small voice*” (1 Kings 19:11-12).

God is not in your coffee maker... God is not in the bird that sits upon your window sill in the morning peeping for you to get up... Yet, God knows when your coffee is ready, because He is there. He knows when you open your eyes in the morning, because He is there.

God knows your every thought—not because He is a part of your brain—but because He is present even there.

“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me” (Psalm 139:7-10 NKJV).

To pantheists, the universe and all that dwells in it is essentially God. That is why such people tend to be superstitious, believing that they can influence events by certain acts, such as sacrificing to an idol or wearing a rabbit’s foot. Christians and Jews know that God made the universe and all that is in it, but He is not the universe. Since God is separate from the universe, if the universe should cease to exist, God would remain. To the Christian, the universe is not supernatural; but it was made supernaturally (caused by power above the forces of nature) —by the supernatural Being we call God.

Though God is not a part of nature, there is no part of nature in which God is absent. He is omnipresent. He is everywhere at all times, therefore nothing that happens is not known to Him. To God, the omnipresent, there is no such thing as sacred and secular, as we use the terms today. All things are sacred (exclusively dedicated to God) and nothing is truly secular (not spiritual or concerned with religious matters).

Isn’t it time that we emphasized God’s presence more? If we remember that God is here, that He is present wherever we are and whatever we are doing, would we not be more likely to do His will than spend so much time and effort only on what we want? Nothing is out of God’s sight—from the bedroom

to the baseball game. Nothing is unnoticed by God—from your work on the assembly line to the little acts of kindness you do each day. Do you think that the God who numbers the hairs of your head does not care if you are having a bad hair day? Do you think that the God who doesn't let a sparrow fall to the ground unnoticed does not notice when you speak kindly to a stranger or speak rudely to your spouse? When you are being obedient to God's laws and will, this is a comfort to know that He takes note. When we sin, it is a scary thought—unless you know the Savior and repent of your rebellion, turning back to righteousness. And don't forget the comfort of knowing that the Creator of all things, the most powerful Being in the universe, loved you while you were yet a sinner—enough to die for you. Accept the gift and rest in His peace.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

—(Psalm 139:23-24 NKJV).