

**Devotional Questions**  
**The Attributes of God – Omniscience**

1. *What is meant by the attributes of God?*
  - *1 Chronicles 28:9*
  - *John 21:17*
  - *Acts 1:24*
2. *What does 'omniscience' mean?*
3. *Even though 'omniscience' is not found in the Bible how is the concept seen in the Bible?*
4. *What do the following Bible verses tell us about the things that God knows?*
  - *1 Samuel 16:7, 1 Chronicles 28:9, 29:17, Jeremiah 17:10, Ezekiel 11:5, Romans 2:16*
  - *Job 37:16*
  - *Psalms 139:1-5*
  - *Isaiah 40:28, 41:22-23, 42:9, 44:7*
  - *Hebrews 4:13*
5. *Since nothing can ever catch God off guard, does this bring relief to Christians in difficult circumstances?*

*In what way is it comforting?*

*In what way is it convicting?*
6. *Since God knows ahead of time what will be asked of Him in prayer, what is accomplished by praying?*
7. *How does the omniscience of God help us today?*

**Devotional Questions – Answers to Questions**  
**The Attributes of God – Omniscience**

See *Theological Studies Book Number 2 The Personality of God* pp 22-27 by Dr Ruckman for detailed comment.

1. *What is meant by the attributes of God?*

God's attributes are those qualities that most explicitly describe Him. God is everlasting, unchanging, the most supreme Ruler, Creator of all things, of limitless power and wisdom and above all, a Person, not a mere force, in that He has Fatherhood and men are His offspring.

**“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God”** Psalm 90:2.

**“But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end”** Psalm 102:7.

**“The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all”** Psalm 103:19.

**“Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite”** Psalm 147:5.

**“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding”** Isaiah 40:28.

**“God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands...For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring”** Acts 17:24, 28.

**“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created”** Revelation 4:11.

Part of God's unsearchable understanding, Isaiah 40:28, is that of His understanding of the hearts of men, **“I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings”** Jeremiah 17:10, as the following scriptures show further, a quality of **“Jesus Christ, the Son of God”** Mark 1:1 Who **“...knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man”** John 2:24-25 as is also shown below.

- **1 Chronicles 28:9** **“And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.”**
- **John 21:17** **“He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.”**
- **Acts 1:24** **“And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen.”**

Today's believer should therefore pray as King David did **“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting”** Psalm 139:23-24.

2. What does 'omniscience' mean?

The term is defined in scripture in an unexpected place. Note the aspect of *wisdom applicable ahead of time* in addition to what is now.

**"And the king said, Is not the hand of Joab with thee in all this? And the woman answered and said, As thy soul liveth, my lord the king, none can turn to the right hand or to the left from ought that my lord the king hath spoken: for thy servant Joab, he bade me, and he put all these words in the mouth of thine handmaid: To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth"** 2 Samuel 14:19-20.

That is how the Lord Himself views His omniscience.

**"...for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure"** Isaiah 46:9-10.

3. Even though 'omniscience' is not found in the Bible how is the concept seen in the Bible?

See *Question 2* and note that possibly the most outstanding instance in scripture is as follows. Note again the aspect of *revelation ahead of time that cannot be influenced in the present*, not even by a king, though Nebuchadnezzar tried, Daniel 4.

**"But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these; As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter; and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass. But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart"** Daniel 2:28-30.

4. What do the following Bible verses tell us about the things that God knows?

*The hearts, minds and "the secrets of men":*

- *1 Samuel 16:7* **"...the LORD looketh on the heart"**
- *1 Chronicles 28:9, 29:17* **"...the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts...I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness..."**
- *Jeremiah 17:10* **"I the LORD search the heart..."**
- *Ezekiel 11:5* **"...Thus saith the LORD; Thus have ye said, O house of Israel: for I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them"**
- *Romans 2:16* **"In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel."**

*The works of the natural world and the words and actions of men:*

- *Job 37:16* **"Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him which is perfect in knowledge?"**
- *Psalms 139:1-5* **"...Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off...For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether"** Psalm 139:2, 4

*Things beyond man's grasp, all former things and all things hereafter*

- *Isaiah 40:28 “...there is no searching of his understanding”*
- *Isaiah 41:22-23 “Let them bring them forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come. Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods...”*
- *Isaiah 42:9 “Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.”*
- *Isaiah 44:7 “And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them.”*

*All things of all creatures*

- *Hebrews 4:13 “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”*

5. *Since nothing can ever catch God off guard, does this bring relief to Christians in difficult circumstances?*

It should as it did for Job. “But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold” Job 23:10.

*In what way is it comforting?* It is comforting according to faithfulness and Deuteronomy 31:8 “And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.”

*In what way is it convicting?* It is convicting according to waywardness and Isaiah 53:6 “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all”.

6. *Since God knows ahead of time what will be asked of Him in prayer, what is accomplished by praying?*

That is how God's servant learns of the *outcome* to his prayer, which may be beyond his understanding, especially as it may concern other saints, *noting that prayerlessness is a sin against God*.

“Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way” 1 Samuel 12:23.

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not” Jeremiah 33:3.

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” Ephesians 3:20.

7. *How does the omniscience of God help us today?*

Each of today's believers has the same encouragement that the Lord conveyed to His people the Jews in captivity through Jeremiah millennia ago, with respect to God's outcome that as He states through Isaiah, see above, “as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me” Isaiah 44:7. That encouragement operates at a personal level as John relates.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” Jeremiah 29:11.

“Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way” John 4:50.