

The omnipresence of God

Can we see the air that we breathe? Can we feel it? Can we touch it? Can we smell it? No, we can't, but it's all around us, and all around everyone at the same time. Although we can't see, feel, touch, or smell it, it doesn't mean that it isn't there. If we get stuck in a vacuum where the air runs out, then we would know how dependent we are on the air that we breathe that we take for granted every day. In the same way God's omnipresence means that we are completely dependent on Him, although we can't see, feel, touch, or smell Him. If He withdrew His presence from us we would certainly know the affects thereof and we would then understand how completely dependent we are on His presence.

Psalms 139:7-12 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there!

If I make my bed in Sheol, 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.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

1) The all-pervasive God

- Only God is omnipresent i.e., He is present at all places at the same time.
- Every other creature and spiritual being, including angels, demons, and Satan is limited to space and time. They cannot be in more than one place at one time.
- God is all-pervasive, which means that He's not only present everywhere, but affects all things by His presence
 - He sustains the universe not only because He's omnipotent but also because He's omnipresent. His power works in His presence
- I often hear sceptics ask where God is. No one has seen Him and so He probably doesn't exist.
 - My response to them is that if He withdrew His presence, we would certainly know about it as He sustains believers and unbelievers alike in natural ways that we take for granted.
 - Matthew 5:44-45 I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.
 - Being omnipresent He provides for everyone everywhere, whether they acknowledge Him or not, in the same way that He provides for and sustains nature.
 - Matthew 6:25-30 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"
- He is the moral influence in the world that keeps the world from descending into complete anarchy.
 - Romans 2:14-16 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

2) The God of all comfort

- How often people have gone through a hard time in life and are feeling down and depressed. Someone comes alongside them and just sits with them. No counsel, no advice, no lectures. Just being with them. There are countless testimonies of how such a person was a comfort to the depressed person just by their presence.
 - God's presence is a comfort to us.
- God promises His people that He will never leave them nor forsake them
 - Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.
 - God gives the same promises to His people wherever they are in the world. His omnipresence makes it possible for Him to keep His promises to everyone everywhere at all times.
- When Jesus sends His people into the world He promises to always be with them
 - Matthew 28:20 And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.
- How would Jesus be with us when He was limited to space and time? – He could only be in one place at any particular time.
 - He sends us the Holy Spirit who is omnipresent
 - John 14:16-18 I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."
- It is comforting that God is not only with us, but with our loved ones wherever they are and no matter how far from us they are.
 - Psalms 139:9-10 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.

3) Abiding in God's presence

- The main reason anyone wouldn't want to be in the presence of God is because of sin and disobedience
- God's very presence convicts us of our sinfulness
 - John 3:19-20 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.
 - John 7:7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.
- Jonah tried to flee from the presence of God just to find out that was a futile endeavour as God is everywhere
 - Psalms 139:7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?
- The people of God don't attempt to flee the presence of God, but abide in it
 - John 3:21 Whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.
- John 15:4-11 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.
- Abiding in God's presence we:
 - Live lives of fruitfulness
 - Have our prayers answered
 - Glorify the Father by bearing fruit
 - Live in the love of God
 - Will be full of the joy of the Lord