

Friday, May 29, 2020

O LORD, you know me - Pastor Hank French

*O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways (Psalms 139:1-3).*

The Psalmist who wrote this obviously had a deeply personal relationship with God. God was not an abstraction for him. God deeply engaged with the writer and the writer deeply engaged with God. That's the way it should be.

God cannot be avoided. God can be ignored, but not avoided. As the Psalmist rightly asks in verse 7:

“Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?”

There is no such place; where we are God is, aware of us and wanting us to be aware of God. This is a simple but profound truth.

The Psalmist doesn't seem to mind that God has searched him and known him. He doesn't mind that God discerns his thoughts and is acquainted with all his ways. He would mind if he didn't believe that the God who knows him loves him. He would mind if he didn't believe that even when his thoughts and ways were less than perfect, God forgives and gives another chance to get it right. He doesn't mind that God knows him because he trusts God.

In the last two verses of this incredible poem, he writes:

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting (Psalms 139:23-24).

These are not the words of a self-righteous person who believes that if God tests him and knows his thoughts he will always get a passing grade! They are the words of someone who wants to be freed from any “wicked way” that he may be following and led in the “way everlasting”—God's way of love and justice. These are the words of someone who trusts that God wants nothing but the best for him.

Prayer: All knowing God, search me and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.