

God's Omniscience

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Attribute: a characteristic or quality of a person or thing.

Webster's New World Collegiate Dictionary defines **omniscient** as: having infinite knowledge; knowing all things.

The Apostolate's Family Catechism says that God is all-knowing because He knows all things in the past, present, and future, as well as all potential things. God knows all things that are or ever could be. Everything is like one thought in the mind of God. ¹

- Why would we dwell on the fact that God is omniscient?
- Scripture tells us this truth over and over again and we need to know why this is important in our lives.
- Sir 42:18-20 ² - He searches out the abyss, and the hearts of men, and considers their crafty devices. For the Most High **knows** all that may be **known**, and he looks into the signs of the age. He declares what has been and what is to be, and he reveals the tracks of hidden things. No thought escapes him, and not one word is hidden from him.

¹Rev. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D., *The Apostolate's Family Catechism* (Bloomington, OH: Apostolate for Family Consecration, 1993), 34.

²Note: all scripture quotes are from the RSV unless otherwise noted. **He knew and knows all that will happen to humanity**

- Since before creation, God knew all of us would be gathered together tonight to praise and worship him.
- God created Adam and Eve knowing that they would sin. They freely chose to sin; yet God always knew they would. How this can be is a mystery of our faith. Yet God already had his perfect plan for our redemption in Jesus. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit were present at creation. All knew that we would sin and turn away from God, yet God created, Jesus was willing to obey the Father and come to earth to set us free, and the Holy Spirit is with us today to reveal these truths to each one of us.
- Remember that all of God's attributes are one. God is all-knowing - God's knowledge is one with his love, mercy, power and wisdom - all are at work in each one of us. This should be such a consolation to us because we can be confident that he works everything that happens to us to our good, just as he did with the Fall.
- Think about Joseph being sold into slavery so that Jacob and his family would be saved during the famine. After all Joseph had been through, he said to his brothers, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." Gen 50: 19-20.

- Remember Haman's plans to kill all the Jews in a single day, and how God intervened as a result of Esther's prayers and fasting. Esther 4:25 (NAB) - "Save us by your power, and help me, who am alone and have no one but you, O Lord. You **know** all things..."

God knows all that has and will happen in our lives

- He has always known how and whether we would respond to him, and he orders all things so as to help us. He has always known how our lives would progress; there are no surprises or setbacks for him in our lives.
- How could I have ever imagined when I left MOG that God knew then that He would draw me back to himself and I would be standing here sharing with you tonight? I can look back now and realize that I didn't shock the Lord when I left the Church and MOG. I thought that was the worst thing I could ever do after experiencing conversion and knowing God's love, but God gave me the time I needed to heal and trust him enough to open my heart to his love once again.
- God knew us in our mother's womb. He knew when we would be conceived, and he knows when we will leave this earth. He knows everything we have ever done and everything we will ever do. Ps 139:16 - "Your eyes have seen my actions; in your book they are all written; my days were limited before one of them existed."

God knows our thoughts, hurts, fears, and hidden sins

- We cannot hide anything from God. Heb 4:13 (NIV) - "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account." Yet we try to hide, because we are ashamed or afraid, just as Adam and Eve were. Humanity has been hiding from God ever since the Fall. We might subconsciously think, "If he knew this about me, he wouldn't love me." Yet the truth is that his steadfast love for us is total and unchanging. God seeks us out, because he longs for us to open ourselves to him, to come into the light and be healed and saved by him. He alone knows our hearts and can justly judge us. This is so awesome and comforting.
- When I turned away from the Church and the Sacraments, I couldn't open my heart and mind to him because I was afraid and ashamed because I had turned away from God. God knew my thoughts and my fears, and even the deepest desire of my heart, which was to be right with him. God in his loving mercy touched my heart and awakened the desire for the Eucharist in me and gently and lovingly called me back to the Church, because God is the initiator.
- 1 Jn 3:19-20 - "By this we shall **know** that we are of the truth, and reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he **knows** everything."
- **Jesus** demonstrated the Father's omniscience. He always knew what was in the hearts of the people. He knew human nature. Jesus wanted faithful followers, not just those who believed because he worked signs and wonders. Jn 2:24-25 (NIV) - "But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he **knew** all men. He did not need man's testimony about man, for he **knew** what was in a man."

- Jesus forgave the sins of the paralytic and the Pharisees were thinking that he was blaspheming. Mt 9:4 - "But Jesus, **knowing** their thoughts, said, 'Why do you think evil in your hearts?'" Jesus exposes the sin in us, so it can be brought into the light and healed. He wants us to see our sin so that we can turn to him and be forgiven. (See also Mt 12:25 - Lk 6:8 - 9:47 - 11:17.)
- God knows all of the hurts and wounds and fears that separate us from him. He knows our strengths and weaknesses, he knows all of our judgments and our resentments and our joys and our sorrows - and he sent His One and Only Son, Jesus, to save us from these sins.

God's knowledge of us is personal

- 1 Cor 8:2-3 - "If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if one loves God, one is **known** by him."
- God is the only one who knows everything, and we are known and accepted by God as one of his redeemed. Think of this personal, intimate, reciprocal, mutual knowledge reserved for those who love God. God knows everybody perfectly, yet he "knows" those who love him in a special way. "If one loves God, one is **known** by him."
- We come to know God as we open ourselves to him and allow him access to our heart. We have to choose to allow it. God longs for us to enter into a relationship of mutual knowledge with him. Jn 10:14 - "I am the good shepherd; I **know** my own and my own **know** me, as the Father **knows** me and I **know** the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep." Gal 4:9 (NAB) - "Now that you have come to **know** God - or rather, have been **known** by him - how can you return to those powerless, worthless, natural elements to which you seem willing to enslave yourselves once more?" 1 Cor 13:12 - "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I **know** in part; then I shall **understand** fully, even as I have been fully **understood**."
- God wants us to know his love, joy, grace and peace regardless of what is happening in our life. Jer 29:11 - "I **know** well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope."
- God wants us to know his promises in the scripture so that we will be able to know and cling to those promises during difficult times. God wants his word to be the food that will strengthen us in time of need.
- Some of you may not know that my oldest son, Jimmy, was severely burned thirteen years ago. He had second and third degree burns on 30% of his body and spent three weeks in intensive care in the Baltimore Burn Center. As we were on the way to Baltimore from Frederick, Jimmy was awake and he kept asking me why this had happened to him. I want you to know that God was so present to me at that moment and I was able to tell Jimmy that since before creation, God knew that moment would happen in his life, and God would get him through it.
- Jimmy's accident happened for some reason I still can't define, but God allowed it to happen because nothing passes through his hands without his full knowledge. Rom. 8:28 - "We know that in everything God works for good and those who love him, who are called according to his purpose."

- God knew since before creation that Jimmy would be burned. He alone knows why it happened. He gave us the grace to get through it, and he alone can heal Jimmy from the trauma and stress he still faces as a result of that accident. God will heal Jimmy when he is able to fully turn to the Lord and seek this healing in his life. [Mt 6:8](#) - "For your Father **knows** what you need before you ask him." God knows Jimmy's needs better than I do, and he will meet those needs.
- God allowed me to leave MOG, and even my Church, so that I could take the time I needed to come to grips with the truths of my Catholic faith. God gave me the grace to sort through all that had happened in my life at MOG and he knew I would recommit and rededicate my life to him in a much deeper way as I sought him with all my heart and found him in the Eucharist.
- If we allow God, he will let us share in his own knowledge of himself and of us - [1 Cor 2:10-12](#) - "God has revealed this wisdom to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what person knows a man's thoughts except the spirit of the man which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God." The Spirit who "searches the depths of God" can allow human beings to share in his own divine knowledge, so that we can think with the mind of Christ. [1 Cor 2:16](#) - "'For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?' But we have the mind of Christ."
- **More scripture references - God is all-knowing**
- [Ps 69:5](#) - O God, thou **knowest** my folly; the wrongs I have done are not hidden from thee.
- [Ps 139:1-4](#) - O Lord, thou has searched me and **known** me! Thou **knowest** when I sit down and when I rise up; thou discernest my thoughts from afar. Thou searchest out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, lo, O Lord, thou **knowest** it altogether.
- [Ps 139:13-16](#) - For thou didst form my inward parts, thou didst knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise thee, for thou are fearful and wonderful. Wonderful are thy works! Thou **knowest** me right well; my frame was not hidden from thee, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth. Thy eyes beheld my unformed substance; in thy book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.
- [Ps 139:23-24](#) - 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!
- [Ps 147:5](#) - Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his **understanding** is beyond measure.
- [Is 40:13-14](#) - Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as his counselor has instructed him? Whom did he consult for his enlightenment, and who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? [Is 40:28](#) - Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary, his **understanding** is unsearchable.
- [Jer 12:3](#) - But thou, O Lord, **knowest** me; thou seest me, and triest my mind toward thee.
- [Jer 29:11-14](#) - For I **know** the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come to pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me; when you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have

driven you says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

- [Rom 11](#):33-34 - O the depth of the riches and wisdom and **knowledge** of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?"

Discussion Questions

1. Read Gen 1-3 and think about God's omniscience. Why do you think God created man and gave him a free will when he knew that he would sin?
2. Adam and Eve were given the choice to love and obey God, or be their own masters. In what ways do you choose to be your own master? Can you share some ways that you are more aware of how you're making decisions based upon these two choices?
3. Eve thought that God wanted to deny her something good in her life. As you reflect on God's omniscience, can you see times when God knew when something was best for you, even though it was so difficult at the time?
4. What special scriptures have sustained you during difficult times?
5. Can you look back and see that God's hand was upon you even in your suffering?
6. Ponder Ps 139 and Jer 29:11-14. In what ways can these scriptures help you trust God as your all-knowing Creator and Father? Can you share some examples of times when you have trusted the Lord, and the times when you did not?