

Weekly Devotional

Friends,

I was recently thinking about one of the most amazing books in the Bible--the book of Psalms. There are a number of amazing things about the Book of Psalms, like it's length (it's an incredible 150 chapters) or the way it seamlessly combines prayer and poetry. Yet perhaps the most remarkable thing is the way it portrays intimacy with God.

Psalms balances the magnificence and holiness of God with the deep care and concern that God has for each of us. For instance, Psalms 139 says: *"You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. 2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. 3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. 4 Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. 5 You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me."*

In this passage, we see that God is so great, so far above us, that God knows our very thoughts and deeds, even before we know them. Yet, God is so personal that God also takes special note of what each of us is thinking and doing. According to the Psalms, then, intimacy with God starts by acknowledging how much we pale in comparison with God; how finite we are compared to His Infiniteness. Yet, that leads us to bask in our need for Him, and then remember how much He cares about and loves us.

All throughout Psalms we see this wonderful back and forth, where the Psalmist reflects on God's greatness yet brings it down to a personal level. Psalms shows us that prayer is an attempt to move into the presence of God, who is already surrounding us. This may seem paradoxical, but it gives us a way to understand how we should approach God in prayer. On one hand, we should never think that God is on our level or like us. On the other hand, we should never view God as distant, or uncaring. When we balance these two aspects of God, we can understand the richness of God and who God is for us.

I invite you to sit down and read the Psalms from time to time--and even to use them as your own prayers--so that you can discover deeper intimacy with God through this amazing book.

On the journey with you,

Pastor Jordan