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God is Omniscient

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ARTICLE FIFTY-TWO: GOD IS OMNISCIENT

INTRODUCTION REGARDING GOD'S OMNISCIENCE

God is omniscient (all knowing) – God possesses (without prior discovery of facts) complete and universal knowledge of all things past, present, and future. This includes not only the actual, but also the possible. This total and immediate knowledge is based on His eternity (He has always and will always exist), and His omnipresence (He has been, is, and will always be everywhere at the same time). In essence, God knows everything completely, perfectly, independently, simultaneously, and innately. Thus:

- The quantity of His knowledge – complete.
- The quality of His knowledge – perfect.
- The source of His knowledge – independent.
- The time involved concerning His knowledge – simultaneous.
- The method of His knowledge – innate.

“Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite” (Psa. 147:5).

“Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being his counselor hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and showed to him the way of understanding?” (Isa. 40:13-14)

“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” (Heb. 4:13).

“O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches” (Psa. 104:24).

A. W. Tozer has written:

God perfectly knows Himself and, being the source and author of all things, it follows that He knows all that can be known. And this He knows instantly and with a fulness of perfection that includes every possible item of knowledge concerning everything that exists or could have existed anywhere in the universe at any time in the past or that may exist in the centuries or ages yet unborn. God knows instantly and effortlessly all matter and all matters, all mind and every mind, all spirit and all spirits, all beings and every being, all creaturehood and all creatures, every plurality and all pluralities, and every law, all relations, all causes, all thoughts, all mysteries, all enigmas, all feeling, all desires, every unuttered secret, all thrones and dominions, all personalities, all things visible and invisible in heaven and in earth, motion, space, time, life, death, good, evil, heaven, and hell. (*The Knowledge of The Holy*, Harper Collins Publishers, Grand Rapids, 2009, p. 62)

GENERAL STATEMENTS REGARDING GOD'S OMNISCIENCE

"For His eyes are on the ways of man, and He sees all his steps" (Job 34:21, NKJV).

"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars" (2 Chron. 16:9, NKJV).

"The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. From the place of His dwelling He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth; He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works" (Psa. 33:13-15, NKJV).

"To Him who by wisdom made the heavens, for His mercy endures forever" (Psa. 136:5, NKJV).

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good" (Prov. 15:3, NKJV).

"The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens" (Prov. 3:19, NKJV).

"You are great in counsel and mighty in work, for Your eyes are open to all the ways of the sons of men, to give everyone according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doings" (Jer. 32:19, NKJV).

"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account" (Heb. 4:12, 13, NKJV).

SPECIFIC INSTANCES REGARDING GOD'S OMNISCIENCE

- In the universal realm:

A. He knows both the number and names of all the stars of heaven

"He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite" (Psa. 147:4, 5, NKJV).

"Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power; not one is missing" (Isa. 40:26, NKJV).

The psalmist declares God has both numbered and named all the stars! Just how many are there? Consider the words of Stuart Clark:

When you stand at a truly dark site—in a desert of some other wilderness where the only light to be seen is coming from the stars above—the stars fill the sky in such profusion that even the most familiar of the constellations is difficult to pick out. Although there may seem to be countless stars, in fact the human eye can resolve about 3,000 under pristine conditions. This is but the tiniest fraction of the total number of stars in the universe. It has long been a cliché to say that the

number of stars in the universe is the same as the number of grains of sand on all the beaches in the world, but whilst there is indeed a staggering quantity of sand grains on earth, this total is not nearly large enough. According to the latest estimates there are some seventy sextillion stars in the entire universe; that is seventy thousand million million million, or a seven followed by twenty-two zeros. To pursue the comparison, this roughly equates to the number of grains of sand to be found on the beaches of ten thousand earthlike planets. (*The Universe*, Metro Books, New York, NY, 2010, p. 6)

B. He knows the size of the universe

C. He know the mysteries found in the universe

1. Quasars
2. Supernovas
3. Neutron stars
4. Black holes
5. Dark matter, which may account for 26.8% of our universe
6. Dark energy, which may account for 63% of our universe
7. The secrets of gravity (Col. 1:16).
8. The nature of light

D. He knows the shape of the universe (round? flat? a cube?) Probably round (see Isa. 40:22.)

E. He knows the structure of the earth

"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this" (Job 38:4, 18).

"And: 'You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands'" (Heb. 1:10, NKJV).

F. He knows and understands that mysterious branch of science known as quantum physics which explores the tiny world of sub-atomic particles. In this incredible world two atoms can exist at the same place at the exact same time! Also if an atom located at the edge of this vast universe is somehow changed, it can instantly communicate that change with another atom located at the other edge of the universe!

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible" (Heb. 11:1-3, ESV).

- In the angelic realm:

A. He knows their nature, number, and purpose

1. Their nature

“Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire” (Psa. 104:4, NKJV).

“And of the angels He says: ‘Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire’” (Heb. 1:7, NKJV).

2. Their number

“I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened” (Dan. 7:9, 10, NKJV).

3. Their purpose

“But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: ‘Let all the angels of God worship Him’” (Heb. 1:6, NKJV).

B. He knows the past, present, and future in regard to Lucifer, heaven’s chief angel

1. When and how Lucifer became the devil

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High’” (Isa. 14:12-14, NKJV).

“Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you’” (Ezek. 28:12-17, NKJV).

2. What he is now doing

“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them” (Job 1:6, NKJV).

“Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD” (Job 2:1, NKJV).

“Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. And the LORD said to Satan, ‘The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?’ Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel. Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, ‘Take away the filthy garments from him.’ And to him He said, ‘See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.’ And I said, ‘Let them put a clean turban on his head.’ So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the LORD stood by” (Zech 3:1-5, NKJV).

“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down’” (Rev. 12:10, NKJV).

3. What his future will be

“And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen” (Rom. 16:20) , NKJV.

“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever” (Rev. 20:10, NKJV).

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God’s own choosing.*

You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;

*Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same;
And he must win the battle.*

*And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God has willed his truth to triumph through us.*

*The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.*

*That Word above all earthly powers no thanks to them abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever!*

- In the natural realm:

Here we refer to the brute creatures, such as animals, birds, fish, etc.

A. He knows the demise of every little sparrow

"Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will" (Mt. 10:29, NKJV).

B. After creating them all in Eden He blessed them and called His work good (Gen. 1:20-25).

C. He declares they all belong to Him

"I know all the birds of the mountains, and the wild beasts of the field are Mine" (Psa. 50:11, NKJV).

D. He provides for them

"He sends the springs into the valleys; they flow among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. By them the birds of the heavens have their home; they sing among the branches . . . He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the service of man, that he may bring forth food from the earth . . . The trees of the LORD are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon which He planted, where the birds make their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees. The high hills are for the wild goats; the cliffs are a refuge for the rock badgers . . . You make darkness, and it is night, in which all the beasts of the forest creep about. The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their food from God . . . This great and wide sea, in which are innumerable teeming things, living things both small and great . . . These all wait for You, that You may give them their food in due season" (Psa. 104:10-12, 14, 16-18, 20, 21, 25, 27, NKJV).

"You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works" (Psa. 145:16, 17, NKJV).

"He gives to the beast its food, and to the young ravens that cry" (Psa. 147:9, NKJV).

E. One of the reasons why He did not destroy the wicked city of Nineveh was due to some animals (Jonah 4:11).

F. In light of all the above, do animals have an afterlife? While we cannot in the least sense give a dogmatic answer, there is some scripture to suggest this possibility. Consider the following passages:

1. The words of Jesus

“Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things’” (Matt. 17:11, NKJV).

2. The words of Paul

“Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time” (Rom. 8:18-22, NLT).

3. The words of Peter

“Whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:21, NKJV).

The *New Scofield Study Bible* offers this interesting observation:

*“The key word here is restitution, rendered from the Greek noun, *apokatastasis*, meaning “restitution to a former state”* (p. 1166).

So what are we to conclude? Will we meet up with Fido Fluffy, Kermit the Frog, Charlie the Tuna, Alvin the Chipmunk, and Polly-Want-A-Cracker, during the millennium? Only God knows!

G. We do know that horses are referred to in the word of God

“Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven” (2 Kings 2:11, NKJV).

“And Elisha prayed, and said, ‘LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.’ Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha” (2 Kings 6:17, NKJV).

“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war . . . And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses (Rev. 19:11, 14, NKJV).

H. In a strictly personal note, I would hope serpents will not be included in all this. In fact they are always presented in the Bible as a symbol of sin and evil. (Gen. 3:1; Num. 21:9; Deut. 8:15; Eccles. 10:11; Psa. 58:4; 140:3; Isa. 14:29; 27:1; Matt. 7:10, 16; 23:33; Rev. 12:9; 20:2)

- In the human realm:

A. Regarding the believer

1. He knew us while still in the womb of our mothers

“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb . . . My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth . . . Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them” (Psa. 139:13, 15, 16, NKJV).

“For God created both me and my servants. He created us both in the womb” (Job 31:15, NLT).

There are three scriptural examples of this:

a. Jeremiah the Prophet

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations” (Jer. 1:5, NKJV).

b. John the Baptist

“For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb” (Lk. 1:15, NKJV).

c. Paul the Apostle

“But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace” (Gal. 1:15, NKJV).

2. He knows our thoughts

“You understand my thought afar off” (Psa. 139:2b, NKJV).

“Would not God search this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart” (Psa. 44:21, NKJV).

3. He knows our words

“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment” (Matt. 12:36, NKJV).

“For it is written: ‘As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God’” (Rom. 14:11, NKJV).

“Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name” (Mal. 3:16, NKJV).

Note: This Malachi passage may be thought of as God’s wonderful personal divine diary!

4. He knows our deeds (works)

“You know my sitting down and my rising up” (Psa. 139:2a, NKJV).

“Each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is” (1 Cor. 3:13, NKJV).

(See also Rev. 2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15.)

5. He knows our deepest sorrows

“And the LORD said: ‘I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows’” (Exod. 3:7, NKJV).

“I will be glad and rejoice in Your mercy, for You have considered my trouble; You have known my soul in adversities” (Psa. 31:7, NKJV)

“You number my wanderings; put my tears into Your bottle; are they not in Your book?” (Psa. 56:8, NKJV)

It should be noted that the very same psalm which informs us that God has both numbered and named all the countless stars (Psa. 147:4) also assures us of this glorious fact:

“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds” (Psa. 147:3, NKJV).

6. He knows our hearts

“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart’” (1 Sam. 16:7, NKJV).

“Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, but establish the just; for the righteous God tests the hearts and minds” (Psa. 7:9, NKJV).

“Would not God search this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart” (Psa. 44:2, NKJV).

“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever” (1 Chron. 28:9, NKJV).

“But, O LORD of hosts, You who judge righteously, testing the mind and the heart, let me see Your vengeance on them, for to You I have revealed my cause” (Jer. 11:20, NKJV).

“But, O LORD of hosts, You who test the righteous, and see the mind and heart, let me see Your vengeance on them; for I have pleaded my cause before You” (Jer. 20:12, NKJV).

“Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God” (Rom. 8:27, NKJV).

7. He knows all of our activities

“O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways” (Psa. 139:1-3, NKJV).

“For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish” (Psa. 1:6).

8. He knows what I am going to say even before I say it

“Who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies” (Psa. 103:4, NKJV).

9. He knows our needs even before we know them

“Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him . . . For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things” (Matt. 6:8, 32, NKJV).

“For the LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hand. He knows your trudging through this great wilderness. These forty years the LORD your God has been with you; you have lacked nothing” (Deut. 2:7, NKJV).

10. He knows our life span

“And I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David” (2 Kings 20:6, NKJV).

“The LORD knows the days of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever” (Psa. 37:18).

11. He knows how to deliver us from temptation

“Then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment” (2 Peter 2:9, NKJV).

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (1 Cor. 10:13, NKJV).

12. He knows our devotion

“And the LORD said, ‘Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him” (Gen. 18:17-19, NKJV).

“But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ So he said, ‘Here I am.’ And He said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me’” (Gen. 22:11, 12, NKJV).

To illustrate this, imagine yourself in the vicinity of the Garden of Gethsemane on a warm April night some 2,000 years ago. As you watch, a man walks up to Jesus and begins kissing Him. You would probably conclude, "How this man must love the Master!" Shortly after this you are shocked to hear another man bitterly cursing Christ. Now your conclusion would be, "How this man must hate the Master!" But both times you would be wrong. Judas, the man who kissed Christ, really hated Him, and Peter, the one who cursed Him, really loved Him.

13. He knows our frailties

"As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust" (Psa. 103:13, 14, NKJV).

"When He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter 'What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak'" (Matt. 26:40, 41, NKJV).

"O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (Rom. 7:24, NKJV).

"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (Rom. 8:26, NKJV).

14. He knows our foolishness

"O God, You know my foolishness; and my sins are not hidden from You" (Psa. 69:5, NKJV).

15. He knows His own

"The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows those who trust in Him" (Nahum 1:7, NKJV).

"And he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying, 'Tomorrow morning the LORD will show who is His and who is holy, and will cause him to come near to Him. That one whom He chooses He will cause to come near to Him'" (Num. 16:5, NKJV).

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left" (Matt. 25:31-33, NKJV).

"'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him . . . Jesus answered them, 'Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?'" (Jn. 6:64, 70, NKJV).

"I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own . . . My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (Jn. 10:14, 27, NKJV).

“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity” (2 Tim. 2:19, NKJV).

Seven glorious words: “ . . . the Lord knoweth them that are his . . . ”

Aren't you glad He has not appointed any of us to guard the heavenly gate, determining just who would be allowed to enter, and who would be refused? If honest, most would admit we would (in our prejudicial—or ignorant—thinking), probably admit some unsaved entrance, and turn away some saved! But, God knows His own! A poet has summarized this in humorous fashion:

When you get to heaven, you will likely view
Those up there whose presence will be a shock to you.
But keep it very quiet, do not even stare
For there will be many folks surprised to see YOU there!

16. He knows, hears, and answers our prayers, as testified by the following individuals:

- a. Abraham (Gen. 18:23-33)
- b. Joshua (Josh. 7:6-15)
- c. Samson (Judg. 16:28-30)
- d. Hannah (1 Sam. 1:9-11, 19-20)
- e. Samuel (1 Sam. 7:9)
- f. Elijah (1 Kings 18:37, 38)
- g. Elisha (2 Kings 4:32-34; 6:15-17)
- h. David (Psa. 3:4; 20:6; 34:4)
- i. Jonah (Jonah 2:2, 10)
- j. Solomon (1 Kings 9:3)
- k. Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:5)
- l. Zacharias (Lk. 1:13)
- m. Dying thief (Lk. 23:39, 42, 43)
- n. Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:3-6)
- o. Cornelius (Acts 10:31)

Note: What a contrast between the only true God and a false god in regard to answering the prayers of their worshippers.

“And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under. And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made . . . And they cried aloud, and cut

themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded" (1 Kings 18:25, 26, 28, 29, NKJV).

A personal observation: I was pastoring a church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, during the "God is Dead" movement. Well, a reader of the *Minneapolis Star* newspaper received a letter which read: "God is dead? How strange, for I just talked to Him this morning!" Later that same week, a skeptic wrote to the editor: "Buddha is dead? How strange, for I just talked to him this morning!" A short time later the author of the original letter responded, "So, what did he say to you?" What indeed!

17. He knows what might or what could have been

"And Samuel said to Saul, 'You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you'" (1 Sam. 13:13, 14, NKJV).

"Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent: Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day" (Matt. 11:20-23, NKJV).

What would life be like today if Judas Iscariot had not betrayed Christ? Or if the South had won the Civil War? Or if Adolf Hitler had died at birth? Or if you had been born a boy instead of a girl, or a girl instead of a boy? Or a black instead of a white, or a white instead of a black? One can only speculate, but God knows exactly what would have been the case! In fact, sometimes we are told what *would* have happened:

. . . if Old Testament Israel had repented (Isa. 48:18).

. . . if New Testament Israel had repented (Matt. 23:37).

. . . if the earthly nations would humble themselves (2 Chron. 7:14).

18. He knows the past, present, and future

"Known to God from eternity are all His works" (Acts 15:18, NKJV).

"Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure'" (Isa. 46:10, NKJV).

B. Regarding the unbeliever:

He knows and sees and hears all evil

“The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth . . . So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth” (Matt. 13:41, 42, 49, 50, NKJV).

“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Rev. 20:11-15, NKJV).

“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8, NKJV).

One of our former teachers at Liberty University was conducting a men’s spiritual retreat in California and, upon attempting to call his wife in Virginia, was accidentally connected into an intense conversation between a man and woman who apparently were having an illicit sexual affair. The woman seemed greatly concerned that their sin would be discovered. But the man, however, brazenly assured her this could never happen.

“Look,” he said, “your husband doesn’t know, my wife doesn’t know, our kids don’t know. So just relax, for no one sees us.” Unable to hold his peace, the professor literally shouted into the phone, “BUT GOD SEES YOU!” and quickly hung up. It would seem safe to assume that the affair was terminated immediately!

1. Jesus knew the fickleness of the crowds

“Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man” (Jn. 2:23-25, NKJV).

2. He knew the wickedness of the Pharisees

“And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, ‘This Man blasphemes!’ But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, ‘Why do you think evil in your hearts?’” (Mt. 9:3, 4, NKJV)

“But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: ‘Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand’” (Mt. 12:25, NKJV).

“And He said to them, ‘You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God’” (Lk. 16:15, NKJV).

3. He knew the insincerity of a Pharisee

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men — extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Lk. 18:10-14, NKJV).

4. He knew the true nature of Judas

“Jesus answered them, ‘Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?’” (Jn. 6:70, NKJV).

“For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, ‘You are not all clean’” (Jn. 13:11, NKJV).

5. He knows the thoughts of the wicked

“The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts” (Psa. 10:4, NKJV).

“The LORD knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile” (Psa. 94:11, NKJV).

“And again, ‘The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile’” (1 Cor. 3:20, NKJV).

- In the Trinity itself realm:

This is to say that in the ultimate sense of the word **ONLY GOD KNOWS GOD!**

“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied” (1 Peter 1:2, NKJV).

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen” (2 Cor. 13:14, NKJV).

A. The testimony of the Father in regard to the Son

“I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten you. Ask of Me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for your

possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him" (Psa. 2:7-12, NKJV).

"Having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say: 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You? And again: 'I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son.' But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: 'Let all the angels of God worship Him.' And of the angels He says: 'Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire.' But to the Son He says: 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.' And: 'You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail'" (Heb. 1:4-12, NKJV).

B. The testimony of the Son in regard to the Father

"But if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him" (Jn. 10:38, NKJV).

"Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 'Father, glorify Your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, saying, 'I have both glorified it and will glorify it again'" (Jn. 12:27, 28, NKJV).

"Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves" (Jn. 14:11, NKJV).

"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was . . . That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me" (Jn. 17:5, 21, NKJV).

"The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old. I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth; while as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, or the primal dust of the world. When He prepared the heavens, I was there, when He drew a circle on the face of the deep, when He established the clouds above, when He strengthened the fountains of the deep, when He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him" (Prov. 8:22-30, NKJV).

C. The testimony of the Son in regard to the Holy Spirit

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you . . . But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you” (Jn. 14:16, 17, 26, NKJV).

“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me” (Jn. 15:26, NKJV).

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged . . . However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you” (Jn. 16:7-11, 13-15, NKJV).

D. The testimony of Paul in regard to the Holy Spirit

“But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God” (1 Cor. 2:9-12, NKJV).

“That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col. 2:2, 3, NKJV).