

WORD

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

²³“Am I only a God nearby,” declares the LORD, “and not a God far away? ²⁴Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?” declares the LORD. “Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 23:23,24

Since God is infinite, His being knows no boundaries. The Bible says that He is omnipresent: uncontainable, fills everything, and is fully present in all places (1 Kings 8:27; Jeremiah 23:24). A.W. Tozer wrote in his book, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, “God is everywhere here, close to everything, next to everyone.” If understood right, this will be a source of much comfort, holy fear, and confidence for us His people.

- **Knowing that God is everywhere brings us comfort.**

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

Since God is present everywhere, He is accessible to us. We don't need to stand in line or make an appointment just to be with Him. When we are in God's presence, we can rest assured that He gives us His full attention, listening to and caring for what we have to say. God is our ever-present help in times of need (Psalm 50:15). What happened to your faith when God readily helped you in a situation?

- **Knowing that God is everywhere makes us revere Him with a holy fear.**

⁷Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ⁸If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. ⁹If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, ¹⁰even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

Psalm 139:7-10

As imperfect people, our natural tendency is to hide from God whenever we do something wrong. However, we know very well that it is impossible to hide from Him (Psalm 130:3,4; Hebrews 10:26,27). This can be scary but more than us following Him out of fear, God wants us to revere Him because we love Him. Why are we careful in obeying someone we love?

- **Knowing that God is everywhere gives us confidence.**

¹⁹“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19,20

Jesus said “I am with you” twenty-one times in the Bible (NIV). He gave the same assurance when He commanded His disciples to take the gospel to the entire world. What does Jesus mean when He says that He is with us (Matthew 16:18; Romans 8:31; Acts 1:8)? How does this help us do what He has called us to do?

SO WHAT

What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- Knowing that God is ever-present, how does this give you comfort in your life?
- How does God's omnipresence give you fear? What do you think this kind of fear would be: holy fear or mortal fear?
- Consider the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19,20). How confident are you that you can share the gospel and make disciples as a follower of Jesus? What truth gives you the confidence to do so?

NOW WHAT

How do I apply the Word to my life?

- Knowing that God is near and He cares about you, would you like to start a relationship with Him? Ask your group leader to help you out as you make this decision.
- Which areas in your life are you holding back from God but are making you feel guilty because you know that God sees everything? What practical steps can you do or decisions can you make to bring these areas to light and allow God to heal you (James 5:16)?
- What can you do this week to become more confident in sharing the gospel to others? Who are the people you have in mind that you can pray for and talk to?