

GOD IS: OMNIPRESENT

Ever been two places at once? Someone said, what mere mortals cannot do, mothers manage. Only in a limited sense, of course. But God truly is in all places at all times, or else He would not be God. The attribute of God called "omnipresence" means that He is everywhere always. Let's look at three ways.

1- God is enthroned in heaven. This is the "transcendence" of God, above and beyond us, eternally existing outside of our physical realm of space and time. *"For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place"* (Isaiah 57:15). He reigns *"in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion"* (Ephesians 1:21). Perhaps somewhat like the existence of a computer programmer outside the digital world he creates. But unlike human beings, who cannot truly and completely understand such ethereal mysteries, God does. He is infinite spirit, self-existent, all-powerful, all-knowing, and omnipresent. He is always "there."

All this seems incomprehensible to us finite creatures. Everything other than God Himself derives from Him, but is not essential to His existence. Yet He knows it intimately, and is there. He is accessible to and by His creation. God is always every where, all there. "Present at every point of space with His whole being" without limit, no constraint of time or space. Psalm 139 says no matter what direction you go, you cannot escape God. Up to the highest heights of heaven? There is God. Down to the lowest depths? There is God. As far east as the wings of the morning, as far west as the uttermost parts of the vast sea, there is God. He reigns over all, knows all, and sees all. There is no place where God is not.

2- God is everywhere on earth. God's reality is not only transcendent, but also "immanent." While He exists beyond us as eternal spirit in heaven, He also exists with us on earth. Deism accepts His existence "out there" but denies His involvement "down here." The related error of pantheism says all things are part of God. Rather, God is spirit and present everywhere, since everything came from Him and is sustained by Him. Yet God is distinct, separate from His creation, and sovereign over it.

God's presence on earth is not necessary for Him, but it is for us. God created us *"in His own image"* so that we can live in relationship and fellowship with Him. Not because of any need of His, but for His own glory. Since the beginning of His creation, God has always been active and involved in it, personally. He walked with Adam and Eve in the garden. When Noah built the ark, God said *"come in here."* He related with Abraham and Moses face to face. Deuteronomy 4:32-39, *"Ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether such a great thing as this has ever happened... all of which the Lord your God did for you before your eyes, with His own presence and power. Therefore know today and lay it to heart, that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other."* Worship only Him!

3- God is eternally with His own. Isaiah 57:15-18 says *"I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit... I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him and restore comfort to him."* When you put all your trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, the Bible says you are in Him, and He in you, in union with Christ. Then God is always with you, indwelling, sustaining you both physically and spiritually. He says *"I will never leave you nor forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5, Joshua 1:5).

So you don't need to pray for God to be "with us" - yet those who pray this want to experience His presence. Not just know about it, but live it, with His presence as daily reality. Is this what you want? Then trust and obey Him. *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you"* (James 4:4).

To believers, Jesus says, *"I am with you always"* (Matthew 28:20). You are indwelt by the Spirit of God (1 Co 3:16, 2 Tim 1:14). He empowers you. If you're not filled with His Spirit, it's because you're filled with yourself. If you're busy with His business, trusting and obeying, serving Him and not serving sin or self, then you will know His presence with you. Even in the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23). And in His presence forever (Rev 21). For today, answer this: Do you really believe God's omnipresence, in you, with you, always everywhere? How will this help you say no to sin and yes to God's ways?