

Women of the Word
Image Bearers
Made for Relationship, Worship, Service and Holiness
The Omnipresence of God

I Introduction: Where is God?

The question 'where is God' was the first question Adam and Eve asked in silence by their behavior! They believed they could h_____ from God and learned they could not! Their attempt to 'dress up' in fig leaves and 'blame' each other for their sin of unbelief only failed to keep them from being seen and found by God.

This question 'where is God' is asked by unbelievers in that they do not live as though the God of the Bible sees, hears and presences Himself 'with His creation' and personally, 'with His people' as David says in Ps. 139:7-12:

Psalm 139:7-12 (NASB)

⁷ **Where can I go** from Your Spirit?
Or **where can I flee** from Your presence?
⁸ If I ascend to **heaven**, You are there;
If I make **my bed in Sheol**, behold, You are there.
⁹ If I take the wings of the **dawn**,
If I dwell in the **remotest part of the sea**,
¹⁰ Even there Your hand will lead me,
And Your right hand will lay hold of me.
¹¹ If I say, "Surely the **darkness** will overwhelm me,
And the **light** around me will be night,"
¹² Even the darkness is not dark to You,
And the night is as bright as the day.
Darkness and light are alike *to You*.

II Definition of Omnipresence

As one of the 'perfections of the divine essence' set forth in Scripture or '_____
Exercised in His works of cr_____, prov_____, and
red_____.

Omnipresence is close to the attribute of imm_____ of God and often studied together. It is of greatest importance because it ins_____ us in things we need to know! It also cons_____ us because it is a comforting teaching when we understand it as we live our Christian life and carry out our res_____. It is also audi_____, reminding and motivating for us to a richer Christian experience.

A. Discussion of Ominpresence/Immensity/Immanence/Transcendence

*** Immensity stresses His transcendence; His omnipresence stresses His immanence.***

When we think of God's infinity related to time, we are thinking of His et_____.
When we think of God's infinity related to sp_____, we are thinking about His
imm_____. You cannot speak of His omnipresence without including His immensity!

1. God's immensity (from Latin expression 'immensus' which means 'to measure') or 'size' and hence, infinity related to space cannot be mea_____!
2. God's immensity related to space is that He tr_____ all spatial
lim_____ yet He is pres_____ in every p_____ of
space with His entire being!

3. Because God's immensity related to space implies He is not limited to space, you cannot even put Him in His universe. He fills every part with His whole being. God is also immense though transcending beyond our thoughts! (His thoughts are not our thoughts...)

4. Therefore, within space we have God at any point within space; He is completely here just as much as He is completely there! He is completely there, here and everywhere throughout the whole universe.

5. God is not equally present and in the same sense with His universe and with all His creatures. He does not dwell on earth as He does in Heaven. He does not dwell in animals as He does in men. He does not dwell in the wilderness as He does in the righteous. He dwells in the church differently to the way He is present in Heaven. We must recognize these differences.

***There is no reference in Scripture that a part of God is in one place and a part of Him in another!

B. God's PRESENCE with US: (He is N-O-W-H-E-R-E)

Definition: ('omni' means 'all'; 'presence is obvious')

God does not have size or spatial dimension and is present at every point of space with His own being, yet God acts differently in different places. He is Lord over all the material world. (Genesis 1:1; Dt. 10:14)
God is present with His whole being everywhere without limitation.

III Important WORDS describing God's OMNIPRESENCE

A. God's PRESENCE with US

Transcendence – by God's immensity, we can say and know that God is **'beyond'** all space and therefore **omnipresent, being where none of us have ever gone!**

- Bodies** are in space **CIRCUMSCRIPTIVELY** (adverb)
This means bodies are in space circumscriptively, being bounded by space on every side. You and I are completely 'within' space! (the enclosing of something within geometric shape; a drawn shape). This is true of finite spirits like an angel – in space definitively – always somewhere – not everywhere. (**very important:** Satan is not omnipresent.)
- God** fills space **REPLETIVELY**. (an old theological very good word!)
This means God fills space fully. His essence fills all of space – He is included in most space in that He is excluded from none. (there is no space that can include ALL of God; He is excluded from no space)
- God's presence is within space at every point in space, stressing His **IMMANENCE!** He is with us!
This means God's omnipresence stresses His **IMMANENCE** (maneo - Latin for remaining or abiding). This means when one relates Him to space personally, He is equally present with all His creatures at all times and in all places.

IV What OMNIPRESENCE does not mean!!

1. God is not the god of the Pantheist who says: “God is All and All is God”

Christ followers are not Pan_____ because it denies God’s *transcendence*. They know from OT and NT Scripture that God has come to US and is with US.

“But will God really dwell on the earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!” (1 Kings 8:27).

“This is what the Lord says: ‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth my footstool...’” (Isaiah 66:1-2).

“‘Am I only a God nearby,’ declares the Lord, ‘and not a God far away? Can 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).

2. God is not some localized God from whom we remain concealed. Nor is He ‘more present in European Cathedrals or the Notre Dame in Paris than in your bedroom or prayer closet.

3. God alone is omnipresent, neither created being, earthly or terrestrial.

4. Dark and Light do not affect God’s omnipresence.

5. God is not threatened by any perverted view of deities! (Deists, multiple gods or gods of Egypt, Greece or Rome!)

V God’s OMNIPRESENCE: Four implications

1. Since God is everywhere wholly present, He knows the secrets of my h_____, sees my beh_____ and hears my w_____.

2. Since God is everywhere wholly present, He is close to us, His children; He is never out of ear-shot for our pra_____. This is the Father’s desire for us.

3. Since God is everywhere wholly present, He is with us, His children now and forever. This brings us great co_____.

4. Since God is everywhere wholly present, we cannot hide from Him and we must ‘draw near to Him’ to enjoy His fellowship and friendship. This is sec_____.

5. Since God is everywhere wholly present, the stars of the heavens are under His ov_____. He knows them by name and is in control.

"This is what the Lord says: ‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth my footstool...For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being,’ declares the LORD. "But to this one I will look, **To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.**" (Is. 66:1,2)

“Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons...Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you set up God’s dominion over the earth?” (Job 38:32–33). (Rhetorical question: NO)

“The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord is on his heavenly throne. He observes the sons of men; his eyes examine them. The Lord examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates” (Psalm 11:4–5).

"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." (Matt. 6:6)

“‘Am I only a God nearby,’ declares the Lord, ‘and not a God far away? Can 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).

Amos 9 (NASB)

God's Sovereign Judgment Unavoidable

Amos 9

- 1 I saw the Lord standing beside the altar, and He said,
“Smite the capitals so that the thresholds will shake,
And break them on the heads of them all!
Then I will slay the rest of them with the sword;
They will not have a fugitive who will flee, Or a refugee who will escape.
- 2 “Though they dig into Sheol, From there will My hand take them;
And though they ascend to heaven, From there will I bring them down.
- 3 “Though they hide on the summit of Carmel,
I will search them out and take them from there;
And though they conceal themselves from My sight on the floor of the sea,
From there I will command the serpent and it will bite them.
- 4 “And though they go into captivity before their enemies,
From there I will command the sword that it slay them,
And I will set My eyes against them for evil and not for good.”
...The Lord is His name.

Upon His heavenly throne, God's eye is still as keen. Nearness and distance make no difference in what God sees or does.

God's presence is so intimate that He not only sees everyone's true character, what they say and do, but also what they think, what they plan.