

Section: Doctrine of God

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**Q11. Does God know all things?**

Yes. God knows all things eternally. Nothing can be hidden from God. He is omniscient.

* **Introduction**

**Romans 11:33** Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

**Proverbs 3:20** by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew.

**1 Corinthians 3:18** Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.

* **God Is Omniscient**

**Omniscient (om-nish-uh nt):** God has perfect, complete knowledge. He knows all things that exist and all things that could have existed. He never learns, nor does He forget. God cannot grow in understanding, knowledge, or wisdom, because He lacks nothing.

**A. W. Pink, *Attributes of God***: “GOD IS OMNISCIENT. He knows everything: everything possible, everything actual; all events and all creatures, of the past, the present, and the future. He is perfectly acquainted with every detail in the life of every being in heaven, in earth, and in hell. ‘He knoweth what is in the darkness’ (Dan 2:22). Nothing escapes His notice, nothing can be hidden from Him, nothing is forgotten by Him. Well may we say with the Psalmist, ‘Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it’ (Psa 139:6). His knowledge is perfect. He never errs, never changes, never overlooks anything. ‘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).”

**Psalm 139:1-18**

Humans increase in knowledge in time, in successive acts, through effort (such as study, observation, thought, reason, etc.).

But God is wholly other than us. He does not have knowledge the way we do, in our limited way. He never learns, nor does He forget. God cannot grow in understanding, knowledge, or wisdom because He lacks nothing. God has perfect, complete knowledge.

One of the big reasons people misunderstand God is that they think of Him as a super-improved version of ourselves. That is not a biblical way to honor God. That we are made in God’s image does not mean that we are just like Him.

**Isaiah 55:8-9** “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

**Job 37:16** “Do you know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him who is perfect in knowledge”

**Psalm 139:17** How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

* **God Knows All Things Eternally**

**Q4. Does God have a beginning or an end?** No. God is eternal, self-existent, and self-sufficient. He is not subject to time, and He has no beginning and no end.

Now, because of the Bible, we can know true things about the reality of God’s eternal nature, and in this we see this is one of the many ways that God is “other” than us. He is not like us. God’s eternality is one of the things we learn about in Scripture, but we cannot fully know it. We can rightly know it, but not fully know it.

**John Owen**: “How inconceivable is this glorious divine property unto the thoughts and minds of men!”

Owen is right. This doctrine should humble us and thrust us into God’s word for truth He disclosed for us to know.

**Eternality** (as God’s attribute): God is timeless, having always existed, and without measure or limit in greatness or duration. He transcends time and has no beginning and no end. God is infinite in essence—absolutely perfect. There are no constraints upon Him from outside of Himself.

**John 1:1-3** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

God’s eternal knowledge most intimately relates to us as Christians

through the redemptive plan that God’s knowledge brought about.

God made a perfect plan based on His perfect, eternal knowledge.

**Q68. What is the gospel?** The gospel is the good news of the grace and power of God to redeem undeserving sinners to eternal life through Jesus’ perfect, sinless life; substitutional, sacrificial death; and victorious resurrection from the grave. These sinners are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus alone from the eternal wrath they deserved, and they are reconciled into an eternally secure relationship with God.

**A. W. Pink**: “God not only knew the end from the beginning, but He planned, fixed, predestinated everything from the beginning. And, as cause stands to effect, so God’s purpose is the ground of His prescience. If then the reader be a real Christian, he is so because God chose him in Christ before the foundation of the world ...”

**2 Timothy 1:8-10** Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel

**Isaiah 53:5** But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

His knowledge is eternal. This also means that it never diminishes or grows. He never learns or forgets. It does not change—it is immutable.

**Immutability:** God, in His being, perfections, will, purposes, ordinations, and promises, does not change in any way. He has always been and will always be exactly the same.

* **Nothing Can Be Hidden From God**

**Hebrews 4:12-13** For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

The omniscience of God, the omnipresence of God, the immutability of God: The omniscience of God tells us that He is all-knowing, the omnipresence of God tells us that He is everywhere fully, and the immutability of God tells us that He is unchanging.

**Proverbs 1:7; 22-33**

But conversely, what happens when we do not ignore these attributes of God?

**Proverb 3:5-8** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil. This will bring healing to your body and refreshment to your bones.

God’s absolute knowledge is what we should rely on to guide our days.

* **Application**

Tomorrow when you start your day, just spend five to ten minutes in silent meditation on the fact that God knows all things. Then later in the day tomorrow, share something that really stuck out to you with a family member or someone at work or school.

Church, be in awe of the perfection of God’s knowledge. Let it be a bulwark against sin; He knows all things, nothing can be hidden from Him, and His knowledge is eternal.

**Habakkuk 1:1-4** The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw. Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise.

So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.

**Habakkuk 1:5** “Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded.

For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.”