

# God Is...

## Omniscient

It is a great consolation to me that God knows instantly, effortlessly, and perfectly all matter and all matters, all causes and all relations, all effects and all desires, all mysteries and all enigmas, all things unknown and hidden. There are no mysteries to God. *A. W. Tozer*

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# God Only Knows

Read your Bible: [Hebrews 4:12–16](#)

Spotlight Verse:

*Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.* [Hebrews 4:13](#)

Have you seen the Far Side comic captioned “God on Jeopardy”? A bearded man in a white robe has 85 million points, and the other two contestants are looking very peeved as Alex Trebek announces, “*And God wins again!*”

The attribute of God I want to focus on now: God is *omniscient*.

That word is a combination of *omni* which means *everything*, and *scient*, from the same root as our word *science*. God knows *everything*.

When I try to imagine the omniscience of God, I tend to think something like the image in that comic: “God has the biggest brain in the universe.” He knows all the trivia about the galaxies: The circumference of the sun. The speed of each comet. The light years from earth to each star system. He knows it all!

Is that all God's omniscience amounts to?

In the classic 17<sup>th</sup>-century work *The Existence and Attributes of God*, Stephen Charnock has a great meditation called, “*What Does God Know?*” His first point is the one that really blows my mind. He says the most overlooked implication of God's omniscience is this:

## **God knows all about *Himself***

Complete self-knowledge is only true of God! As H.G. Wells' angel rightly said, my little box of brains cannot hold the truth about God; it can't even hold the truth about *myself*! That's one reason I have so many problems! Someone said, “I am constantly surprising myself by doing things I thought I'd never do!” Yet God knows *Himself* fully, the only being with perfect self-knowledge.

## **God knows all about *nature***

Genesis 1:21 says that after creation, “God saw everything He had made and said, ‘It is good.’” That's an amazing statement — God saw *everything*.

Let your imagination zoom out from smallest to largest: Every atom, every molecule, every pebble, every rock, every tree, every forest, every mountain range, every planet, every star, every galaxy, every universe. He saw *everything*.

Now zoom in again.

Jesus said every time a sparrow falls to the ground, God notices.

Zoom in closer.

Jesus said God knows the exact number of hairs on your head. (For some of you guys, that's not hard, because the number is about... five. But for many people, that's amazing!)

Zoom in even more.

Jesus said God knows the number of *every grain of sand*.

Do you see a similarity with every illustration Jesus uses? All those things change, all the time. The point: God knows about everything that exists, *even as those things are constantly changing*.

### **God knows all about *the past, present, and future***

Nothing is news to God. He knows every action and every thought that will lead to every action.

All this is stunning. But as you'll see this week, what amazes David most in Psalm 139 is that God knows all about *you*.

### **God Knows All About You**

The idea of God seeing and knowing everything about you may not be entirely comfortable for you! So for the next few days let's explore how God's omniscience means *good* things!

To get you started, look at today's passage from Hebrews. It starts with a head-spinning description of God's omniscience:

*Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.* Hebrews 4:13

And then look at the very practical, beautiful application! Because God knows everything, what does that mean about my relationship to Jesus?

*...we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses... Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.* Hebrews 4:15a, 16

You might think that because God knows everything — your temptations, your weaknesses, your motives, your thoughts — it makes Him more scary. But the Bible says this means He *sympathizes*.

You can approach God with *confidence*! Why?

God is... the One who knows!

### **Questions For Reflection**

Summarize in a short sentence the meaning of the omniscience of God:

If people do not really focus on the fact that God is omniscient, what false ideas or negative emotions could they potentially have?

# Remember the Duck

Read your Bible: [Psalm 139:1–3](#)

Spotlight Verse:

*For a man's ways are in full view of the Lord, and He examines all his paths.* [Proverbs 5:21](#)

Imagine if every single thought you had hovered above your head like the text balloons in comic strips. Would you have a single friend left by the end of one day?!

Yet David says in Psalm 139 that God knows every one of those thoughts. I don't know about you, but at first this makes me not worshipful but... uncomfortable... awkward... queasy. God knows the ugliness in my heart?

How is it *good* news to me that God knows *everything*?

I love the story of the boy and girl visiting their grandparents on their farm. On the first day there, the little boy, Johnny, gets a slingshot to play with, but he's never able to hit anything he aims at. Getting a little discouraged, he heads back to the house for lunch.

It's then that he sees his grandma's pet duck. On an impulse, Johnny lets a pebble fly, and hits the duck — and kills it instantly. He's shocked. In a panic, he hides the dead duck in a woodpile, thinking no one will ever know! But then he looks up to see his big sister watching. Lisa had seen it all. But she says nothing. She just nods and quietly goes into the house for dinner.

After dinner Grandma says, "Kids, let's wash the dishes." But Lisa replies, "Grandma, Johnny told me he wants to help in the kitchen today alone, didn't you Johnny?" And then she whispers to him, "*Remember the duck.*" So Johnny does the dishes.

Later, Grandpa asks if the kids want to go to the park, and Grandma said, "I'm sorry, but I need Lisa to help with dinner since Johnny did the lunch clean-up." But Lisa smiles and said, "Well, that's all right because Johnny told me he wanted to help you again." And she leans over and whispers to him, "*Remember the duck.*" So Lisa goes outside to play and Johnny stays home.

After a full day of Johnny doing both his chores and Lisa's, he finally can't stand it any more. He confesses through tears to Grandma that he killed her duck.

She kneels down, gives him a big hug, and says, "Sweetheart, I know that. I saw you from the kitchen window. Because I love you, I already forgave you. I wondered just how long you'd let Lisa make a slave of you."

## No Need to Hide

Okay, that story creeps me out a little about Lisa. But it also reminds me of my own life!

Sometimes I think I have to hide my sin, or even my sinful longings, from God. The truth is, I am encouraged to do so by an evil spiritual force. The Bible has an interesting name for the devil: The Accuser. That's the condemning voice that whispers, "Why do you think you could

ever hope to get close to God? He can't stand you. Look at you. Think of all you've done. *Remember the duck!*"

Yet there is no need to let the Accuser frighten you away from a full confession to God. He's just trying to make a slave of you.

God's omniscience means that when I fall, I can avoid the common trap of denial and hiding, since nothing is hidden from God anyway. I can go skip those steps and go straight to admitting my sin before Him.

God's omniscience means my confession doesn't surprise Him. He never says, "You did WHAT?!" God is not shocked by my sin. He saw it coming. You don't confess to inform God, but to return to the One who loves you.

In fact, God's omniscience means God not only knows *what* happened; God knows *why* it happened. God is the most genuinely sympathetic listener you'll ever have, and He is the most amazingly effective counselor you'll ever have too.

*If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.*<sup>1</sup> John 3:20 (NLT)

## **God Understands You**

Maybe you've been saying "No one understands me" for so long that you believe it. But to say God is omniscient means not only that God *knows* you completely. It means God *understands* you completely. And God can heal you. Completely.

Have you ever played hide and seek with really little kids? They stash themselves behind a bed or in a closet, and the whole time they're hiding, you know very well where they are.

Once I played hide and seek with my daughter Elisabeth when she was very young, and I searched for so long that she began to cry. She thought I would never find her, and she'd have to stay hidden forever! When I heard her whimpering I said, "Elisabeth, come out, come out, wherever you are!" And when she emerged she found me steps away, on my knees with my arms open, ready to embrace her.

God's omniscience means you can stop hiding.

God knows right where you are. And God waits to welcome you with open arms.

God is... the One who understands me.

## **Questions For Reflection**

How does an awareness of God's omniscience help me get on the path of recovery more quickly following a fall?

Do you ever try to "hide" from God, or least try to avoid Him? Why?

What difference does it make for you to really believe that God *understands* you?

# Someone Knows and Someone Cares

Read your Bible: [Psalm 139:4–6, 17–18](#)

Spotlight Verse:

*Before a word is on my tongue, you, Lord, know it completely.* [Psalm 139:4](#)

There was a popular commercial a while back that showed a middle-aged receptionist punching a switchboard in a white room:

“Hello, this is heaven.”

“*Shark!!*”

“I’ll put you right through! Hello, this is Heaven...”

“*Yeah, I’m being investigated for tax fraud...*”

“Please hold, Senator... Heaven...”

“*Yeah, my daughter’s marrying a rock musician.*”

“Oh, I’ll connect you right away!”

When I pray I can find myself acting a little like that: It’s all about informing God. “*Lord, here’s the René report...*”

Earlier I quoted from a book called *Children’s Letters to God*. In another of these actual letters from children, a little boy fills God in on his life:

Dear God: My name’s Simon. That’s from the Bible. I am eight and a half. We live across the street from the park. I have a dog named Buster. I used to have a hamster but he got out and ran away. I am small for my age. My hobbies are swimming, bowling, my chemistry set, reading, coin collecting, and tropical fish. Right now I have three kinds. Well I guess I said a mouthful. Goodbye, Always a friend, Simon.[48](#)

I tend to pray a lot like that! I’m sure God loves every sincere word, but it’s good for me to realize He doesn’t need a reporter here on earth, checking in with Him.

In today’s Scripture, David says that God knows all our words before they are even formed. Even half-formed prayer words like:

“I know it’s wrong but I want to do it anyway.”

“I feel so stupid. Why did I do that?”

“How could God love me?”

“Lord, I am so sorry.”

“I am so scared.”

“I’m so lonely.”

“I hate you.”

“I love you.”

“Are you real?”

He knows *every word*.

That’s why Jesus said,

*“When you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”* Matthew 6:7–8

Why pray, then? To reconnect with Him. To relax in Him. To release your burdens. To receive relief.

God isn’t waiting for you to inform Him so He knows what’s going on, or to confess to Him so He can explode at you in surprised rage, because, remember, nothing surprises Him. He’s waiting for you to come to Him so that He can restore the vitality of your relationship.

During those times when you think, “Nobody knows and nobody cares,” you can rest assured — *Someone* knows. And that *Someone* cares.

### **Questions For Reflection**

This week, repeat this phrase to yourself often: *“Someone knows and Someone cares.”* How does it positively impact you to remind yourself of this truth?

Although you may believe in God’s omniscience intellectually, does your behavior demonstrate your trust in that truth?

# He Never Misses a Highlight

Read your Bible: [Matthew 6:1–6](#)

Spotlight Verse:

*Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.* [Matthew 6:4b](#)

I'll come right out and say it: I'm a klutz. Sometimes I think I'm one of the most uncoordinated people on the planet. My wife, on the other hand, is extremely coordinated.

This came into play right away, on our first date. She suggested night skiing. Not just skiing. Skiing... *at night*. For me that's a recipe for disaster. I can barely walk down the *sidewalk* at night. All evening she was going off jumps, shushing down the hill, and all the while my thighs were burning as I tried to maintain the snowplow posture to the bottom of the bunny hill.

Second date, she chose... *roller skating*. She was skating backwards, doing tricks, rexing (remember that word? For the young and uninitiated, it means to dance on skates. Used to be cool. Really...). Meanwhile, I was clinging to the sides of the skating rink like a frightened swimmer hanging on to the side of a pool, then flipping upside down at sudden, random intervals, my legs shooting into the air like I was Charlie Chaplin in an old movie.

The only sport I did in high school — the only sport I *could* do — was track, because it required an absolute minimum of hand-eye coordination. The coach would say: "René, listen carefully. When the man in the hat fires the gun, run! Run like the wind!" "*Okay, coach!*"

One day our mile relay group needed a runner for one of the four legs of their race because flu had hit the team, and I was the only one available, much to the coach's chagrin. Looking back, I realize a lot of people must have been sick for him to trust me with this! He wisely spent quite a long time telling me how to hold the baton, which had to be passed from one runner to the next. I have to say, that baton complicated the whole situation for me exponentially. "Run while *holding* something? Do two things at once?!" I simply couldn't multi-task! I think the coach was afraid I'd just switch my focus throughout the race: "Run. Hold. Run. Hold. Run. Hold. Run."

Well, this acute coordination difference did not prevent me and Laurie from getting married, but for years I still tried to prove to her that I could hold my own athletically.

Early in our marriage I was a youth pastor in San Diego, and part of my job was to coach two softball teams. Me! I really had but one objective. I wanted to impress Laurie so *badly*. I wanted her to believe she had married well, that her family's athletic gene pool was not going to be watered down.

So I went to batting cages every morning. Worked on fielding each afternoon.

She came to the first game. And I immediately struck out. *In slow-pitch softball*. Which you probably couldn't do if you tried.

Next time up, I walloped one — a home run! I looked over while trotting around the bases — she was talking to some friends. She never saw it.

That became the pattern:

I'd snag a hard-hit ball (whap!), look over — she'd be at the snack bar.

I'd bobble it like a drunk juggler, drop it, look over — she'd be shaking her head, like, "Is there something wrong with you that you haven't told me about?"

After a while she just didn't come to my games anymore. It was too painful for her. But that's just when I was gettin' good!

I'd come home, "Honey, you should've seen it, I won the game! Hit a ball so far over their heads— !" She'd say, "Uh-huh." And I'm certain she was thinking, "This is so pathetic, how he's lying to me."

Obviously she somehow felt I had virtues that outweighed those faults... But have you ever been in a relationship like that with a boss or a friend or a neighbor? Every single time you do something stupid, they're right there, watching, taking notes. But do something great? They're out of town.

Sometimes I can imagine my relationship with God like that. He's omniscient. That means *He sees my every mess-up*.

But one of the things *omniscience* also means is that every time I do the *right* thing, God is watching. *He never misses a highlight*.

Think of what this means for you.

Every time you say a kind word instead of a cutting word, every time you give someone an extra moment instead of hurrying on, every time you resist a sin instead of yielding to it, every time you give someone thirsty a drink, every time you give a can of food to the church pantry, every time you visit an elderly friend in a rest home, every time you sacrifice your wants to help someone with a need, every time you smile at someone who feels awkward, every time you have a chance to be negative but stay positive — every time you help out in the smallest ways — He sees it and records it and promises to reward it.

*He's never looking the other way.*

Jesus said,

*Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward. Matthew 10:42*

This means every good deed will be rewarded, no matter how insignificant.

Don't get me wrong: I'm not saying you need to show these things to God in order to get Him to love you. He loves you already, unconditionally. I mean to say that even when I think no one notices, He not only sees those good deeds, but He sees them as ways I am loving Him back for His love to me.

I'm saying Jesus Christ will surprise you in heaven by recounting things you did for others, things you did with mixed motives, things no one else noticed, even things that were so small you yourself forgot about them by the end of the day. But He sees. And He remembers.

## **God Knows**

You may be a single Mom, thinking no one has any idea how hard it is to raise kids, keep up with the laundry, help with the homework, make nutritious meals, and stay spiritually focused, and sometimes you wonder: Does anyone know how hard this is? Does anyone see?

Well, God sees. And God will reward.

You might visit a loved one with Alzheimer's who doesn't even remember you were there. You get frustrated.

God sees, and He will personally thank you.

Maybe you're in a ministry with very little appreciation-level. Thank-you cards are rare. Personal sacrifices are many. Resentment sometimes builds up.

But God knows what you're doing. He sees every long night and every personal sacrifice, and your reward in heaven will far surpass any earthly toys you're giving up here.

In fact, Jesus says in Matthew 6 that this means you don't have to worry at all about impressing anyone... ever! What freedom!

I love the saying "live for an audience of one" because it takes away so much pressure. Who cares what others think? God is cheering me on.

God is... the One who never misses a highlight.

## **Questions For Reflection**

When do you struggle with feeling unappreciated?

How does it help you to know that God's omniscience means not just that He sees you when you fall, but that He sees all the highlights too, and promises to reward them all — even the little things that you will likely forget?

# The One Who Sees

Read your Bible: [Psalm 33:13–22](#)

Spotlight Verse:

*From His throne He observes all who live on the earth. He made their hearts, so He understands everything they do.* [Psalm 33:14–15 NLT](#)

Take a good look at the Scripture reading for today and notice all the ways the Psalmist describes God's omniscience:

The Lord *looks... sees... observes... understands... watches...*

But... why?

When I was a kid devouring every comic book I could get my hands on, there was a character in the *Fantastic Four* series called The Watcher. He was an omniscient being who lived on the moon, and could see everything humans did.

He knew it all. But he was allowed to do *nothing* about it. He merely watched... observed... knew...

That's the picture of God a lot of people have. Like Bette Midler sang: "God is watching us. From a distance."

But God's omniscience is not like that. He sees... and He helps.

## The Living One Who Sees

A single mother many ages ago experienced this: Hagar, in the Bible.

In fact, this handmaid of Sarah had her own intriguing, personal name for God.

The Bible says,

*She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are **the God who sees me,**" for she said, "I have now seen **the One who sees me.**"* Genesis 16:13

I have to wonder why this name for God meant so much to Hagar.

Maybe she was used to being invisible.

Perhaps because she was the handmaid, the servant, the help, people just sort of looked right through her. She was *notseen* as much as *used*. Even Abraham essentially used her to bear a son.

But somewhere she learned about God. And of all the attributes of God that might have impressed Hagar, she is moved most by the mere fact that God, the ruler of all, *sees her*.

He sees her! He notices her need, validates her existence, acknowledges her dignity and worth.

She even names a well in the desert after God; she calls it "The well of the Living One who sees me."

Then later, in beautiful wordplay, when Hagar and her son are about to starve in the desert, alone, the Bible says God “opened her eyes” and *she* sees — she sees an oasis that saves their lives.

The One who sees helped *her* see the precious oasis.

Just as the holy one makes you holy,

Just as the all-powerful one gives you power,

Just as the God of love helps you love,

so the *Living One who sees* enables *you* to see.

I have a suggestion for you: Whenever you pray today, try addressing God with Hagar’s name for Him: “You are the Living One who sees me.”

And then wait for God to open your eyes, so you see the oasis, the beauty, the rest for your soul, near you!

God is... the Living One who sees me.

### **Questions For Reflection**

When have you ever felt invisible?

Try addressing God with Hagar’s name for Him: “You are the Living One who sees me.” What impact does this make on you?

# The Power of the Holy Spirit

Read your Bible: [John 14:16–27](#)

Spotlight Verse:

*And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* [Isaiah 9:6b](#)

Every time I speak to an audience, I struggle with nerves. And that's kind of a drag considering that's what I do for a living. But I'll tell you a secret. I am much, much calmer than I used to be.

I was inspired by the story of Thomas Spurgeon, who followed his famous father Charles as pastor of the world's first mega-church, Metropolitan Tabernacle in London.

Charles, the dad, was a dynamo, full of charisma. He grew a church of 200 to over 8,000 — and this was in the mid-1800s! He also started 17 nursing homes, 2 schools, a seminary, and an orphanage.

But when he died, his son Thomas was asked to take over. He had pastored in Australia, but was forced to retire early due to his fragile health. And now he was being asked to return to foggy London! He decided he could go in God's power, and the church prospered.

But then the fire hit.

In April 1898, the Metropolitan Tabernacle went up in flames. There were terrible casualties. Thomas was shaken to the core. Never the most self-confident man, he found himself dreading the day he would have to climb the stairs of the rebuilt church stage to preach for the first time. He had some sort of psychological block — real stage fright of the worst kind.

When that day came, he stood up and approached the platform. And then froze, thinking, "I cannot do this!" And he almost walked right out of the building, ready to quit.

But then he said to himself, "I can take one more step with the power of God." He prayed under his breath, "I believe in the power of the Holy Spirit." And took that one step.

Then he said it again. "I believe in the power of the Holy Spirit." And took the next step.

With each step he repeated, "I believe in the power of the Holy Spirit" until he reached the podium and preached powerfully. And he had 14 more years of wonderful ministry there.

That true story made such an impression on me that I have said that exact phrase to myself on many occasions, swallowing hard as I approach the pulpit nervously, "I believe in the power of the Holy Spirit. I believe in the power of the Holy Spirit."

In fact, it's become such an effective reminder that now my wife asks me whenever I get nervous or worried, "Do you believe in the power of the Holy Spirit?"

God is omniscient, as we've studied this week. And here is the mind-blower for today: That same omniscient God, who sees and sympathizes... is your *Mighty Counselor!*

I have found human counselors to be very helpful. But their ability to help is limited by their knowledge — their knowledge of you, and your problem. God has no such limitation. He knows you better than you know yourself! God's omniscience is not theoretical. It has very practical consequences for you.

## **Always By Your Side**

Jesus said,

*"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you... the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things..."* John 14:18,26

The word translated Counselor or Advocate (depending on your Bible) is fascinating in the original Greek language. It does conjure images of someone who counsels. But it means far more than that.

The Greek word is *paraclete*. That means "one who comes alongside." It was an ancient warrior's term.

Greek soldiers went into battle in pairs, so when the enemy attacked, they could defend themselves back-to-back, covering each other's blind side. Your battle partner was your *paraclete*.

God doesn't send you out there alone. He's got your back.

And He's even closer than that: He's *within* you, empowering you to will and act according to His purpose (see Philippians 2:13).

God counsels and fights powerfully for you! You never have to worry about abandonment again.

God is... your omniscient Counselor.

## **Questions For Reflection**

What impact does it make on you to realize that the same God we have been studying is your *paraclete*, the One who is alongside you, guiding and guarding?

Think of the problems you are facing, the fears you have... and now repeat, "I believe in the power of the Holy Spirit." What impact does this make on you?

# What About God's Anger?

Read your Bible: [Nehemiah 9:13–31](#)

Spotlight Verse:

*You are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.* [Nehemiah 9:17b](#)

For many people, the omniscience of God is inevitably tied up with a fear of His judgment.

I've tried to show how, in the Bible, God's omniscience is usually related to His sympathy and mercy and reward. In fact, I've attempted to show how all of God's attributes mean good things for you. But this may seem to tiptoe around an elephant in the room: What about the passages in the Bible that talk about God's *anger*?

Whenever you do a study on the attributes of God, you run into passages about God's *wrath*. Let's face it: These verses can be very troubling — especially when His anger destroys people!

Linda Falter wrote a great article about this called "*A Beautiful Anger*" in *Christianity Today* magazine. As she points out, some people find the Bible passages about God's wrath to be a stumbling block to belief:

They choose the "safer" scenario of a universe without God over one in which our lives hang on the mercy of an infinitely powerful force we can't fully understand, much less control. [49](#)

But is a universe without God really safer? And if there really is a God, would I understand all His motives and methods? I think not.

Regardless, it's still confusing for many. What do you do with the God of some (mostly) Old Testament passages who seems to wreak total vengeance on one group and lavish completely undeserved mercy on another?

One key is to realize that *God is always all of His attributes*. He never satisfies justice without also being holy and beautiful and loving.

The problem is, we humans usually can't imagine anger being anything but ugly.

This is another case where human words very inadequately describe God, the Wholly Other. We use words like "anger" and "wrath." But we often associate these words with *losing temper*, with going *out of control*. Because that's what we do.

But God's anger is not like yours or mine.

What we call "anger" in God is always infused with holy purpose. God never loses it. So even in His wrath there is compassion, love, patience.

Once again, the historical context is important. See the big picture:

The seemingly random acts of wrath in the Old Testament (although, if you actually chart them out, are surprisingly rare even there) are always called for, in this sense: You may be upset with God for judging those people, but first look at what those people were up to. There was vicious brutality going on that God in His justice and compassion and love was

moved to stop. I have a feeling that if I were living then, I'd easily find myself on the side of people like Jonah, who wondered not why God *judges*, but why God was *waiting so long* to judge!

Plus, in the Old Testament, God's discipline is never a *surprise*. Prophets always warn the potential recipients of God's judgment.

And repentance is always a possibility. God's judgments always have a purpose: Restoration. The same hands that punish offer a pull to safety. The pronouncements of the prophets are always mixed with hope and God's desire for reconciliation.

Finally, always remember that the crucifixion reveals, to the fullest extent yet, the nature of God toward sinners. As Falter writes,

Try to imagine it! The blameless, beloved Son of God is mocked, tortured, and murdered while his Father watches.

...Surely God would need no further justification to manifest his wrath toward evildoers. But, amazingly, this is the point at which God chooses to reveal the strength and beauty of his holy love. The Almighty gives silent assent to the words, "Father, forgive them."

...God's silence at Jesus' suffering is the greatest of all mysteries, and sufficient to muffle all accusations of bloodthirstiness in his character. For if God is a vengeful judge, then what happened at the Cross — or rather, what did not happen — makes no sense. Surely there is no greater sin than to kill the innocent Son of God. Yet God fails to avenge him. Why? Similarly, if God's assessment of man is that we are all prisoners on death row, then why not be done with it and kill us all?[50](#)

It's because God is perfectly just and also infinitely merciful. It's this incomprehensibly Perfect One in whom I place my trust.

How does this tie into omniscience?

I believe God is perfectly wise and will ultimately know just how to treat us all with justice and love. God's final judgments will be unassailably perfect. Precisely because He knows all.

God is... wise and just.

## Questions For Reflection

In what ways does human anger give people a false impression of what God's anger is like?

How can God show wrath toward sin without compromising other attributes like love and grace? How was this accomplished on the cross?