



## God's Cosmic Reach

When I was a child my mother directed vacation Bible school including the music. To this day one of the songs I learned from her resounds in my head—and hear—much of the time.

“God is everywhere, His love is overall. In the sunlight shining, in the trees so tall . . . God is in the flowers and the birds that sing . . .”

This is reminiscent of Psalm 139, my all time favorite:

*(God) you search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways . . .*

*You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me . . .*

*If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.*

*If I take wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,*

*even there your hand shall lead me and your right hand shall hold me secure.*

This means that we do not have to go searching for God because God is closer to us than the very breath we breathe.

In our life experiences we have necessarily developed a keen awareness of the physical world in order to negotiate day-to-day living. However, this earthly awareness does not take into account the other dimension of God's created order—the spiritual world. Our perception of God is therefore limited and does not allow for the reality of the vast spiritual world because it is not immediately obvious.

Awareness of this spiritual world comes only when we intentionally open ourselves to the Holy Spirit who speaks to us in mysterious ways. The Spirit moves within us, awakening our spirits to the realities that lie beyond and behind the physical world, giving us the gift of *aha* moments. For example, we suddenly become aware that what has happened didn't just happen but has been a willful act of God.

Our spiritual acuity grows as we allow this awareness to develop within us. God is everywhere always working wonderful things. Although our ordinary perception does not recognize that it is God's hand at work, it is. (Psalm 139).

As we allow ourselves to become open to this phenomenon we begin to recognize that God is indeed everywhere in everything and his love is over all.

Awareness is a fascinating experience. Having been under anesthesia a number of times I have experienced increasing awareness as I have come out from under its effect. Little by little I have regained the awareness of which the anesthesia had temporarily deprived me. Spiritual awareness is the next step above and beyond our normal awareness of the physical world. It is an awareness of the vast spiritual world that lies behind and beyond and

is operative all the time. It is in fact the real world of which the physical world is but a small part, in the same way that the earth is a minuscule part of the vast universe.

Constant awareness of the great spiritual world of reality, that functions behind the scene and God's ever presence in it, is the ultimate Christian experience. It is worth any effort to achieve it.

