

Psalm 139:1-10 (NIV84)

- 1 O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.
- 2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- 3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.
- 4 Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.
- 5 You hem me in-behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.
- 7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?
- 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
- 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,
- 10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

With all the social-distancing and separation we've experienced in recent weeks and months, we may feel somewhat isolated and alone. Such feelings can lead to depression and despair.

How wonderful then to read the words of Psalm 139 and be reminded and assured that we are truly never alone. Our Lord is continually with us.

Not only does He know the minutest details of our daily experience, He also cares about how these experiences impact our lives, our minds, our faith.

What a comfort to know that our Lord is actively with us, guiding, guarding and holding us in His ever-loving hand.

Held with you in Christ,  
Pastor Golm

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July 27

Afraid of the Daily Task?

And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest. Psalm 55:6

Did you ever feel like running away -- away from the burdensome tasks of the day, away from the monotonous grind of a drab routine, away from the heavy responsibilities which seem to hang like threatening clouds across the dawn of each new day?

King David felt that way. When he saw great and vexing problems piling up like thunderclouds on the horizon, he exclaimed: "Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then I would fly away, and be at rest." He wanted to run away from everything. But David soon found that he could not run away from anything!

He could not run away from himself, his conscience, or his God.

David could not find rest by running away. Neither can we. We must find our happiness where we are. That is God's will. No matter what our particular task-be it that of a mother wearing herself out for her children, or of a father who works from early morning till late at night to earn a livelihood for his family-we must remember it is the task which God has given us. And that is all we need to know.

He has promised to give his angels charge over us to keep us in all our ways. Let us then "stay on our way" and keep our rendezvous with his angels. They will be with us in every path of duty. Whatever we do, let us do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not to men. In such service there is joy and great reward.

There will still be problems to be faced-crosses to be borne. Our Lord has promised us no exemption from the burdens of this life. But he has told us what to do with every burden we must bear: we are to run to him! The Christian poet has put it well:

Whither, O whither should I fly  
But to my loving Savior's breast?  
Secure within Thine arms to lie  
And safe beneath Thy wings to rest.

On the wings of prayer we can take all of our troubles to our Lord and Savior, whose heart is always open to our pleas.

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)