Shortly after I became a Christian, a friend invited me to a celebration hosted by a man who headed one of the largest oil companies in the world at the time. As I went through the reception line, I knew I was just another nobody to this man. But afterward, the Holy Spirit began to impress upon me that I needed to talk to him about his soul. I obediently called his office, and to my surprise, he agreed to meet with me.

When I arrived for my appointment, I passed by all the various people who screen his visitors and walked into his office. He sat behind a big, mahogany desk in a high-back chair, not a sheet of paper on his desk. “What can I do for you?” he asked.

“Well, sir,” I said, “I asked you for fifteen minutes of your time. I don’t want to impose. I have come to talk to you about your relationship with Jesus Christ.”

Suddenly, he began to cry. As he was sobbing, he told me his story. He became a Christian when he was eight years old. After attending college and getting involved in business, he turned away from God. He said, “I haven’t been to church in thirty years. I have made such a mess out of my life. Some think that I am at the top of
the ladder of success, but I feel like a great failure. I seem to have everything, but I have lost my family and everything dear to me.”

Before I met with him, I had no way of knowing where this man was spiritually or what he was going through, but God did. As I responded to the Holy Spirit’s leading, God opened the door so that this man’s life could be turned around. He spontaneously volunteered, “I will be in church on Sunday.”

Only God knows us perfectly and intimately. He understands our desires, motives, and thoughts. Nothing about us escapes His notice. In fact, God knows infinitely more about us than we will ever know about ourselves. God also knows what is going on in the lives of the people with whom we come into contact every day. He knows their struggles and has the answer to their problems.

God not only knows all about us, but He will never forget us. He even keeps an account of the number of hairs on our heads. ¹ God promises through Isaiah:

Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of My hands.²

The reference to the engraving on the palms of God’s hands is a prophecy about the death of Christ on the cross when the Roman soldiers drove nails through His hands. Christ submitted to death because of His love for us; the nail holes are eternal reminders of that love. No wonder we can have assurance that God will never forget about us!

Consider a few things that demonstrate how well God knows you.

**God Knows How You Are Designed**

Do you ever feel that your parents do not listen to you, your boss does not respect you, or that your co-workers in the church, even the pastor, do not understand you? How devastating to realize that almost no one knows what you are like inside or the dreams you dream. Take heart. Remember that God knows how we are formed.³
As our Creator, He custom-designed us for a unique purpose. David declared that the steps of a godly person are directed by the LORD. That means that He will guide us as we live our lives for Him. God even “understands how weak we are; He knows we are only dust.”

This assurance was evident in the experience of a pastor of a small church. He became so discouraged that he was ready to give up the ministry. A friend invited him to a prayer summit of pastors. When he got there, he confessed to his group, “I’ve been so defeated that I don’t even think God knows where I am.” But God did know where he was. The next day, the other pastors stood in a circle around him and prayed for him, and he had such an overpowering sense of God’s presence that he went home walking on air. God knew exactly what this pastor needed to be renewed in his heart and mind. He will help each of us in similar ways because He designed us and knows exactly what we need at every moment.

**God Knows Everything About Your Past**

God is aware of everything every person has ever done—both good and bad. God told Jeremiah, “The human heart is most deceitful and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? But I know! I, the LORD, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve.”

In man’s system of justice, accused murderers are brought to trial, then prosecutors use every possible tactic to get the accused convicted. On the other side, defense attorneys use every possible tactic to get the jurors to believe their client is innocent, no matter what the evidence says. Jurors are often swayed by the skill of the attorneys rather than by the facts.

However, our all-knowing God accurately judges not only the
actions of people but also the intents of their heart, no matter what excuses they give, no matter how long they seem to get away with their sins. In a later chapter we will learn more about God’s justice in greater depth. But let me ask you: What is your reaction to a God who knows every sin you have ever committed? Do you fear your future is doomed because of your past? He has not left us in a hopeless condition.

God loves you unconditionally in spite of your past sin. He will forgive you when you sincerely confess it to Him. We never have to fear that He will discover something in our past that will change His mind about loving us.

**GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING**
**YOU FACE IN THE PRESENT**

When we face challenges or difficulties, the fact that God knows all things is encouraging. Pastor David Jeremiah tells his congregation:

> Our God knows what we are going through. He knows every minute of our pain and suffering. He not only knows what we feel, He also knows why we feel what we feel. He knows how it happened, and how long it’s going to last and how intense it is. He knows every emotion associated with it; and when you are going through such difficult times, all you can do sometimes is look and say, “Father, you know...you know.”

Whatever your circumstances, whatever your need, God understands and will go through it with you. He knows about your hurt, rejection, and pressures. Your feelings and struggles are not unknown to Him, but He also knows the purposes for your trials. He wants to help you accomplish those purposes and to experience His joy through them. In Him there is hope for a way out and a better tomorrow.

**GOD KNOWS THE FUTURE HE WANTS FOR YOU**

Amy Carmichael was one of the most beloved missionaries during the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. She
served God in India for fifty-five years. Sherwood Eddy wrote: “Amy Wilson Carmichael was the most Christlike character I ever met, and...her life was the most fragrant, the most joyfully sacrificial, that I ever knew.”

When she was growing up in Ireland, she desperately wanted blue eyes. With the faith of a child, she truly believed that God would change her brown eyes to blue if she asked Him. One night, she prayed fervently for blue eyes, then confidently went to bed. When she awoke the next morning, she ran to the mirror. Her same brown eyes were reflected in the glass. How disappointed she was!

Later during her years in India, she became aware of the tragic plight of many girls from poor families who were sold to Hindu temples as prostitutes. Amy began rescuing these young girls and bringing them to her home in Dohnavur to raise them and teach them how much God loves them. She would stain her white skin with coffee grounds and dress in Indian clothing so she could sneak into the temples unnoticed. One day as she dressed, she realized that her disguise worked only because she had brown eyes. Blue eyes would have been a dead giveaway! At that moment, she realized that one of the reasons God said no to her prayer as a child was because He had a plan for her future that involved the lives of hundreds of other precious little ones. God had known her future—even when she was a little girl half a world away.

In Ephesians 2:10, Paul tells us, “He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.” God knew what He had planned for our lives before we were even conceived. He understands our capabilities, opportunities, and life mission. We can trust Him with every moment of our future.

**GOD KNOWS WHICH CHOICES WILL LEAD TO HIS BEST FOR YOU**

As you were sitting in the classroom in high school or college, you probably thought many times, *I don’t see any purpose in all the stuff I’m having to learn.* Or maybe you have a friend who is a
sports trivia addict who can spew out an incredible number of
statistics on players who were active in the ‘40s and ‘50s. What
purpose is his knowledge, except to amaze his friends?

God uses His omniscience for more than categorizing infor-
mation. Peter tells the crowd that Jesus “was handed over to you
by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge.”9 What was the purpose
of this foreknowledge? To establish a way for us to have an inti-
mate relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ, whose
death and resurrection would result in victory over Satan and
eternal death. His purpose was our freedom.

God knew that once you chose to become His child, you would become
“holy and blameless” before Him.10

Unfortunately, sometimes we think we know better than God does and do
not listen to Him. How many times have you gotten impatient with the way your
life is going and wanted to go directly from point A to point C? But it is not
just getting to the destination that is important. God knows that by taking us
through point B, the process of the jour-
ney will change us so we will be the kind
of people we need to be when we arrive at our destination.

In Jeremiah 29:11, God promises, “I know the plans I have for
you,” declares the L ORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm
you, plans to give you hope and a future” (NIV). Following His
plan leads to the best choices for our lives—right now, in the fu-
ture, and for eternity.

**GOD KNOWS YOU NEED WISDOM**

Because God’s Spirit resides within us, we can rely on Him as our
Teacher, Counselor, and Guide into all truth. He is willing to share
His great knowledge with us. God promises:

> If you need wisdom—if you want to know what God
> wants you to do—ask Him, and He will gladly tell you. He
will not resent your asking. But when you ask Him, be sure that you really expect Him to answer, for a doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.\textsuperscript{11}

God is never surprised when we have problems, and He is always with us to help us. But believers often deprive themselves of God’s solutions because they do not take time to study His Word.\textsuperscript{12} Or they may know the Word but not want to obey it or meet the conditions of God’s promises. Thus they do not receive full benefit from God’s omniscience.

Solomon writes, “Trust in the \textsc{LORD} with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will direct your paths.”\textsuperscript{13} But God’s help does not guarantee us a life free of trials and tribulations. In fact, James 1:2–4 and Romans 5:3,4 inform us that God uses our adversity, heartache, testings, and persecutions to bless us.

Trusting God does not eliminate temptation either. Remember how we read earlier, “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”\textsuperscript{14} We sometimes wish we knew what that way out would be. Yet when we accept the fact that the God who knows the end from the beginning is providing the way out, we can relax. He has the power to make us victorious.

God knows all about you and loves you unconditionally. I encourage you—yes, I plead with you—to open your heart to Him and determine to walk with Him regardless of the cost. Remind yourself every day of the truth of our all-knowing God. You will never again feel the same way about your daily personal fellowship with our wonderful God.

In the next chapter, we will put all of God’s attributes of ability (omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience) together to discover another characteristic that sets Him far above anything or anyone else—His sovereignty. This attribute is one that gives us complete hope for the future.
WRITE IT ON YOUR HEART—Commit the following statement and verses to memory. Then as you encounter situations during this week where you need God’s wisdom, claim these promises by faith.

- Because God knows everything, I can go to Him with all my questions and concerns.
- James 1:5,6—“If you need wisdom—if you want to know what God wants you to do—ask Him, and He will gladly tell you. He will not resent your asking. But when you ask Him, be sure that you really expect Him to answer, for a doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.”
- Psalm 147:5—“How great is our Lord! His power is absolute! His understanding is beyond comprehension!”

COUNT ON GOD—It is often difficult to trust other people. They can be wishy-washy or simply forget to do something they have promised. But God never forgets! Spend time in God’s Word gathering His many promises. Choose one that applies to a situation you are facing right now and trust Him to fulfill it.

OBEY GOD—God not only knows the past, present, and future, He knows what is best for you. Is there something you have been reluctant to do? Decide today to do everything God’s way and obey Him in the areas you turned over to Him.