



God's Omniscience

Omniscience is defined as perfect, eternal, and simultaneous knowledge of all that is knowable about all creatures and the universe including both the actual and the possible. In eternity past, God knew every thought, motivation, decision, and action of every creature. God's omniscience also includes all that could have been involved in every possible situation where the individual action, decision or thought could have been different.

God's omniscience does not affect free will in any way. God is merely aware of what all creatures will think and do before they do it. Every minute detail of both angelic and human history was completely, perfectly, and simultaneously known by God in eternity past.

God is all knowledge. So many passages about the omniscience of God are in Job, because while Job was griping and complaining, it was brought to his attention that God knew his problems. God was aware of Job's situation and God was not indifferent to him. Job 31:4; Job 34:21; Job 37:16; Job 42:2.

""Does He not see my ways And number all my steps?" (Job 31:4, NASB)

""For His eyes are upon the ways of a man, And He sees all his steps. "There is no darkness or deep shadow Where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves." (Job 34:21-22, NASB)

""Do you know about the layers of the thick clouds, The wonders of one perfect in knowledge," (Job 37:16, NASB)

""I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted." (Job 42:2, NASB)

God's omniscience is unlimited. Jer. 16:17; Ezek. 11:5; Matt. 10:29-31; 1 Sam. 2:3; Psalms 139:1-6; Psalms 147:4-5; Col. 2:2-3.

""For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity concealed from My eyes." (Jeremiah 16:17, NASB)

"Then the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and He said to me, "Say, 'Thus says the LORD, "So you think, house of Israel, for I know your thoughts." (Ezekiel 11:5, NASB)

"He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them. Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite." (Psalms 147:4-5, NASB)

"that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Colossians 2:2-3, NASB)

God is infinite wisdom and understanding. Prov. 3:19-20; Jer. 17:10; Jer. 51:15; Matt. 6:8; Rom. 8:27; Isaiah 40:13-14; Nahum 1:7; Rom. 11:33; 1 John 3:19-20.

""I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds." (Jeremiah 17:10, NASB)

" "So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. " (Matthew 6:8, NASB)

"and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the



saints according to the will of God." (Romans 8:27, NASB)

"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!" (Romans 11:33, NASB)

God's Self-Knowledge

God's self-knowledge relates to the other members of the Trinity. Each member of the Trinity has perfect knowledge of Himself and all His attributes of deity and how they function in relation to Himself and the other members of the Trinity. Each member of the Trinity knew simultaneously in eternity past all that is knowable about the other two members of the Trinity. This infinite knowledge is because each has identical absolute and perfect attributes. For example, God the Father knows everything about Himself as well as God the Son (Jesus Christ in Hypostatic Union) and God the Holy Spirit.

Since God is a person, He possesses both self-consciousness and self-determination in relation to His self-knowledge. Therefore, God acts in compatibility with His absolute will, knowledge, and perfection. God knows Himself to be beyond comparison with any created being.

God's Omniscience Related To Time

God's omniscience is independent of the passing of time. God invented time for His created beings. Time has nothing to do with God's knowledge. Because God knew all the knowable in eternity past, the future is as clear to Him as is the past.

God has always known everything. To Him, what we perceive as the unknown future is just as well known to God as is the past. We as created beings have to learn things as we live our lives. God does not. God has never had to learn anything. He has always known everything. God's omniscience always existed in eternity past. There never was a time when He didn't know all that could be known. Therefore, there is no limitation to the knowledge of infinite and eternal God.

Since God possesses self-consciousness, self-determination, and absolute and simultaneous knowledge of all things, He is absolutely perfect in His knowledge. God's knowledge is never irrational. This is in contrast to many people who have knowledge about a lot of things, but are irrational, theoretical, and speculative. God's knowledge was absolute, objective, and simultaneous in eternity past and will remain so throughout the eternal future.

Every minute detail of both angelic and human history is completely, perfectly, and simultaneously known. He also understood how every detail would relate and interact with other creatures. Therefore, it is in God's mind at all times. He doesn't have to remember anything or learn anything.

God knew everything about you that is knowable, every thought you've ever had, your every decision, motive, and action from eternity past. This is also true for the billions of His created angels and human beings. Both cause and effect, actual and possible, reality and potential have always been known by Him. Such a knowledge transcends human comprehension. To know it all simultaneously before time began, in eternity past actually is beyond our comprehension. We must accept this by faith.

God's Omniscience Related To His Other Attributes

God's omniscience is totally compatible with all of His perfect and absolute attributes. God's knowledge cannot be more or less than it is. Being absolute, God can never have greater knowledge. God's knowledge is an absolute pinnacle of all that can be known. His knowledge of Himself cannot be more or less than it is today, in eternity past, or in eternity future.



God is immutable. He cannot ever change because He is perfect and absolute. Therefore, His knowledge of Himself and of His creation cannot change. Therefore, His knowledge is as unalterable as He is. This means that God cannot change or be inaccurate in His knowledge. 1 Cor. 2:16.

"For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ." (1 Corinthians 2:16, NASB)

Because God is immutable. He has never changed and His knowledge has never changed. His attributes have never changed. God is aware of all the changes in creatures. God's knowledge is never complicated by ignorance, absurdities, or emotional reaction.

God is eternal. God has always existed. This means that His knowledge is also eternal and thus not related to the passing of time. God's word endures for eternity. God's knowledge of Himself precedes both time and is not limited to space. Therefore, His knowledge of Himself is not subject to time and space. God will not know more about Himself as time passes. 1 Peter 1: 23-25.

"for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. For, "ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF, BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER." And this is the word which was preached to you." (1 Peter 1:23-25, NASB)

God is infinite. Therefore, God's knowledge is without boundary or limitation in the universe. God exists beyond the created universe as well everywhere simultaneously within the universe. Therefore, God's knowledge is infinite and perfect and not limited to the universe which He created.

God is sovereign. Therefore, His knowledge is superior to all other knowledge of created beings. God is in absolute control of everything at all times – except for the free will of mankind. God never had to learn anything. There never was a time when He did not know all that can be known.

God is absolute truth. He cannot lie or deceive about what He knows. If He deceived anyone about anything, He would cease to be perfect and absolute truth.

God's knowledge precedes both time and His creation of the universe. In the eternal and immeasurable past, God had total, absolute, and complete knowledge about everything that would ever be.

The omniscience of God knows all that would have been involved in every situation where a person's decisions and actions might have been different from what they actually were. This means that God's omniscience and foreknowledge are related to the His divine decrees.

God's Foreknowledge

God's foreknowledge is a subset of His omniscience and is regarding believers only. God's omniscience knew in eternity past all the knowable. This included all actions, decisions, motivations, and thoughts of all creatures. His foreknowledge includes only the reality (what has or will happen) of believers' actions, decisions, motivations, and thoughts. All of God's foreknowledge is in God's Divine Decrees. All that we have done or will do in our lives was known by God as reality before anything existed in eternity past.

God has always known from eternity past every believer's thoughts, motives, decisions, and actions. There never was a time in all of eternity past when God did not know everything about you. He always knew every thought you would ever have, every motive that would be formed from those thoughts, every decision you would make from your thoughts or lack of thoughtfulness, and every action you will



ever complete.

The foreknowledge of God makes nothing certain, but merely acknowledges what is certain. This is the content of the Decrees. Foreknowledge is a means of relating us to the plan of God as an individual since eternity past. Isaiah 41:26; Isaiah 42:9; Isaiah 43:9; Isaiah 46:10; Acts 2:23; 1 Peter 1:2.

"Who has declared this from the beginning, that we might know? Or from former times, that we may say, 'He is right!'"? Surely there was no one who declared, Surely there was no one who proclaimed, Surely there was no one who heard your words." (Isaiah 41:26, NASB)

""Behold, the former things have come to pass, Now I declare new things; Before they spring forth I proclaim them to you."" (Isaiah 42:9, NASB)

"All the nations have gathered together So that the peoples may be assembled. Who among them can declare this And proclaim to us the former things? Let them present their witnesses that they may be justified, Or let them hear and say, 'It is true.'"" (Isaiah 43:9, NASB)

"Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';" (Isaiah 46:10, NASB)

"this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death." (Acts 2:23, NASB)

"according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure." (1 Peter 1:2, NASB)

This gives us a sense of security. You are never lost or forgotten by God. You are always in God's mind. This application keeps you from self-pity. God foreknows all things about us as certainly future because He has decreed them from His omniscience.

As God, the Lord Jesus Christ knew all things and all men. Matt. 9:4; John 2:24-25; John 19:28; John 21:17.

"And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, 'Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?' " (Matthew 9:4, NASB)

"But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man." (John 2:24-25, NASB)

"After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, 'I am thirsty.' " " (John 19:28, NASB)

"He said to him the third time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love Me?' Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, 'Do you love Me?' And he said to Him, 'Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend My sheep.' " (John 21:17, NASB)

God's Omniscience and The Free Will of Man

God invented the free will of man. Through His omniscience, He knew eternally and simultaneously how it would function in human history. The major principle here is that in human history, the sovereignty of God and the free will of man coexist by divine decree.



You must understand that God's perfect knowledge of all of mankind's decisions has nothing to do with the actual function of mankind's free will. God knew in eternity past what we would think, say and do and what our motives would be in every possible situation.

In eternity past, the sovereignty of God the Father gave every Church Age believer election and predestination. God the Father also knew what your every thought, motive, decision, and action would be. God does not and never will coerce any actions of the human race. We are guaranteed our free will from God Himself.

If you are believer in Jesus Christ, you have a destiny. Predestination is a part of that destiny. Only God knows what you will think, say, or do. He didn't tell anyone. Not even you. Therefore, your decisions determine your life's outcome. God isn't going to perform miracles to keep you on track or in line. He will allow you to live your life as you wish, even though He may not approve of what you do. Predestination is what God provides so that you can fulfill His plan for your life and be given the blessings He has promised.

Remember that it is God's will that every member of the human race come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior. The fact that millions of people do not believe in Jesus Christ indicates that the sovereignty of God and the free will of man coexist by divine decree. This indicates that God does not in any way coerce human volition.

God manufactured free will for both angelic and human creatures. God knew simultaneously and eternally how every human being would function in history, just as He knew how every angelic creature would function in prehistoric times. God knows whether you will take advantage of all that He has provided. He has left it up to you. You can decide freely to learn Bible doctrine on a daily basis and advance to spiritual maturity in your life. Conversely, you can freely decide to reject Bible doctrine and all that God has planned for you. Either way, you will spend eternity with God. The difference will be the blessings you gained in life and for eternity. The more blessings that God can convey, the more He is glorified because it is all provided by God's grace.

The Five Elective Decrees

The five elective decrees from the Divine Decrees are known theologically as Modified Infralapsarianism. The first elective decree was the decree of God to create mankind. God's purpose for this was to resolve the prehistoric Angelic Conflict. When members of the human race accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior by faith alone in Christ alone, the angelic conflict was resolved. Heb. 2:10.

"For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings." (Hebrews 2:10, NASB)

The second elective decree was the decree of God to permit the fall of mankind as an extension of the Angelic Conflict. The third elective decree was the decree of God to provide eternal salvation for all mankind under unlimited atonement. This occurred when all personal sins from the human race (past, present, and future) were imputed to the humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ as our substitute and were judged by God the Father while He was still alive on the Cross. 2 Cor. 5:14-15; 2 Cor. 5:19; 1 Tim. 2:6; 1 Tim. 4:10; Titus 2:11; Heb. 2:9; 2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 2:2.

"For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf." (2 Corinthians 5:14-15, NASB)



"who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time." (1 Timothy 2:6, NASB)

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men," (Titus 2:11, NASB)

"But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone." (Hebrews 2:9, NASB)

"and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world." (1 John 2:2, NASB)

The fourth elective decree was for God the Father, in eternity past, to deposit into an account for every believer, all of the blessings that could possibly be conveyed to each Church Age believer if they were to follow God's plan for their lives in every way. Knowledge that these blessings exist for every believer provides motivation for each believer and the means of glorifying God. Eph. 1:3.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ," (Ephesians 1:3, NASB)

As each believer lives his or her life more and more according to God's plan, Jesus Christ distributes these blessings to them in life as they gain spiritual capacity to handle these blessings. Jesus Christ will also distribute those blessings meant for our eternal life at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Conveying these eternal blessings also glorifies God.

The fifth elective decree was the simultaneous decrees of election and predestination. Election is the expression of the will of God for you. Election provides equal privilege by making every Church Age believer a royal priest who are then able to represent themselves before God without any intermediary as was required in the Old Testament. The Levitical Priesthood served this function. Equal opportunity for all Church Age believers is provided by God providing everything we need to live our lives on this earth with His grace resources for the spiritual life. Eph. 1:4-5.

"just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will," (Ephesians 1:4-5, NASB)

Predestination is the provision of the will of God for you. Equal privilege is provided by placing every Church Age believer into union with Christ at the moment of salvation. Equal opportunity is provided to each believer by being allowed to use the unique spiritual life for the Church Age. This spiritual life was used by Jesus Christ during His life on earth. It is provided by God to all Church Age believers and is empowered by the Holy Spirit. This is the only means provided by God for spiritual advance and learning God's purpose and plan for our lives.

Election and predestination provide both motivation and the means of living our lives as unto the Lord and thereby living according to God's plan with resultant distribution of the blessings God stored away in eternity past for each one of us.

Application of God's Omniscience To Believers

God knows what we need and what our desires will be. He knew them in eternity past. God's knowledge is infinitely superior to the greatest genius of the angels or mankind. He knows our decisions. He knows our thoughts. Job 23:10; John 21:17.

""But He knows the way I take; When He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold." (Job 23:10, NASB)



"He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep. " (John 21:17, NASB)

God knows our minds and He knows who is a believer and who is not. God also knows our needs at all times. God's grace provision is provided to us to live the spiritual life using His grace resources and blessings conveyed as we mature spiritually. 2 Tim. 2:19; Matt. 6:31-33; James 1:5.

"Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."" (2 Timothy 2:19, NASB)

" "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. " (Matthew 6:31-33, NASB)

"But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him." (James 1:5, NASB)

Knowledge is imparted to the believer through the Word of God by the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor. 2:16; Heb. 4:12-13; 1 Cor. 2:9-12; 2 Tim. 2:15; James 3:17.

"For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ." (1 Corinthians 2:16, NASB)

"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." (Hebrews 4:12-13, NASB)

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15, NASB)

"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy." (James 3:17, NASB)

God, in His omniscience, works all things together for good to those who love Him. Only God, knowing all things, can work all things together for good. Rom. 8:28.

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28, NASB)

God is infinite wisdom and understanding. We cannot say that no one understands us because God understands us perfectly at all times. He even understand us better than we do. 1 Sam. 16:7; Psalms 44:21; Psalms 147:5; Prov. 5:21; Isaiah 40:13-14; Jer.17:10; Nahum 1:7; Rom. 8:27; Rom. 11:33.

"But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."" (1 Samuel 16:7, NASB)

"Would not God find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart." (Psalms 44:21, NASB)

"Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite." (Psalms 147:5, NASB)



"For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He watches all his paths." (Proverbs 5:21, NASB)

"Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has informed Him? With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge And informed Him of the way of understanding?" (Isaiah 40:13-14, NASB)

"The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him." (Nahum 1:7, NASB)

The verses above relate God's infinite nature to His perfect and absolute knowledge. This means that there never was a time when God didn't know everything that is knowable about every creature and every natural phenomena. We all need to understand that there never was a time and never will be a time when God did not know your every thought, motive, decision, or action. He knew them all billions and billions of years ago in eternity past. He even knew of the ridiculous things you would do and why. He also knew all of the even more ridiculous things you thought of doing, but decided not to do.

God knew all your faults and sins, yet He still gave you your life with your free will to decide as you would. If He did this, then He must have a plan for your life. His plan for you is for you to learn and apply all that you can of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ via the same spiritual life that Jesus Christ used while on the earth. In order to learn, you must be tested. While under testing from God, you must always keep His grace provision in mind and your eternal future with Him in mind. Remember, He always knew everything about you and what you would need and when. If your life is unfolding contrary to your plan or expectations, remember that God's plan for your life is the best one possible. Maybe you should pursue in earnest His plan for you.

Perceptions of Contradictions in God's Plan

Contradictions cannot exist in God's plan because it is perfect. Since God is perfect, a perfect God can only design a perfect plan. All contradictions in the experience of the believer are contrary to God's plan. Therefore, when you function within God's plan by being filled with the Holy Spirit, contradictions do not exist. When you reject God's plan and are trying your own plan and solutions, you are negative toward Bible doctrine. Here is when contradictions exist in your experience, but these contradictions are not a part of God's plan.

Once you see a contradiction in your life between God's plan for your life and your experience, then you need to use 1 John 1:9 to confess known sins in your life and trusting that God will restore you to fellowship. Then, by applying the doctrine in your soul and claiming God's promises, you can now make a decision to eliminate that contradiction.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9, NASB)

In grace, perfect God has provided a perfect plan for imperfect persons. All of us as believers continue to sin after salvation. 1 John 1:5-10.

"This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we



make Him a liar and His word is not in us." (1 John 1:5-10, NASB)

Contradictions exist in the experience of believers due to our wrong decisions made apart from Bible doctrine. Our ignorance of Bible doctrine in our souls means we are ignorant of God's plan for our lives. Ignorance of God's word means you will not be able to apply the Bible doctrine in your souls to deal with life's issues and problems.

When we sin, we lose the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. By our act of volition, we enter into such things as arrogance, jealousy, bitterness, hatred, self-pity, revenge motivation, slander, gossip, maligning, judging, self-righteousness, and legalism. All these result in contradictions due to wrong decisions from a position of spiritual weakness. Negative believers are negative toward doctrine and therefore are left to their own devices, which are most often disastrous. Moreover, we come under God's discipline designed to get us to realize we are out of His plan and to get us to confess known sins in our lives.

Some believers remain out of fellowship for the majority of their time on this earth. They consistently contradict God's plan for them in their experience. On the other hand, some believers remain in fellowship by always using 1 John 1:9 to return to fellowship. These believers live their lives closer to what God had planned for them and will have a considerable impact on those around them and even on the nation. God's blessing to them will overflow to those around them to such an extent that a single mature believer can have a great impact on their families, friends, the company where they work, their community, state and even their nation.

Remember that equal privilege and equal opportunity provide a basis for having no contradictions in your experience. Under election and predestination, God provides equal privilege and equal opportunity for all Church Age believers to fulfill His plan.