

So a second implication of God's omnipresence is that we need to ask God to manifest His omnipresent presence in our midst.

- (3) A third implication of God's omnipresence is that God is always with each one of us personally.

To the believer, this realization holds great comfort. We need never try to go somewhere to find God, for He is always here. As the godly monk in Aldous Huxley's *The Devils of Loudun*, said to the repentant profligate priest Urbain Grandier, who was waiting in a cell to be burned alive, "God is here and Christ is now."

As believers we can pray and know that God is there with us, whether we are driving a car, flying in an airplane, riding a bus or train, or kneeling in our bedroom. God is always just a prayer away in this sense.

As we do our work in the world, we can know that God sees everything we do (no matter how important or how menial), whether we do it well or do it shoddily, and whether we do it for Him or for ourselves or someone else. As we live in our homes, we can know that God sees everything that goes on, and that all that happens is open to His eyes.

As we live our lives, we can live them in His power and for His purposes and glory, knowing that the resources we need to do this are readily available, because He is with us.

For the nonbeliever, this truth is not comfortable at all! God knows every thought and desire, sees every action, and hears every word of the nonbeliever, not from a distance, but from within! God's Spirit is spatially present in the nonbeliever, and convicts and pursues him; and sometimes the nonbeliever is converted and becomes a believer.

This is expressed beautifully in Francis Thompson's poem, "The Hound of Heaven":

I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;
I fled Him, down the arches of the years;
I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways
 Of my own mind; and in the mist of tears
I hid from Him, and under running laughter.
 Up vistaed hopes I sped;
 And shot, precipitated,
Down Titanic glooms of chasmed fears,
 From those strong Feet that followed, followed
 after.
 But with unhurrying chase,
 And unperturbed pace,
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,
 They beat -- and a Voice bear
 More instant than the Feet --
"All things betray thee, who betrayest Me."