

Psalm 139: 1, 23

1 You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

#### Omniscient, Omnipotent, Omnipresent

**Omniscient = all-knowing** 

**Omnipotent = all-powerful** 

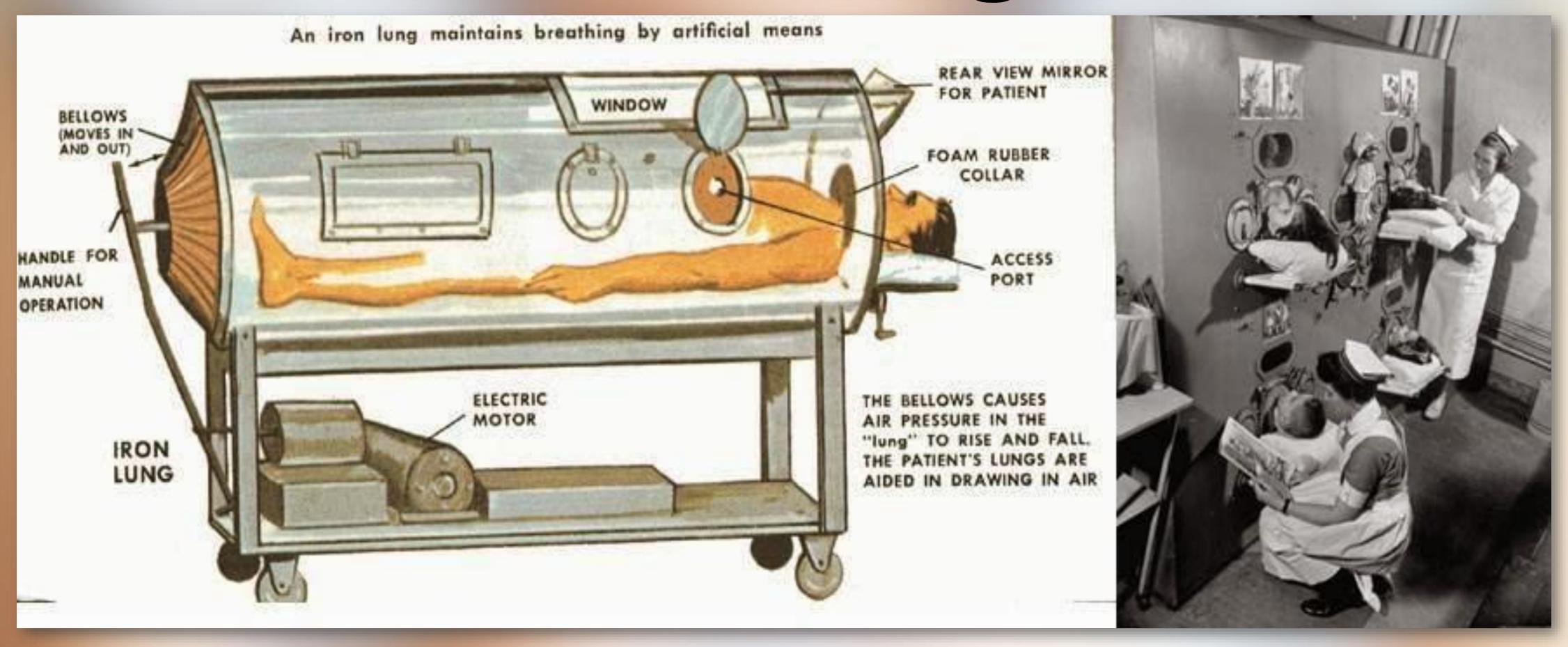
Omnipresent = all-present (everywhere present at the same time)

## Transcendence, Immanence

Transcendence = God is above and beyond us.

Immanence = God is near and present.

# Iron Lung



#### Arnold Beisser

I rarely had physical contact with non-hospital people; they did not touch me; they did not shake my hand; they did not reach out in any physical way. They were probably afraid that they might hurt me or catch what I had or perhaps they feared that they might do something wrong and appear foolish. I was unable to reach out myself so there remained a physical gulf between me and others in the world. It was lonely, and I longed to be touched.

## Dr. James Lynch

Simply put, there is a biological basis for our need to form human relationships. If we fail to fulfill that need, our health is in peril.

# Intimacy = Into-Me-See



#### He Knows You

1 You have searched me, Lord, 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, Lord, know it completely. 5 You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

### Searched By The All-Knowing God

The Hebrew word for know is used six times here in Psalm 139. And if you add the noun "knowledge" in v. 6, there are seven occurrences of this Hebrew root "to know." This Hebrew word is "yada"

# Yada

Yada = intimate knowledge | covenant loyalty

1 You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

1 You have <u>searched</u> me, Lord, 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.

3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. You are thoroughly acquainted with me.

## Thomas Nagel

"I speak from experience, being strongly subject to this fear myself: I want atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. It isn't just that I don't believe in God and, naturally, hope that I'm right in my belief. It's that I hope there is no God! I don't want there to be a God; I don't want the universe to be like that. My guess is that this cosmic authority problem is not a rare condition and that it is responsible for much of the scientism and reductionism of our time. One of the tendencies it supports is the ludicrous overuse of evolutionary biology to explain everything about human life, including everything about the human mind.... This is a somewhat ridiculous situation .... [I]t is just as irrational to be influenced in one's beliefs by the hope that God does not exist as by the hope that God does exist."

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. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," 12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

#### Hiding From The All-Present God

7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

- How long have we been hiding?
- What does hiding look like?
- Why do we hide?
- Who are we hiding from?

8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

Jonah

9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

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,

Adown 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 beat

More instant than the Feet -

"All things betray thee, who betrayed Me."

#### Psalm 139:13-18

13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. 17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! 18 Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you.

#### Loved By An All-Concerned God

17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!

#### Loved By An All-Concerned God

17 How amazing (precious) are your thoughts concerning me.

## Psalm 139:13, 15

13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,

# The Loving Designer



#### Hebrews 4:14-16

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

#### Hebrews 13:5-6

5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." 6 So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"

#### Psalm 139:19-22

19 O God, if only you would destroy the wicked! Get out of my life, you murderers! 20 They blaspheme you; your enemies misuse your name. 21 O Lord, shouldn't I hate those who hate you? Shouldn't I despise those who oppose you? 22 Yes, I hate them with total hatred, for your enemies are my enemies.

## Welcoming The All-Loving God

23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

