IS GOD OMNISCIENT – GOD AND ABRAHAM

DOES GOD KNOW ALL THINGS PRESENT AND INTO THE FUTURE?

* The words of God in Genesis 22.12 are spoken after Abraham was sacrificing his Son Isaac on the altar.

1. Abraham raised the knife by which he would have slain Isaac, and that is when God told Abraham to stop.
2. God said, “…**for now I know** that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”
3. Does this mean that God did not know for sure what Abraham would do until He saw the raised knife?
4. Does it also mean that God didn’t know whether Abraham feared Him as the verse states? (“now I know”)

* [1 Chronicles 28.9](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Chron.%2028.9) says, “…for the Lord searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts…”

1. Since God knows even the intent of the heart, then it’s reasonable to conclude that He knew what the intent of Abraham’s heart was during the three-day journey to the place of sacrifice.
2. As well as whether Abraham feared Him.
3. So - IF God would have known that Abraham feared Him –
4. Then the test was unnecessary to establish this as fact as far as God’s knowledge of Abraham was concerned.

* We might also note that Genesis 22.5 says, “And Abraham said to his young men, ‘Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go yonder; and we will worship and return to you.'”
* In other words - Abraham was ready to sacrifice his son, and he expected the Lord to resurrect Isaac from the grave
* This is what it says in Hebrews 11.19, “He considered that God is able to raise men even from the dead; from which he also received him back as a type.”
* So – did God not know any of this about Abraham?
* Did God not know that Abraham completely trusted in Him?
* On the other hand - IF God knew this about Abraham – why then did He still need to test Abraham?
* **So - what does all of this mean?**
* Since it’s not consistent with scripture and logic to say that God did not know what was in Abraham’s heart and that God did not know what Abraham would do, we can conclude that God was speaking to Abraham in terms that Abraham was familiar with.
* For Abraham’s benefit.
* That God recognized and acknowledged to Abraham (for Abraham’s benefit) that He (i.e., God) was fully aware of Abraham’s faith and trust in Him.
* This kind of thing is not at all foreign to scripture.
* In Genesis 3.9, after Adam’s sin, God calls to Adam and asks, “Where are you?”
* Are we to say that God didn’t know where Adam was in the garden?  Of course not.
* When God said to Adam, “Where art thou?”

1. It wasn’t that Adam had been successful in hiding himself from God in the Garden –
2. In all likelihood it appears as though God was attempting to bring Adam to a confession of his sin.
3. When Adam said that he had hidden himself through fear of his nakedness –
4. Adam was attempting to hide from God because He was ashamed and that’s why he was hiding –
5. Thinking he could possibly hide from God.
6. And so Adam sought to hide the sin behind its consequences, his disobedience behind the feeling of shame;

* God makes statements quite often that are designed to reveal to **us** a truth that needs to be presented.
* In fact, God very often asks questions – that He already knows the answer to.
* In Adam’s case, the “where” was dealing with a spiritual condition, not a physical location.
* In Abraham’s case, God was simply relating to Abraham in terms consistent with what Abraham would understand, particularly**after** the actual event with Isaac on the altar.