

Search Me, O God, and Know My Heart

Before I begin I would like to say that this is one of the hardest sermons I have ever tried to do. Why? Because it asks God to show me what is wrong with me.

In Psalms 139: 23 – 24 David prays this:

Psa 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

Psa 139:24 And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

This Prayer ends a discourse that starts with this:

Psa 139:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known *me*.

Psa 139:2 Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

Psa 139:3 Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted *with* all my ways.

Psa 139:4 For *there is* not a word in my tongue, *but*, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.

Psa 139:5 Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.

Psa 139:6 *Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot *attain* unto it.

Psa 139:7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

Psa 139:8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou *art* there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou *art there*.

Psa 139:9 *If* I take the wings of the morning, *and* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

Psa 139:10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

David states in verses 1-10 that God already knows who he is, that no matter where he goes God is there. It stands to reason that God already knows who David is in the deepest darkest part of his heart and soul. So why would David end with this prayer?

David knew that he didn't know everything and that there were things in his life that may not have been right. He knew that the only way he could be upright in God's eyes was for God to show him what was wrong with him.

So why don't we pray this way today?

It's pretty simple actually, no one wants to be told that they are wrong or that there is something wrong in their lives. We simply like to believe that we are doing what's right and that God is going to bless us for it.

Change is a problem for us.

I want you to realize something before you say Jim you are wrong and pray this prayer just to prove me wrong.

This prayer should not be taken lightly, this prayer should not be prayed unless you are ready to give 100% of your life to God.

This prayer requires 100% commitment to God and 100% willingness to change what God shows you.

Remember what God says in Jeremiah:

Jer 17:10 I am the LORD who searches the heart, who tests the inner depths to give to each person according to what he deserves, according to the fruit of his deeds. (ISV)

So why should I pray this Prayer?

There are two types of sin in our lives.

- 1) Those that we know are sins, such as murder, adultery, lying, /cheating ect....
- 2) Those that we don't know, these are called sins of ignorance. These sins could be that we haven't studied the word to that point that we know that this is a sin, or maybe we were taught wrong, there are numerous possibilities as to why we may be ignorant of these things.

That's why David prayed this prayer, He knew that there were these things that were holding him back from that perfect relationship with God and he wanted more.

We pray this prayer to have God show us the things that are holding us back from a closer walk with Him. But once shown we must act upon what we know.

James tells us why:

Jas 4:17 Therefore to him who knows to do good, and does not do it, to him it is sin.

The Geneva study Bible puts it this way:

[Geneva Study Bible](#)

{9} Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.

(9) The conclusion of all the former treatise. The knowledge of the will of God does not only not at all profit, unless the life be answerable unto it, but also makes the sins far more grievous.

David writes it this way in the 119th Psalm:

Psa 119:1 ALEPH. Blessed *are* the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.

Psa 119:2 Blessed *are* they that keep his

testimonies, *and that* seek him with the whole heart.

Psa 119:3 They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.

Psa 119:4 Thou hast commanded *us* to keep thy precepts diligently.

Psa 119:5 O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!

Psa 119:6 Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.

Psa 119:7 I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.

Psa 119:8 I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly.

Psa 119:9 BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word.

Psa 119:10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

Psa 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psa 119:12 Blessed *art* thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.

Here we have the whole story, if we want to have that perfect walk with God this is the prayer we need to pray. However this prayer should not be taken lightly. It requires much on our part 100% commitment to God and to change that He shows us.

Remember God sacrificed all that we might live and only want that perfect upright relationship that we can only give with truth and Love.