

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

We read today's verse, which is a very familiar one to most of us, as we have even prayed a portion of this Psalm, "**Search me, O God, and know my heart.**" Which is a good thing to pray for. But if you think about it, when do we pray that?

When we are watching that "R" rated movie?

When we are listening to that music, that draws us to have sinful thoughts?

When we yell at, and flip off that person who cut us off on the freeway?

No, we pray that when we are feeling good about ourselves. But have you ever thought, "*What if God really answered my prayer for that?*" What if He looked into our heart and then showed us all at once, all of our wicked ways that are in us? (*see if there is any wicked way in me*) I think that we would be floored and probably die right then and there, because we would be so disgusted with ourselves, that we would have a heart attack.

So, does that mean we should not pray for that? No, not at all. King David knew that he was imperfect and a sinful man, and he wanted to go beyond those sins he knew about and wanted a deeper cleansing of his heart. And we too should strive for that as well.

But then there are times when we pray or think about this verse incorrectly as we pray or think "**Search 'him or her,' O God, and know 'their' heart.**" Or we are saying in a sense, "*God, you don't need to search his or her heart, I'll do it for You.*" (Yes, you can say OUCH here)

God even said:

† **Jeremiah 17:10 (MSG)** "*But I, GOD, search the heart and examine the mind. I get to the heart of the human. I get to the root of things. I treat them as they really are, not as they pretend to be.*"

I just read that God said "I" (referring to Himself) four times in this verse. Which tells us that He does not need us to search out and examine the hearts of others for Him. Instead, we need to search our own heart "**and see if there is any wicked way in**" ourselves. How do we do that? Simply by looking into the word of God, reading His word, and praying, "*Lord show me each day as I read your word, something I need to work on today that is not pleasing to You.*"

We know we are to be fruit inspectors, which is not being a judge of the tree that produces the fruit. Have you ever thought of that? When a farmer goes and takes apples from a tree, he looks at the fruit to determine how good or bad the tree is producing the fruit. He does not go up to the tree and think, "*You don't look like a good tree; therefore, I already know your fruit is bad.*" No, because he would be judging based upon the appearance of the tree and not the fruit that it's producing. And even though it may not be the best-looking tree, but even seems to be the worst

looking tree, he could be rejecting some of the best fruit his orchard ever produced, because he judged the appearance of the tree and not the fruit that the tree was producing. So, checkout the fruit people are producing, but let God check out their heart.

† **Colossians 1:10 (NLT2)** *Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.*

† **Luke 6:43-45** *For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.*