

Search Me, O God

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Psalm 139:1 (NKJV) “O LORD, You have searched me and known me.”

The LORD searches us and reveals what is on the inside. Some will say, “Just follow your heart.” Is this wise advice? Others justify their disobedience with, “Well, the LORD knows my heart.” While it is true that the LORD knows our heart, it is equally true that we do not know our heart. The LORD said through the prophet Jeremiah, *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.”*¹ The truth is that our own heart is deceitful and will lead us astray. He searches out those who belong to Him to reveal the hidden reasonings and desires that motivate them on the inside.

The LORD knows everything about us. David declares, *“You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.”* (Psalm 139:2-4) The LORD is omniscient; He is “all knowing”. He is aware of our every movement. He knows what we are thinking. He knows the habits or patterns of our walk, of our work, and of our rest. He knows why we do what we do. He even knows what we are going to say before we say it!

The LORD is actively watching over us. David declares, *“You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it.”* (Psalm 139:5-6) The LORD has set a boundary around us that encloses us within His care and protects from intruders. These boundaries define His purpose for our lives. In response to this kind of love David responds with, *“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it.”* (Psalm 139:6)

The LORD is with us wherever we go. David declares, *“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall fall on me,’ even the night shall be light about me; indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, but the night shines as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to You.”* (Psalm 139:7-12) The LORD is omnipresent; He is in everyplace at the same time. We cannot escape from His Spirit. We cannot flee from His presence. He is with us if we ascend into heaven or if we descend into hell. If we travel to the farthest parts of the globe, He is with us. If we seek to dwell in the depths of the sea. Remember Jonah! Not even the darkness can hide us from Him.

The LORD is intimately in love with us. David declares, *“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them. How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with You.”* (Psalm 139:13-18) The LORD intricately made us in our mother’s womb. We were not an accident of nature. David declares that we are fearfully and wonderfully made! Even in the womb we were not hidden from Him. He saw our substance being yet unformed; He designed our DNA strand that determined everything about our physical bodies. He has all the days of our earthly life written in our own unique book. Our days were written there before there was one of them! We are not insignificant in His sight. He continually thinks of us. His thoughts are precious thoughts. In fact, His thoughts toward us are so many that they are more than the number of the sand. When we wake up, He is right there with us. He never sleeps or slumbers!

¹ Jeremiah 17:9-10 (NKJV)

From the time He made us, the LORD has desired our complete allegiance. David declared, *“Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men. For they speak against You wickedly; Your enemies take Your name in vain. Do I not hate them, O LORD, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.”* (Psalm 139:19-22) Why does David say that he hates someone with perfect hatred? Isn't any form of hate a sin? Many people mistakenly believe that because God is love that He does not hate. However, to love what is good is to hate what is evil. To love what is right is to hate what is wrong. Even God hates some things. We are told that God loves the world so much that He gave His only Son (John 3:16) and yet He hates the workers of iniquity (Psalm 5:5) God hated Esau but He loved Jacob (Romans 9:13). God's hatred is not indiscriminate. God hates that which destroys the objects of His love. If we love life, then we will hate abortion. If we love holiness, then we will hate unholiness. Holy hatred is a righteous response toward that which seeks to destroy the object of God's love.

David's hatred is not personal in nature. It is not directed toward his own personal enemies. David ruled over the theocratic kingdom of Israel where the LORD was King. The enemies of the LORD took out their hatred on Israel. They sought to wipe out Israel and their God. Thus, David's hatred is directed toward those who hate the LORD, the Author of all goodness. To love good is to hate the enemy of good. To love God is to hate the enemy of God. David's love and faithfulness toward God aligned him against the enemies of God. (James 4:4-5) Although hatred may seem like a strong word, David made himself an ally of God which automatically made him an enemy against God's enemies. David determined to have no alliance or cooperation with the enemies of God. His goal was to see the enemies of God defeated and removed.

The LORD is sanctifying us as His own. David declared, *“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.”* (Psalm 139:23-24) The LORD is our Sanctifier. He is actively working to make us holy until the time that we reflect His own image and likeness. The LORD is searching us, but He wants us to cooperate with Him. Once we understand His love and good will toward us, we should be quick to pray as David did, *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; show me anything inside that is not like Jesus. Test me and let me see where I am anxious because I have not fully trusted in You. Test me and see if I am following any path that does not lead me to You. Show me the right way that I need to go and lead me in the way that leads to everlasting life.”*

Believe in the love that God has for you. Believe that He knows everything about you and loves you still. Believe that He is with you and that you can never hide from Him. He knows where you are and what you have done. He loved you before you were born, He fashioned you in your mother's womb, and has a plan for your life. He is fashioning you into His image and likeness. Therefore, embrace His love and work and say like David did, *“Search me, O God!”*