

Your Heart Psalm 139:1-6

One cannot read Psalm 139 without the realization that God is present with us. He sees and knows everything about us. He searches our hearts and knows us better than we know ourselves. **Psalm 139:2** says, *“You know when I sit down and when I rise up.”* He also knows our thoughts, also in **verse two** he says, *“You know my thoughts even when I’m far away.”* The Lord also knows every word we speak, **Ps. 139:4** says, *“You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord.”*

God encircles us. *“You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head.”* (**Vs. 5**). The fact that you cannot go anywhere that God isn’t already present is a wonderful thought. You also can’t run away from God. **Psalm 139:7-12** says, *“I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down the grave you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, If I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. If I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night – but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you.”*

God is both omniscient – all knowing, and omnipresent-everywhere. *He is not limited by space or time;* and nothing escapes His notice. **Prov. 15:3** says, *“The Lord is watching everywhere, keeping his eyes on both the evil and the good.”* No one can escape the presence of God. And this fact ought to warn us that we must have pure and holy lives. God said in **Lev. 11:44** and in **1 Peter 1:16**, *“You shall be holy, for I am holy.”*

Hebrews 12:14 says, *“Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”* God expects His people to forsake sins and to live holy lives. God will not tolerate being put in second place to our sins. God wants to be first in your heart, in your life, in your thoughts, and in your words. David knew that God will not tolerate wickedness but will one day slay the wicked.

God knew about us even before we were born. Speaking of God, David **in Psalm 139:13-16** said, *“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed in me, when as yet there were none of them.”*

Because God saw every aspect of his life and that sin would displease God the Father, David asked the Father in **verses 23-24**, *“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in*

the way everlasting!” David wanted to please the Father so much that he wanted God to search his heart and life to see if there was any grievous or hurtful way in him. Now, God didn’t need to search to find out – God already knows the hearts of men – David is the one who needed to know, he didn’t want anything to come between God and him. He wanted to get rid of the hurtful way and be led in the everlasting way!

David was saying, “If there is something wrong with me, I want to know it so I can change my ways.” We too need to have our hearts examined. David wanted so badly to stand right in the sight of God that he opened his life up to God’s scrutiny. We might be able to fool others; we might even fool ourselves about our sins; but we can never fool God. David was afraid he was ignorant of a sin or he had blinded himself to a sin that he was committing.

And we must all be concerned about whether we are living in sin and then not recognizing it. Perhaps we are entertaining some wicked thoughts or failing to do our duties as Christians. God’s Word tells us what we must do and what we must not do. They are clearly set out in Scripture, but many live completely oblivious in their own sin. I am reminded of Proverbs 30:20, which says, ***“This is the way of an adulterous woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, and says, ‘I have done no wrong.’”***

Sin is deceitful. People who commit sin don’t like to acknowledge that they could have done such a thing. The more people sin, the more likely they are to excuse themselves of sin. They often re-label sin to soften the sting and make it appear innocent. For instance, a person isn’t greedy; he just “business savvy.” Or a drunk will hardly ever admit that he’s intoxicated; instead he’s “high.” A gossip may never admit that they are backbiting; instead they’re merely being zealous against sin. Many people shape their principles according to their practice rather than shape their practices according to their principles.

Sin is able to deceive us because sin colors our judgment. If I allow a certain lust in my heart to continue, it won’t be long until I find a way to approve of my own actions. For instance, the more we hate somebody, the more inclined we may be to tell ourselves this person is rotten and deserves to be hated. We may even tell ourselves that we are right to hate others. Sin corrupts the heart and makes its thoughts twisted.

This is what the Bible says in Hebrews 3:12-13, ***“Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today,’ that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”*** Now, sin deceives us, and then it blinds us to ourselves, and then it hardens our hearts toward Christ and toward other people. Many who get caught up in sin grow angry at anyone who thinks what they are doing is wrong. And inside they know the truth; they just don’t want to face it.

Proverbs 21:2 says that, *“Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weights the heart.”* You know if you give yourself enough time you can justify almost anything you want to do. But just because you think it is all right, **doesn’t mean that God approves of your sin.** All you have really done is lied to yourself. We cannot always trust our own hearts, the Bible says in **Proverbs 28:26**, *“Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered.”* That is, the wisdom which comes from God. Don’t trust your own thinking as to what is right and wrong; trust the wisdom that comes from God – the Bible.

It is quite amazing – it is easy to see the faults of others, but sometimes quite difficult to see our own glaring faults. Remember the words of Jesus in **Mt. 7:3**? *“Why do you see the speck that is in our brother’s eye, but do not see the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”*

When some people see the errors of others, they can quickly condemn them; but it seems easy for people to excuse themselves for committing the same sin. **Romans 2:1-3** says, *“Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who do such things. Do you suppose, O man – you who judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself – that you will escape the judgment of God?”*

In **2 Cor. 13:5** Paul urges the Corinthian Christians, *“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless indeed you fail to meet the test!”* Let us now ask ourselves some questions that will search our souls. Let us see if there are any grievous or hurtful ways in our lives. Let us see if we pass the test.

Do I believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God? Do I believe He died for my sins and that He was raised up again on the third day? Do I believe the Bible is inspired of God and free from error? Do I believe the Lord Jesus is coming again and will one day judge the world in righteousness according to the things written in the Book and according to our deeds? If we do not have faith in Christ and in the things, he says, we cannot please God at all. If we do not believe these things, we have failed the test.

Do I love God with all my heart, soul, and strength? We might easily say that we love God, but do we love Him completely and freely? Do we put him first in our lives, our decisions, our plans, and our time? Do I pray regularly and fervently? Do I study and meditate on God’s Word? Do I seek God’s kingdom and righteousness first? Do I tell others about Christ? Do I turn to God when I hurt? Am I compassionate toward those

who hurt and toward those who are poor? Have I encouraged anyone lately/ Am I willing to be a bigot towards other races or be prejudiced towards those who are not like me?

Do I let lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, or the pride of life lead me away from God? Do I have pet sins that I keep committing? With what kind of things do I feed my heart? Do I think pure thoughts or do I allow sexual sin to flirt with me? Do I allow my eyes to see things that I shouldn't see or my ears to hear things I shouldn't hear?

Do I allow my heart to indulge in envy or jealousy? Do I fuss with others often? Do I gossip? Am I greedy? Do I support the Lord's church generously? Am I grateful for all the blessings that God gives to me and my family? Do I tell little lies? Am I honest in all my dealings with others? Do I cheat on my taxes?

The grace of God provides forgiveness, yes, and we all desperately need the grace of God. *But God's loving grace leads us to change our ways.* We must never presume on the grace of God. *The grace of God is not a license to continue in sin.* God's gracious gift of Jesus Christ on the cross was not cheap. It deserves to be taken seriously. *So, let's examine our hearts and our lives that the grace God has given us may not be vain.*

In **Psalm 26:2**, David asks God, ***"Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind."*** *Could you ask God to examine you to see what kind of person you are?* Would you want God to look into your heart? And then what would he see? Would you want Him to look into your mind? Would you want Him to know what you are thinking? **Understand this** – *God already knows what's inside of you,* but are you willing to face yourself spiritually, and if there are grievous ways inside of you, are you willing to change? Are you willing to hear what God says and correct the things He points out to you in Scripture?

David could say in **Psalm 26:1**, ***"I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering."*** Is this something that you, this morning could honestly say? In **verse three** David says, ***"For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness. I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites. I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked."*** Is this your heart as well?

As you look into your heart and at your life, you might ask yourself if you have made firm commitment to God. Know this, God has loved you enough to send His Son to die for you. *Have you humbly come to Him?* A person makes a commitment and becomes a Christian when he believes with all his heart that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the loving God. A person who commits to Christ will recognize Jesus as Lord and turn away from every sinful thought or behavior and turn to a life that pleases God; this is repentance. A person who commits his heart to Jesus will confess Him before others and will be baptized in water for the forgiveness of sins (**Acts 2:38**). Have you Obeyed?