

## Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts

Psalms 139:23

<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts;

We must be honest with God because He knows all that there is to know.

King David, it is said, was asking God to examine him not due to error but for an assessment.

We can come to God and do both - ask Him for an assessment based on our conduct, good or bad. It will do us good since He is God and we want His insights into our life to know whether we are on the course He has chosen for us. We must be in complete humility before our God and King.

Psalms 139:24

<sup>24</sup> And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

ASV

*King David*

Ask Him to reveal what is not right. We may be blind to our very own conduct as we are so many times. Even those of us who have a good working knowledge of the Bible, we do not know our own ways and we are all sinners looking forward to the day when we will see Him face to face.

The obvious things that offend God as described in the Bible must be brought to a halt. This is what repentance means, to stop heading in the direction of sin and turn to the ways of God.

Romans 3:23-24

<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

<sup>24</sup> and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

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*Paul the Apostle*

Isaiah 53:6

<sup>6</sup>We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

NIV *Isaiah the prophet*

Romans 6:1-5

<sup>1</sup> What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

<sup>2</sup> By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

<sup>3</sup> Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

<sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

<sup>5</sup> If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

NIV *Paul the Apostle*

We have a gracious and forgiving God. His work on the Cross is complete and done for our salvation. But our walk needs to be examined and brought to bear under His Spirit and word that we may be sure to be where we ought to be and not doing what we should not be doing.

Hebrews 10:16

<sup>22</sup> let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

NIV *The Holy Spirit*

Being right with God with a good conscience is the first step - God has actually done this for us. Though not perfect, we are striving in the right direction when we are humble and confess our sins and want to be even closer. We can ask God honestly for His help.

We come to our King with Humility, then, we confess our sin and ask God to show us what might not be right that we do and not see. Now, we petition God for His help.

Psalms 141: 1-2

<sup>1</sup>Jehovah, I have called upon thee; make haste unto me: give ear unto my voice, when I call unto thee.

<sup>2</sup>Let my prayer be set forth as incense before thee; the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Exodus 30:7-8

<sup>7</sup> "Aaron must burn fragrant incense on the altar every morning when he tends the lamps.

<sup>8</sup> He must burn incense again when he lights the lamps at twilight **so incense will burn regularly before the LORD for the generations to come.**

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Leviticus 16:12-13

<sup>12</sup> He is to take a censer full of burning coals from the altar before the LORD and two handfuls of finely ground fragrant incense and take them behind the curtain.

<sup>13</sup> **He is to put the incense on the fire before the Lord , and the smoke of the incense will conceal the atonement cover above the Testimony, so that he will not die.**

NIV

*Moses, the servant of God*

The incense represents our prayers. In the Old Testament, we see those prayers covering the atonement cover (Mercy Seat) where Jehovah rules from. This cover is also sprinkled with blood representing a sacrifice for sins. It points to the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In the New Testament, after the sprinkling of our Lord's blood for our behalf, we have a new and living way to enter into God's presence with the assurance that He loves us and wants our best.

1 Samuel 25:30-31

<sup>30</sup> When the LORD has done for my master every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him leader over Israel,

<sup>31</sup> my master will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the LORD has brought my master success, remember your servant."

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Psalms 141: 3-5

<sup>3</sup> Set a watch, O Jehovah, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.

<sup>4</sup> Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practise deeds of wickedness with men that work iniquity: and let me not eat of their dainties.

<sup>5</sup> Let the righteous smite me, (it shall be) a kindness; and let him reprove me, (it shall be as) oil upon the head; let not my head refuse it: for even in their wickedness shall my prayer continue.

Proverbs 9:10

<sup>10</sup> "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

NIV *King Solomon*

Galatians 6:3-7

**<sup>3</sup> If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.**

<sup>4</sup> Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else,

<sup>5</sup> for each one should carry his own load.

<sup>6</sup> Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.

<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

NIV *Paul the Apostle*

When we are reprov'd by God, in our humility, we will see and find Him there – our Comforter. If we are able to hear and learn, we will benefit from our God's chastisement because it is a refining fire to make us pure and to purge away the dross in our lives that hinder our relationship with the Living God. Then our shackles will melt before the love of our King.

Psalms 141: 6

<sup>6</sup> Their judges are thrown down by the sides of the rock; and they shall hear my words; for they are sweet.

2 Samuel 1:17-19

<sup>17</sup> David took up this lament concerning Saul and his son Jonathan,

<sup>18</sup> and ordered that the men of Judah be taught this lament of the bow (it is written in the Book of Jashar):

**<sup>19</sup> "Your glory, O Israel, lies slain on your heights. How the mighty have fallen!"**

NIV *Samuel the prophet*

Psalms 141: 7 - 10

<sup>7</sup> As when one ploweth and cleaveth the earth, our bones are scattered at the mouth of Sheol.

2 Corinthians 1:9-11

<sup>9</sup> Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

<sup>10</sup> He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us,

<sup>11</sup> as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our<sup>a</sup> behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

NIV *Paul the Apostle*

<sup>8</sup> For mine eyes are unto thee, O Jehovah the Lord: in thee do I take refuge; leave not my soul destitute.

<sup>9</sup> Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and from the gins of the workers of iniquity.

<sup>10</sup> Let the wicked fall into their own nets, Whilst that I withal escape.

ASV *King David*

Isaiah 41:17-18

<sup>17</sup> "The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the LORD will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.

<sup>18</sup> I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs.

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*Isaiah*

John 14:17-19

<sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be<sup>c</sup> in you.

<sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

<sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me.

Because I live, you also will live.

NIV

*John the Apostle*

Psalms 25:14-18

<sup>14</sup> The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.

<sup>15</sup> My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare.

<sup>16</sup> Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.

<sup>17</sup> The troubles of my heart have multiplied; free me from my anguish.

<sup>18</sup> Look upon my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins.

NIV

*King David*

Psalms 102:17-21

<sup>17</sup> He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea.

<sup>18</sup> Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD:

<sup>19</sup> "The LORD looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth,

<sup>20</sup> to hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death."

<sup>21</sup> So the name of the LORD will be declared in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem

NIV

*King David*