

Psalm 139:23-24, “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”



WHY WAS THE PSALMIST PLEADING FOR GOD TO SEARCH HIS HEART?

He understood that in his heart lurked evil: desperately wicked evil.

Jeremiah 17:9, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

Proverbs 6:18, “An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,”

He understood that if the evil thoughts in his heart were ignored, they would eventually defile him.

Matthew 15:19-20, “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.”

Mark 7:21-23, “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these things come from within, and defile the man.”

He understood that it grieves the heart of God when we stay in ignorance.

Jeremiah 4:14, “O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?”

Hebrews 3:10, “Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.”

He understood that God is pleading with us to examine our heart.

Matthew 9:4, "And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?"

Luke 5:22, "But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts?"

Luke 24:38, "And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? And why do thoughts arise in your hearts?"

He understood that his flesh would be at war with him prior, during and after this examination: providing excuses and reasons why he should not change.

Romans 2:15, "Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)"

He understood that his pride, his vanity blinded him and misconstrued his thoughts from true wisdom. His pride would be wounded from the examination and he would clearly see his own foolishness.

1 Corinthians 3:20, "And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain."

James 2:4, "Are ye not partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?"

Romans 1:21, "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."

He understood that he needed God to search his heart. Only God could see the hidden evil.

Psalm 44:21, "Shall not God search this out? For he knoweth the secrets of the heart."

He understood that it is an honor for us to ask God to search our hearts. It pleases the Lord. He also understood that God would conceal these hidden evils from others not attempting to embarrass us or make us feel defeated.

Proverbs 25:2, "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter."

He understood that God knew him better than he knew himself. Only God could help him.

Psalm 139:1, "O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me."

Lamentations 3:40, "Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD."

He understood that God would show him the evil in his heart in measurable quantities that are revealed through trials and testing. He would keep his eyes open so he could clearly see what God was revealing.

(If God revealed all the wickedness in our hearts at one time, we would be overwhelmed.)

Jeremiah 17:10, "I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."

Psalms 26:2, "Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart."

Job 34:32, "That which I see not teach thou me: if I have done iniquity, I will do no more."

He understood that he had a choice to seek or forsake the knowledge revealed once God searched his heart.

1 Chronicles 28:9, "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever."

He desired for God to search his heart because he understood his accountability when he stood in front of the Lord in Heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

He understood that this examination of his heart and thoughts mingled with his desire to do right please the Lord.

Proverbs 12:5, "The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit."

Proverbs 15:26, "The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD: but the words of the pure are pleasant words."

Isaiah 55:7, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

He understood that God will allow evil to come our way if we give in to the evil of our heart.

Jeremiah 6:19, "Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it."

He understood that the Word of God was the vehicle God used to examine his heart.

Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

He understood that through the power of God he can pull down all strong holds, cast down all imaginations and thoughts that are against God. He understood that he can control his flesh and have victory through his obedience. Thus taking revenge on his wicked heart.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled."

2 Corinthians 7:11, "For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter."

He understood that if he kept walking on the narrow path, following the Lord and staying in an armed position ready to cast down any wrong thought, his thoughts or mind would be established by God.

He understood that this process of examination and revenge on evil thoughts would be a continual process until death.

Proverbs 16:3, "Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established."