

Dangerous Prayers Series

“Search Me”

O Lord, you have examined my heart
and know everything about me.
You know when I sit down or stand up.
You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.
You see me when I travel
and when I rest at home.
You know everything I do.
You know what I am going to say
even before I say it, Lord.
You go before me and follow me.
You place your hand of blessing on my head.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too great for me to understand!
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 to 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.
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.
You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body
and knit me together in my mother's womb.
Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!
Your workmanship is marvelous - how well I know it.
You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion,
as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.
You saw me before I was born.
Every day of my life was recorded in your book.
Every moment was laid out
before a single day had passed.
How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.
They cannot be numbered!
I can't even count them;

they outnumber the grains of sand!
And when I wake up,
you are still with me!
O God, if only you would destroy the wicked!
Get out of my life, you murderers!
They blaspheme you;
your enemies misuse your name.
O Lord, shouldn't I hate those who hate you?
Shouldn't I despise those who oppose you?
Yes, I hate them with total hatred,
for your enemies are my enemies.
Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
Point out anything in me that offends you,
and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Psalm 139 (NLT)

Search my heart.

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

Psalm 139:23a (NLT)

*“The human heart is the most deceitful of all things,
and desperately wicked.
Who really knows how bad it is?
But I, the Lord, search all hearts
and examine secret motives.*

Jeremiah 17:9-10a (NLT)

Reveal my fears.

...test me and know my anxious thoughts.

Psalm 139:23b (NLT)

**What we fear the most
reveals where we trust God the least.**

Uncover my sins.

Point out anything in me that offends you,

Psalm 139:24a (NLT)

3 Questions:

What are others trying to tell me?

What have I rationalized for some time?

Where am I most defensive?

We confess our sins to God for forgiveness.

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

1 John 1:9 (NLT)

We confess our sins to each other for healing.

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

James 5:16 (NLT)

Lead my life.

...and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Psalms 139:24b (NLT)

SO WHAT?

*Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.*

*Point out anything in me that offends you,
and lead me along the path of everlasting life.*

Psalms 139:23-24 (NLT)

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. What is the most dangerous thing you have ever done?
2. Why do you think it's important to ask God to search you?

Why do you think we tend to be afraid of God's searchlight?

3. Re-read Psalm 139:23-24. Is anything keeping you from praying this prayer? If so what?
4. Can you think of anything that's hard to hear about yourself?

How might you be trying to avoid dealing with that?

5. Is there anything that seems to cause you constant and or unnecessary anxiety?

How can you begin to trust God with that fear?

6. Re-read James 5:16. Why is it so important to share with others when God has revealed sin in your life?

Why do we tend to hide that from others?

7. Start praying, bold and specific prayers. Can you commit to praying each morning this week for the Holy Spirit to search you? Make sure to note what he is saying a share it with someone.