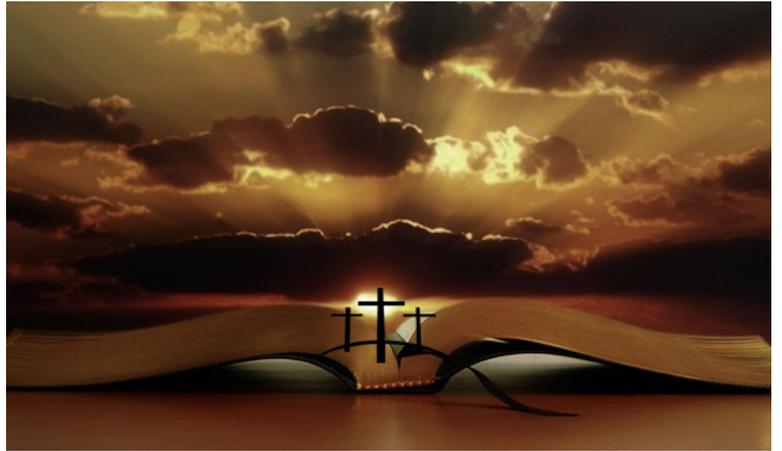


“Search Me, O God, and Know my heart: Try me, and Know my thoughts: And See if there be any wicked way in me, and Lead me in the Way Everlasting.” Psalms 139:23-24 KJV



The Psalmist begins this discourse, “O LORD, Thou hast Searched me, and Known me. Thou Knowest my down sitting and mine uprising, Thou Understandest my thought afar off. Thou Compassest my path and my lying down, and Art Acquainted with ALL my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, Thou Knowest it altogether.” Does God really need to “Search” men to Know their sin?

Wickedness is not hidden from God so much as it is from ourselves and others. So why ask God to “Search” his heart? Or to “Try” him. The stated purpose was to find “any wicked way.” God’s Word reveals your sin to you like light reveals spots. “The Word of God is Quick, and Powerful, and Sharper than any two edged 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.” Ah, there it is! “The Word of God!” It is the “Discerner of the thoughts AND intents of the heart!” Buried metal can’t be seen, but can be found with a detector. God’s Word is a “sin detector.” If we don’t read, study, and meditate in it, sin remains hidden! We want the best of both worlds! We want the pleasures of sin AND the provisions of obedience! You can’t have both. “No man can serve two masters. The wages (deserved compensation) of sin is death!” Serve sin and die! Death is separation from life. At death, the soul doesn’t die; it’s the body that dies, because the soul is gone. Serve God and Live! Jesus said, “I am the Life.” For believers, Eternal Life is sure, but a close walk with God and His daily Provision are only available if they obey. Sin separates believers not only from Provision, but from “Life more abundant.” If you’re a believer, but struggle with provision. “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness, and ALL these THINGS shall be added unto you. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after Righteousness: for they shall be filled.” Are you hungry for God?

Search your soul with God’s own Word,
And you will find the sin preferred,
Remove its blot from off thy soul,
Confess to God and be made whole! –CGP

God tries His children to bring them closer. Do not pray for closeness to God and expect a rosy path. “Despise not thou the Chastening (Correction) of the Lord, nor faint when thou art Rebuked of Him: For whom the Lord Loveth He Chasteneth, and Scourgeth EVERY son whom He Receiveth.” How do you know if God has Received you? There will be a longing in your soul to see Him and know His Favor; sin will sting you to the marrow of your soul and you can’t feel pleasure in it for long without Godly Sorrow leading you back to the Path of obedience! If God’s Word convicts you of sin and causes a desire to be rid of it, you have been assured of Father’s Love by His Correction. If someone calls themselves a believer and enjoys a carefree life of sin, they are not God’s Child! “If ye be without Chastisement, whereof all [children] are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.” No trials (I’m not talking about self-inflicted consequences of sin) in your life? Then you are not going to Heaven! God’s trials refine your faith and cause you to seek His Face and Help. The litmus test of a trial is: Do you still trust and love God anyway?

“That the Trial of your Faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto Praise and Honour and Glory at the Appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with Joy unspeakable and full of Glory: Receiving the end of your Faith, even the Salvation of your souls.” 1 Peter 1:7-9 KJV