

SEARCH ME

By Dr, Hal Webb Evangelist

"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."

The message text is Psm. 139:23, 24. This great heart searching Psalm is the personal heartbroken cry from the lips of David. In verses 1-6 he reminds us of the omniscience of God who knows every aspect of our being and every activity of our life. Verses 7-12 carry the message of the omnipresence of God reminding us He is everywhere present. In verses 13-18 David points out the omnipotence of God picturing His goodness and divine power. The Psalm closes with two verses many Christians do not dare to pray. They are an open invitation for God, not friends or relatives, to search my heart. The search is not to be carried out by others who might be uncaring or lack knowledge, or judge unfairly. Nor is it to be conducted by self, for we might excuse failures or conceal them. The task is to be offered to God and we are to honestly allow Him to examine our entire being, our motives, and the very actions of our life. Do you dare ask God to search, know, try, see as the prayer suggests? First, pause and let God reveal to you your **INNER LIFE**... One day while walking in the woods I came to a large flat rock. It was gray and dry and very pleasant looking, ringed with moss and a few wild flowers. I flipped it over and was shocked by the amount of crawling slimy creatures which I uncovered. Do you dare flip over the stone and honestly reveal your inner life? We are so like that stone. The average believer tries to keep the outward self acceptable to all, but, the inward often is a carefully guarded secret. Hiding just under the surface are the bugs of greed, jealousy, temper, covetousness and

bitterness. Among them are the worms of lustful thoughts, evil habits and secret sins. Coiled around them is the snake of the old nature ever ready to strike. David warns *"Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance,"* Psalm 90:8. Many believers are desperately in need of inward cleansing. Are you not one of these? Allow God to search your inner life. Now let God search out your... **HOME LIFE**. Today the home life of many a Christian is a place of defeat, tears, and failure. Relationships in most homes are seldom what they should be in the eyes of God.. Family devotions are readily forgotten while vast hours are spent in the harmful jungle of the television. TV viewing adds to overall tension, and a monstrous crucifixion of time that could be spent in the light of eternity. Most homes are filled with mistrust, bickering, impatience, argument and a lack of love among family members. Disobedience, back talk, rebellion, fighting, lying, jealousy and rudeness characterize the usual actions of most children. Lack of discipline in the home shapes the delinquency that breaks out in the public to the shame of the family. How you allow your children to dress, what they listen to and the friends you allow them are crucial. Parents bring kids into this world and fail to see the responsibility to raise them in the Biblical path. Foolish adults allow "Rock", some even argue in it's favor, but soon realize too late they have condoned a poison which slaughtered the spirituality of their children. Teens tell of parents having "roast preacher" for Sunday dinner or of parents fights they were not supposed to hear. Sometimes of moms "visitors" or their dads nights out they heard of from school friends. Children who do wrong expect correction and often say "my parents don't care what I do." Would you please dare then ask God to search out your home life! Teens, have you been square and honest with your parents? Dear dad

and mom, can you honestly say Christ is the head of your home or is the dusty plaque hanging on the wall a lie not true in your home. We need to ask God to search out our home. Ask Him to show us how to clean and shape our home to please Him. Careful study of I Cor. 13 would do much to straighten the framework of the home and run the termites out of the foundations. Lastly, we need to ask God to turn His search light on our....SOCIAL LIFE. The Bible command to "*love not the world*" seems to be forgotten as if things have changed. Many believers strain to be as close to the world as possible along with some secret "fancies" into no mans land, cheapening their social thoughts and actions. Remember God's commands have not changed. We are to put "*difference between holy and unholy and between clean and unclean..*" The line of Godly living is not to be ignored, blurred over, or crossed out. Opinion and interpretation do not matter. In James 4:4 we are warned, "*whosoever will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*" Worldliness is wrecking the churches of our nation as millions of so called believers regularly worship at the altar of social compromise. They tire of the shame and reproach of the cross. The stigma of having to be different has worn their patience bare. Their backbone softens and becomes filled with the weak, spineless fluid of "situation ethics." Hours are spent in time consuming pastimes in spite of the warning, "*No man who cares entangleth himself with the affairs of this life,*" II Tim. 2:4. Questionable pleasures and associations continue in spite of the command, "*Love not the world neither the things that are in the world,*" I John 2:15-17. Inconsistent acts of today's socially compromised Christians tragically eclipse the command, "*Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven,*" Matt. 5:16. Please ask God to search out your social life and allow Him to point out the areas which do not please Him!

Ask God to search your home and habits, noting the secret faults and the compromises. Carefully examine your Inner Life, your Home Life and your Social Life. Take your Bible in hand and go to a quiet place and read the 139th. Psalm. Meditate on its meanings and allow the change and cleansing you personally need. Scan the actions of your home and your relationships in your family. Admit wrong ,first to the Lord and then to your spouse and family. even to others and your church and pastor. Then sit down with your family and ask the forgiveness necessary to restore true fellowship together. Restart the family devotions, go over the rules of conduct, bury old grudges and make your home a happy place. If you are a youth start being a blessing instead of a problem. Parents assure your children you will try to do better in ruling the home as God commands. If you really want a personal revival, a new relationship with Christ and a new life of victory then pray with the Psalmist, "*Blot out my transgressions...wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin...create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*" Psm. 51:2,10. Today we all need to pray, Search Me, Know Me, Try Me and then Lead Me!. All can be settled before the final Judgment of Christ in which we will all stand.