

## Search Me, O God

- I. The need for self-examination.
  1. The thing that distinguishes human beings from all other creatures is our rational mind which is capable of self-reflection.
  2. The spirit within man enables him to know himself (**1Co 2:11**).
    - A. We can think with ourselves (**Act 26:9**).
    - B. We can force ourselves to do something (**1Sa 13:12**).
    - C. We can keep ourselves from sinning (**2Sa 22:24**).
    - D. We can commune with ourselves (**Psa 4:4; Psa 77:6; Ecc 1:16**).
    - E. We can comfort ourselves (**Psa 119:52**).
    - F. We can consult with ourselves (**Neh 5:7**).
    - G. We can determine with ourselves (**2Co 2:1**).
    - H. We can judge ourselves (**1Co 11:31**).
    - I. We can hate ourselves (**Job 42:6**).
    - J. This is not limited to the righteous; the wicked can think within themselves, too (**Est 6:6; Isa 10:7-14**).
  3. An important aspect of self-reflection is self-examination.
    - A. We must examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith (**2Co 13:5**).
    - B. We are to *prove all things and hold fast that which is good* (**1Th 5:21**) and that proving process should begin with proving *ourselves* (**2Co 13:5; Gal 6:4**).
    - C. We must examine ourselves particularly before we partake of communion (**1Co 11:28**).
- II. The need to ask God to search and try our hearts.
  1. We should ask God to search our hearts (**Psa 139:23-24**).
    - A. Jesus Christ is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (**Heb 4:12-13**).
    - B. The Lord searches our hearts by using our spirit as a candle to shed light on the dark places in our hearts (**Pro 20:27**).
    - C. The Lord gives our spirits understanding through His inspiration (**Job 32:8**).
      - i. If we ask for wisdom and understanding, God will give it (**1Ki 3:9,12**).
      - ii. The key to getting wisdom is asking in faith, nothing wavering (**Jam 1:5-7**).
      - iii. God gives wisdom and understanding through His word (**Pro 2:6; Psa 119:104**).
    - D. After asking God to search our hearts, we should do some searching ourselves (**Lam 3:40**).
    - E. We should ask God to cleanse us from secret faults (sins we don't know about) and make them known unto us (**Psa 19:12; Job 6:24; Job 13:23**).
    - F. We should ask God to let our words and our thoughts be acceptable to Him (**Psa 19:14**).
    - G. We should ask God to cause us to know the way we should walk and to teach us to do His will (**Psa 143:8,10**).
    - H. We should ask God to teach us what we don't see (**Job 34:32**).
    - I. God tells us to consider our ways (**Hag 1:5**).
      - i. If we do, and then turn from our wickedness, we will be spared death (**Eze 18:28**).
      - ii. This is true of a church, as well as individuals (**Rev 2:4-5; Rev 3:1-3**).
      - iii. It works with a nation, too (**Jer 18:7-8; 2Ch 7:14**).
  2. We should ask God to try us (**Psa 139:23-24; Psa 26:2**).

- A. *Trying* is the painful process of separating out sinful things in our lives and disposing of them.
- i. Try v. - 1. a. *trans.* To separate (one thing) from another or others; to set apart; to distinguish. 3. *spec.* To separate (metal) from the ore or dross by melting; to refine, purify by fire; also, to remove (the dross or impurity) from metal by fire. Usually with *out*. Also *fig.*
  - ii. Precious metals are tried with intense heat to remove impurities (**Psa 12:6 c/w Pro 25:4**).
  - iii. The same process is necessary in a spiritual sense to remove spiritual impurities in us (**Pro 17:3; Psa 66:10; Zec 13:9; Job 23:10**).
  - iv. God tempted (tried) Abraham to prove his faith (**Gen 22:1**).
    - a. Tempt v. - 1. To try, make trial of, put to the test or proof; to try the quality, worth, or truth of.
    - b. God did the same thing to Joseph (**Psa 105:17-19**).
    - c. The Lord also did the same thing to Israel (**Deu 8:2-3**).
    - d. The trials that God puts us through are ultimately for our good (**Deu 8:16**).
  - v. God will purify His priests that they may make offerings in righteousness (**Mal 3:3 c/w 1Pe 2:5**).
  - vi. God will also try a man's ministry and will burn off the wood, hay, and stubble that were not built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ (**1Co 3:9-15**).
- B. God will sometimes leave His children for a time to try them and see what is in their hearts (**2Ch 32:31**).
- i. He may leave us for a small moment (**Isa 54:7-8**).
  - ii. He will leave us until we acknowledge our sins and seek Him (**Hos 5:15**).
  - iii. He will never utterly forsake us though (**Psa 89:30-34; Heb 13:5**).
- C. When you ask for God to try your heart, expect a fiery trial and don't think some strange thing has happened to you (**1Pe 4:12**).
- D. It might be painful, but we have to trust Him (**Job 13:15**).
- E. The *trying* of our faith worketh patience (**Jam 1:3**).
- i. Patience n. - 1. a. The suffering or enduring (of pain, trouble, or evil) with calmness and composure; the quality or capacity of so suffering or enduring. b. Forbearance, longsuffering, longanimity under provocation of any kind; esp. forbearance or bearing with others, their faults, limitations, etc. c. The calm abiding of the issue of time, processes, etc.; quiet and self-possessed waiting for something; 'the quality of expecting long without rage or discontent'
  - ii. The trials and tribulations we face work patience, experience, and ultimately hope (**Rom 5:3-5**).
  - iii. Experience n. - 1. a. The action of putting to the test; trial. to make experience of: to make trial of.
  - iv. Hope n. - 1. a. Expectation of something desired; desire combined with expectation.
- F. The Christian life is full of trials (**2Co 4:8-9**).
- G. The ministry is especially trying (**2Co 6:4-10**).
- H. God will send us manifold temptations to put our faith to trial (**1Pe 1:6-7**).
- i. Trial n. - 2. a. The action of testing or putting to the proof the fitness, truth, strength, or other quality of anything; test, probation. b. The fact or condition of being tried by suffering or temptation; probation.

- ii. This will happen after one is converted and joins the church (**Heb 10:32-33**).
- iii. Members of true churches will be tried (**Rev 2:8-10**).
  - a. Of the seven churches written to in Revelation, the church in Smyrna was one of the two churches which was not rebuked; and yet they were told then would be tried and would receive a crown of life if they were faithful unto death (**Rev 2:10**).
  - b. On the other hand, the other faithful church in Philadelphia was told that they would not be tried with others because they had kept God's word (**Rev 3:10**).
  - c. It is God's prerogative as to whether He decides to try a church.
  - d. We should be thankful either way.
- I. After asking God to try us, we should do some trying ourselves (**Lam 3:40**).
- J. If we purge the vessels of dishonor from ourselves, we will be ready to used by God (**2Ti 2:20-21**).
- K. Remember, Isaiah had to have a hot coal purge the sin of his lips before he was ready to say, "Here am I; send me." (**Isa 6:6-8**)