

Search Me, O LORD

Psalm 26: 1-8

While the timing of this particular psalm is uncertain, many agree it must have been written during a time of national crisis in Israel. Clearly David is in great distress, and it appears he is seeking reassurance from the Lord in regard to his spiritual standing. Some speculate David may have been accused and held accountable for a national calamity, due to personal sin or rebellion. Possibly he is questioning his own motives and actions, wondering if he is personally responsible for the calamity Israel now endures. Whatever the circumstance, David desired to be examined and judged of the Lord, in an effort to set his mind and heart at ease.

The text is basically a prayer David prayed unto the Lord. It is a very bold prayer, one that most would have difficulty praying. It is a humbling thought to seek the Lord in searching our hearts and reveal what He discovers. As difficult as it may be, such activity is beneficial for the believer. If there are areas that need addressed, they will be revealed. If our hearts are pure before the Lord, we receive assurance and confidence in the Lord.

Let's consider the [aspects](#) of David's life at this moment as we think on the prayer: [Search Me, O LORD](#).

I. An Examined Life (1-2) – As David dealt with the disparity of the moment, he longed for God to examine his life and reveal the truth discovered. He spoke of:

A. The Litigation (1) – [Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide](#). David desired the facts to be examined and judgment made. If he had in fact been accused by others, he wanted the Lord to judge his life, rather than men. He knew God would just, but he would also be fair. He was certain the Lord knew the deepest recesses of his heart and would reveal the truth. David was not arrogant, but he did appear confident in his integrity. He had sought the ways of the Lord and wanted his faithfulness to be confirmed before men.

- We must never neglect our Christian witness in life. It does matter what others think of us, but our standing with the Lord is not dependent upon the opinions of men. Their acceptance or rejection will not alter our relationship with the Lord or the promise of eternal life in Him. While men's opinions are often biased, we can rest in the truth revealed by the Spirit.

B. The Exoneration (2) – *Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.* David wanted to be examined of the Lord, having the depths of his heart revealed, and thus confirming where he stood spiritually. Others had made accusation, but he was interested in the Lord's findings. The Lord's approval would cause the accusers to silence their voices. He desired affirmation of the Lord's acceptance to put the accusations to rest.

- As we walk among those around us, opinions are formed. Some accept us and others reject us. Some approve of our lives and others seek to find fault. Some are close enough to really know us and others only think they do. It is humbling to think that the Lord knows us better than we know ourselves. Men can say or think whatever they desire, but the Lord knows the desires of our hearts. He knows our motivations and our passions. He understands our weaknesses and our strengths. At the end of the day, He is the One we must seek to please. His acceptance and approval rises above all the others combined. If you are walking in peace with the Lord, it doesn't matter what others say.

II. A Surrendered Life (3-5) – Regardless of what others said, David knew he tried to live a surrendered life before the Lord. He knew he wasn't perfect, but he sought to live pleasing to the Lord. He spoke of:

A. The Standard (3) – *For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth.* David was well aware of the lovingkindness of God. He thought of it often. He had tried to live his life in light of God's truth. This had become his standard to live by. We wanted to be thankful for mercy and grace while walking in the truth God had given.

- The world has a standard by which men are judged and expected to obey, but our standard must be different. As David, we should live in gratitude and awareness of the blessings we have in Christ. His mercy and grace have been shed abroad in our lives. He has blessed us much more than we deserve. We should walk in light of His grace, according to the great truth revealed through the abiding Word.

B. The Separation (4) – *I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers.* David sought to live a life separated from this sinful and rebellious. He had not sat with the vain – “*the evil, morally depraved, or idolatrous.*” He had avoided the dissemblers – “*those veiled from sight, blind to the truth.*” David was aware of the dangers of being influenced by those who walked contrary to the Word, and he determined to keep his distance.

- We too must be careful as we walk among the world. We must live within the world, but we do not have to live like the world. We must make wise decisions about the company we keep and those with whom we associate. I am well aware that Jesus ate with sinners and sought to minister unto them, but He did not partake of their sin or continually surround Himself with those who rejected the Word and the Father. It is imperative to build relationships if we are to be an effective witness, but we do not have to engage in sin to build a relationship.

C. The Sanctification (5) – I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked.

David possessed a righteous indignation for those who opposed the ways of God. I don't think this implies that he hated the individuals, but he hated their sin and evil influence. He refused to find a seat among the wicked. He had been delivered from sin through a relationship with the Lord and had no desire for the ways of the world. He wanted his life to reflect the Lord instead of the world.

- There is a great need for sanctified living today. I know that I am nothing more than a sinner saved by grace. I have nothing to boast in of myself. The Lord loves those who remain in sin as much as He loves me. I am no more worthy of His grace than they are. However, I am no longer my own. I have been bought with a price. I have been redeemed of the Lord and placed within His body. I am now obligated to live a life that reflects the grace I have received. There are places I have no business going. There are activities I have no business being engaged in. There are people that I cannot continually spend time with and maintain a sanctified life. We are called to come out from among the world and be a separated people. There must be a visible difference in our lives! One cannot enjoy and embrace the ways of the world and please the Lord at the same time. We must choose; no man can serve two masters!

III. A Focused Life (6-8) – As we conclude our study, we find David also lived a focused life. He sought:

A. Our Personal Purity (6) – I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD.

David knew others could not live life for him. If his life was to please the Lord, it would be up to him to promote and maintain such a life. He sought to live a life of purity, innocent of guilt, as much as possible. He determined to spend time before the Lord in prayer and worship. He wanted to live for the Lord, while maintaining a close relationship with Him. David determined to examine his heart prior to coming before the Lord. If there was sin present, he would deal with it before he approached the altar of God.

- This too is a subject that gets little attention today, but it is needful. As believers we have a responsibility for personal purity. I cannot live your life, and you cannot live mine. We are all

accountable for the lives we live. We need to seek a life of righteousness, while keeping short accounts of sin. As the Spirit reveals a need through conviction, confess and forsake that sin.

B. A Public Proclamation (7) – [That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works](#). A life of personal purity would lead to a life of public proclamation. David desired to be a voice for the Lord. He had received much and he wanted others to hear of the goodness and grace of God. He wanted others to know of the marvelous works and mighty power of the Lord. He felt compelled to share what he had received with others, hoping they too would hear and respond unto the Lord.

- We need to be faithful in sharing the Gospel with others. We have received much in Christ. We know He desires that all would come to Him in repentance and be saved. We are responsible to proclaim the grace of our Lord, available to all. (I was reminded that this is directly related to our personal purity. We will not have a genuine desire to share the Gospel if our lives are not pure before the Lord.)

C. A Pointed Pursuit (8) – [LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth](#). Here David reveals the earnest desire of his heart. He loved the house of God and longed to be there as much as possible. He had received much and desired more. He had committed his life to pursuing a closer relationship with the Lord.

- I don't know how you feel, but that convicted me. I can honestly say I love the Lord. I love coming to the house of God and engaging in corporate worship. There is nothing like being in Spirit filled worship service. But, can I honestly say that a closer relationship with the Lord is my main priority. Sadly, I can't. I know it should be, and I want to get to that place spiritually, but I haven't arrived yet. I allow so many other things to divert my attention and time. I desire to develop a pointed pursuit of a closer walk with the Lord. How about you? Has God spoken to you and revealed a need for a focused life?

Conclusion: It is apparent that David wanted to be justified in the eyes of God before men, but I am convinced he was more concerned with his personal relationship with the Lord. He knew if his walk with the Lord was adequate, everything else would fall in line. Are there needs in your life? Surely the Lord has examined our hearts and spoken through His Spirit. If there are needs, bring them to Jesus. Confess your need and find the answer in Christ. If you are unsaved, Jesus desires to have a personal relationship with you. He wants to save you by His grace and grant eternal life. You must respond to His call. Why not come if there are needs?