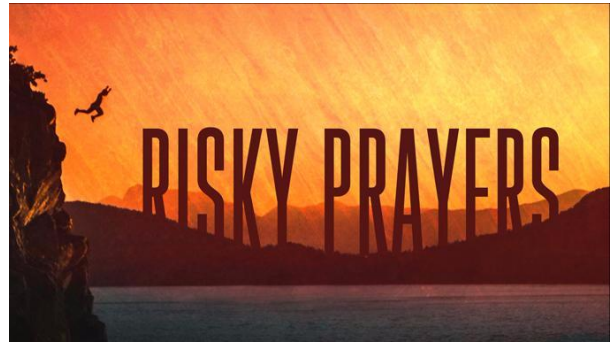


GROWTHguide

"Search Me"

October 22, 2017



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Psalm 139:23-24 , Jeremiah 17:9

DAY 1

Read [Psalm 139:23-24](#)

- Give some thought to the words you use when you pray. Looking at your word choices, what pattern of words do you observe? Which words repeat?
- Praying a risky prayer takes guts and oftentimes, if we are honest, we don't have what it takes to move beyond the simple prayers we find ourselves praying such as "God bless me", "God keep me safe when I travel", "God help me." Why do you gravitate to these kinds of prayers that are considered "safe"?

DAY 2

Read [Psalm 139:23](#)

- Note that David begins the verse with the words, "Search me, O God, and know my heart." Why is this a risky prayer?
- If God already knows all things, what is the importance of asking God to "search our heart"?
- The prophet [Jeremiah references in 17:9](#) that the nature of the heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. What do you think he meant by these words?

- Think of a time when your heart misled you about the truth. How did you reconcile that?

DAY 3

Psalm 139:23 reads *"...test me and know my anxious thoughts."*

- What makes you anxious? What makes you afraid?
- Why do you think it was important for David to be transparent and make the statement, *"test me and know my anxious thoughts?"*

Our world teaches us to be confident, to fake it until you make it. Deep down, however, we are all fragile. When you reveal those areas of life where you are anxious (afraid), it reveals a significant truth: "What I am anxious most about (or fear) is where I trust God the least."

- Reflect on this statement. Why do you agree with it or disagree?

DAY 4

Read Psalm 139:24

David's risky prayer to God includes something many would never think to do, ask God to reveal anything that is sinful in their life. David's life was certainly one filled with trouble. He committed adultery with Bathsheba, had her husband Uriah murdered to cover up the affair.

- What do you think went through David's mind as he expressed these words before a holy God?
- We learn it is oftentimes easier to see someone else's faults over our own. Why is that? Why is it so hard for us to own our own faults, sins?

DAY 5

When you give God permission to point out any sin dwelling in your heart, there are a couple of questions that will help your self-awareness:

- **What are others trying to tell me?** If you have trusted people who love you and they are consistently telling you the same thing, you need to stop and listen to what they have to say.
- **What have I been rationalizing for some time?** "Hey, it's not a big deal! I can stop doing that any time..."
- **Where am I most defensive?** "We're not going there! I don't have a problem with that. You can't judge me on that..."
- **What does it mean?** It means you must daily point your life towards Jesus. It points you to your need for His grace. This risky prayer calls your attention to focus on Christ. Whatever he needs to show you, let him reveal it to you.

DAY 6

Today is a day of reflection and prayer. Are you are ready to take the risk and pray for God to show you when and where you need to turn to and focus on Christ? Wherever you are in your faith journey, let yourself be open to what is revealed to you and thank God for his unending guidance, love and grace.

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