



## Message Series Guide

### Without Ceasing

### Part II – A Bold Prayer

### Psalm 139:23-24

The normal human response when caught doing something wrong is to run away and hide. We see it clearly in Adam and Eve who tried to hide from God in the Garden of Eden after taking a bite from the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3). But God sees all things and knows all things. We cannot pretend we are something we are not. He knows us inside and out. Nothing is hidden from His sight. Instead of creating fear, this truth should liberate us to share a remarkable degree of intimacy with the Lord. Therefore, we must be willing to overcome our natural inclination to cover up sin. If our desire is to follow Jesus wherever He leads us, and to become more like Him every day, then the only way to be transformed is by inviting Him in to search our hearts, reveal our fears, uncover our sin, and lead us to everlasting life.

### READ:

**Psalm 139:23-24 • Jeremiah 17:9 • Romans 3:10-12 • Ezekiel 36:26 • I John 1:9**

- Why do you think David felt the need to pray the bold prayer he prayed in Psalm 139:23-24?
- Why does God need to search our hearts instead of us searching our own hearts? Why is the advice to “follow your own heart” not biblical advice? Is there anyone who is truly “good”? Why or why not? What makes us good OR what makes our hearts good?
- As a group, discuss some of the fears and anxieties that you have faced over this past year? Does fear and doubt *always* reveal the areas of our life that we haven’t fully trusted with God? Why or why not? What are some areas of your life that you have struggled to fully surrender to God?
- Why is humility necessary in order to ask God to uncover sin in our heart? If God points out sin in our life, what should our response be? How does God’s promise to cleanse us from unrighteousness bring us hope?
- Why is it necessary that great spiritual leaders also be great followers of Christ? What is the “way everlasting” (Psalm 139:24) that we find when we faithfully follow Jesus Christ? How do we best lead others toward the path of everlasting life?

### DISCUSS:

- Have you ever tried to hide something you’ve done wrong from God or others? What was the result? Why is humility and transparency so important when it comes having a pure heart?
- If God already knows everything about us, what is the purpose of asking Him to search us and know our hearts? Why does it make no sense to try to run from God but perfect sense to run to God?
- The power of Psalm 139:23-24 is not in *knowing* what it says, but in *believing* what it says. Look back over this Psalm and discuss what it reveals about God’s nature and character.

### PRAY:

Pray for God to identify areas of weakness and sin in your life, and then provide His ways of addressing them.

### RESPOND:

Are you willing to make David’s prayer a prayer of your heart? Make it a point this week to pray/recite Psalm 139:23-24 every day as a prayer of your heart.