

TRUTH #6: “I AM the PROBLEM”

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Psalm 139:23–24; Supporting Scripture to study at home (Matthew 12:33–37; Luke 6:45-49; Matthew 26:41; Jeremiah 17:9-10; Proverbs 4:20-27)

Who is the hardest person to face? YOU

Most of our problems are easy to identify... We can easily see what is wrong outside of ourselves:

- “If only THEY would change.”
- “If only the SITUATION were different.”
- “If only my spouse, my boss, my church, my past...were different!!”

But the most difficult person to CONFRONT is the one in the mirror. Before we point fingers outward, we are going to point INWARD—honestly, humbly, and biblically.

I. THE PRAYER WE RARELY PRAY

Psalm 139:23–24

“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.”

David does NOT pray	David PRAYS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Fix my <u>ENEMIES</u>” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>SEARCH</u> me
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Change my <u>CIRCUMSTANCES</u>” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>KNOW</u> my heart
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “<u>EXPLAIN</u> Yourself, God” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>EXPOSE</u> what I cannot see
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>LEAD</u> me

This is not a prayer for the faint of heart. This is a prayer for people who are done PRETENDING.

Honest Question: Have you ever truly taken a personal inventory of your heart?

II. THE PROBLEM ROOTED IN THE HEART

Matthew 12:33–37 “For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.”

Jesus doesn’t say words are the problem. He says words are the EVIDENCE.

If the fruit is bad, the issue is not the branches—it’s the ROOTS.

Luke 6:45 “A good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.”

OUR WORDS REVEAL:

- Our true VALUES
- Our spiritual CONDITION
- What actually fills our INNER life
- What we're FEEDING on

You don't SLIP into sin—you speak from what you store.

III. STOP BLAMING THE DEVIL FOR YOUR DECISIONS

“The devil made me do it.” Maybe he tempted you, but he cannot FORCE!

Scripture says the decision came from your heart, the problem runs DEEPER than we're willing to admit!

Jeremiah 17:9-10 AMPC “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”

- The heart doesn't just sin, it JUSTIFIES sin....explains, defends, even spiritualizes it.
- The heart makes excuses: "That's just how I am or who I am, that's my PERSONALITY!"

IV. A WILLING SPIRIT IS NOT ENOUGH

Matthew 26:41 “Watch and pray, that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Good intentions without spiritual DISCIPLINE will always end in failure.

Partial obedience is still DISOBEDIENCE!

You don't drift into holiness, you drift into COMPROMISE!

Willingness without vigilance is WEAKNESS.

If you don't intentionally guard your heart, something else will OCCUPY it.

V. GOD DOESN'T EXPOSE TO SHAME—HE EXPOSES TO HEAL

Our WILLINGNESS and surrender allows the Heavenly Father to do His work.

GOD SEARCHES...

- Not to destroy—but to DELIVER.
- Not to humiliate—but to HEAL.
- Not to shame—but to SANCTIFY.

Proverbs 4:23 “Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.”

When we finally admit: “I am the problem...” We make ROOM for: “God as the solution.”

VI. THE MOST DANGEROUS LIE and MOST POWERFUL PRAYER

The most dangerous lie in the church is: “I’m FINE.”

If you're tired of: cycles, excuses, justifying, and caring what God wants to heal, and this is your moment.

The most powerful prayer is: “SEARCH me.”

Before God changes our situation, He wants to change our heart. Before He removes the storm, He removes what the storm revealed.

“HOMEWORK”: TAKING A PERSONAL INVENTORY

This is a WRITTEN inventory where you take pen to paper. It is suggested to make columns with the headings given below. Be prayerful and invite God into this inventory time. He will lead you.

****TIPS:** You are not “hating people on paper,” you are making a matter-of-fact inventory to see the true from the false. When the time comes to find your part, be prayerful and humble. You may not have played a part in the event, but you’ve allowed the event/people to effect how you think about and treat others and yourself. We suggest you share your inventory with a trusted person.

EXAMPLE of a COUPLE RESENTMENTS

RESENTMENT (Who? What?)	WHAT HAPPENED (Brief story, not a book)	HOW HAS IT EFFECTED ME (Self-esteem, security, ambitions, personally, sexually)	WHAT WAS MY PART	HOW CAN GOD HELP ME MAKE IT RIGHT
My in-laws	They never seemed to accept me as part of their family.	I felt rejected, like I had to earn love, and that I could do nothing right.	I would talk about them to my husband. I carried a responsibility to “people please” when God never called me to do that.	I can focus on finding my security and love in Christ, so that I am not so easily offended and effected by others.
Ex perpetrators	They violated and abused me.	The Trauma has effected all areas of my life	I started clumping “all men” into the category of abusive animals, and I started hating men in my heart.	I can seek trauma counseling. I can bless the men in my life, to combat the lies I’ve been believing.

Prayer: Father, gently show me where I have been in the wrong, so you and I can sift out of me what does not look like you. I am done being a victim. I desire to be healed, whole, and free, not in bondage to the sins done t