

God Sees and Knows Our Heart

(And The Hearts Of Others Around Us)

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We may often say, 'God knows my heart', and if we truly believe that, it would have more of an impact on our attitudes and our ways of treating those around us. God is not concerned with our appearance on the *outside*, but God is very interested in what is truly in our heart, and whether or not it is a heart that believes on Him and is committed to doing His will.

Many religious looking people of the first century appeared to be righteous, but Jesus said (Mark 7:6) *"Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me'".* They openly worshiped God, but it was *in vain*, because in their heart they did not trust *in faith* on His Son, on the power of His blood shed for us, nor the power of His resurrection.

When choosing Israel's king, *"The LORD said to Samuel (1 Samuel 16:7) 'Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused [David's older brother]. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'"*

God must see a willingness in our heart to believe His Word, and a desire to do His Will. We should witness spiritually for Christ, via our attitudes toward, and our responses to people. We witness for Christ when our *place of trust is on Him*. We witness by our words in conversation and via our behavior in general. (Romans 14:19) *"Therefore let us aim at what-ever makes for peace and mutual up-building of character;"* (so as not to be a spiritual hindrance to anyone by our words or conversations.

We should realize that our words and conversations do affect people who are with us. (Romans 14:21) *"The right course is to forego eating meat or drinking wine or doing anything that tends to your brother's fall."* We want to be careful and not be a wrong influence on anyone by condoning something that another may not

want to do. Our choices and our decisions must proceed from our faith on God, because (Rom.14:23), *"all conduct not based on faith is sinful."*

God used various circumstances to teach David, and He will also use circumstances to teach us. If we will accept those lessons, we will learn what a real *life of faith and trust* truly consists of, and how it is lived each day by faith on God. We need to and must put aside the ways of a sinful nature and start depending on the ways of the divine nature. Our outward conduct should agree with our inward faith on God.

Circumstances in life will be used by God to *train* us how to trust Him, and they teach us how to meet the many different situations of our life according to the Scriptures, ..always depending on God's power to make people or things as they should be, and not depending on patterns, plans, policies, nor standards of the world. Via experiences and faithful endurance on God, David became prepared for greater tests in his life.

Whatever trial we are going through, or any test of faith we face, it should not discourage us but should encourage us. (James 1:3) *"Be assured that the testing of your faith leads to power of endurance."* God sees and knows our heart, and if He sees a willingness within us to learn a spiritual lesson, He will surely show us how to trust Him on that matter. Depending on God's power enabled David to have *both* the *courage* and the *ability* to defeat the formidable Goliath (who depended on his own strength and ability).

David had been taught how to pray in faith, and how to depend totally on God for success, because the Holy Spirit had inspired him to call on the Lord, when facing an immediate threat, or when in serious danger. David said to Goliath (1 Samuel 17:46) *"This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand—that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."*

God used the circumstances in David's life to teach him to be a true child of His, to always place his faith on divine power, and then to act in faith on God to give success, whenever a situation was confronted. God will train anyone else in the same way, so that they can be a right example to young people, by always trusting God in faith to heal, protect, provide, empower, or enable us to get through whatever it is that we face.

We are to be spiritually alert to Satan's deception, and to be acutely aware of false religious messages today. (1 Thess.5:4-6) *"You, brethren, are not in darkness, that daylight should surprise you like a thief; for all of you are sons of Light and sons of the day. We belong neither to the night nor to darkness. So then let us not sleep, like the rest of the world, but let us keep awake and be sober."*

Spiritual darkness is still prevalent in this day, and Spiritual darkness believes the lie that God does not do things for His children today, but spiritual light believes He will do great things for those who will trust Him in faith, and hold steady unto victory (as did David, and other examples of the results of spiritual light that we may read of (Numbers 23:19; 1 Sam.15:29; Psalm 102:27; James 1:17;).

Every day is a spiritual battle with the devil, who tries to deceive people by having us depend on, or trust in, some thing, some one, some plan, or some policy other than on God. (2 Cor.7:1) *"Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us (cleanse) ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for [and believing trust on] God."*

Learning faith lessons every day, by meeting people scripturally and depending on God for everything, is the spiritual fruit we must see in our life. As David always depended on the power of God for the ability to do what had to be done, we also must depend on the power of God with each situation that comes about.

If we depend on God's power, we will grow in faith as we are being trained by Him; so we learn by personal experience what God will do for us, when we trust Him in faith. (Hebr.12:14) *"Persistently strive for peace with all men, and for that growth in holiness apart from which no one will see the Lord."*

Our prayer every day, is to ask God each moment for the inspiration to confess our sins to Him, as we all need the forgiveness that Jesus' Blood sacrifice paid for. After our confession to God, and the forsaking of any former ways that we have trusted God to convict us of, we are then to believe His Word which says we are forgiven, as He is always faithful to forgive (Hebr.10:23) *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."* So, we are assured from His Word, that He will forgive us when we are willing to confess (1 John 1:9) *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just*

to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (vs.10) *"If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."* (If we have truly repented, and we have confessed our past sins, we can be confident that God will answer every Scriptural need placed before Him. (1 John 3:19-20) *"In this way we shall come to know that we are loyal to the truth, and shall satisfy our consciences in His presence in whatever matters our hearts condemn us ..because God is greater than our hearts and knows everything."* (When sins are confessed to God, we are no longer condemned by them.) (vs.21-23) *"Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have perfect confidence toward God; and whatever we ask for we obtain from Him, because we obey His commands and do the things which are pleasing in His sight."* For our heart not to condemn us, we must really confess and forsake the wrong ways and attitudes that we had in our heart, and asking God to inspire us in faith to believe that we are truly forgiven of those past mistakes.

One's confession is to be sincere, not to just get through a trial, and only go back later to those same sins, mistakes, or attitudes. The answer to prayer is to be received when we have truly confessed our sins to God. (1 John 3:24) *"The man who obeys His commands continues in union with God, and God continues in union with him; and through His Spirit whom He has given us we can know that He continues in union with us."*

We keep our connection to God and His power, by disconnecting ourselves from the world, wrong fellowship, unscriptural activities, hateful attitudes, or entertainment that is designed by Satan to defile our conscience. We are not to contaminate our heart by what we feed our mind, which can easily happen via our involvement in things that do not have God's approval.

Satan continues to invent many types of activities today, and he inspires and designs so many new plans and policies for man's place of trust, to draw people away from the Word and Will of God. We need to and must choose wisely, and not allow the devil in our home, by giving him an entrance through television programs, radio broadcasts, Internet web sites, magazines, movies, podcasts, or any other type of media that could wrongly-influence our

thinking, our attitudes, or our buying habits. Satan can easily contaminate our mind or defile our conscience.

We are responsible to maintain a clear conscience, and keep our heart unpolluted, by not getting involved with programs, games, or activities that are inspired by the devil, to condemn our heart and corrupt our mind. (Psalm 101:2) *"I will be careful to lead a blameless life—I will walk in my house with blameless heart"* (because God sees and knows our heart). (vs.3) *"I will set before my eyes no vile (vulgar or wicked) thing."*

Jesus emphasized the spiritual value of keeping a clean heart at all times (Matthew 5:6) *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteous-ness, for they will be filled."* To desire righteousness, is to have a willingness to obey God's Word, and not be involved in things that would defile or condemn our heart. (Acts 17:30-31) *"God commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness, by the Man whom He has ordained."*

We should (and need to) ask God to keep us contented with what He has provided and not allow the devil to put a discontented spirit within us—always wanting more and never saying enough. (1 Tim.6:6) *"Godliness with contentment is great gain;"* so we are admonished and instructed (Phil.4:6) *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."*

[After we go in prayer to God and present our requests to Him, we are then to BELIEVE on Him to fulfill those requests of ours, and (vs.7-8) assure us, *"and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you."*

The teachings of Jesus are to be believed on and followed, to lead us all to 'victory through Christ'. They cannot be overlooked or omitted if

we want to do God's will. Satan knows that if he can deceive us by having us place our trust on some plan, policy, procedure, practice, or some interest—other than God, that misplaced trust will always become an idol between us and God. (It will have to be confessed and repented of before God, to whom everyone will have to answer to on that last day. Again (Acts 17:30-31) *"God commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness, by the Man whom He has ordained."* {We will all have to stand before Christ on that last day, as we are told (Phil.2:9-12) *"God has also so highly exalted Him, and has conferred on Him the Name which is supreme above every other, in order that in the Name of JESUS every knee should bow, of beings in Heaven, of those on the earth, and of those in the underworld, and that every tongue should confess that JESUS CHRIST is LORD, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my dearly-loved friends, as I have always found you obedient, labor earnestly with fear and trembling, not merely as though I were present with you, but much more now since I am absent from you, labor earnestly, I say, to make sure of your own salvation."*

(In summary) God sees and knows our hearts, and He knows what is in our heart, whether or not we are sincere in our faith and trust on Him. God and His Word must have first place in our life. God demands that our trust be centered on Him, (Exodus 20:3) *"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything."*

Sincerity of heart as we trust God in faith, is vital, because He knows our every thought. (1 John 3:21-22) *"If our heart does not condemn us" [meaning, if our conscience is clear], "we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."*



www.fcqchurch.org

fcqchurch1@gmail.com

PO BOX 143

Cheltenham, PA 19012

S478R 0902 26W

The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia