Lesson Two – God Sees the Heart

*“…And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:12-13*

“God knows instantly and effortlessly all matters, all mind and every mind, all spirits, all being and every being, all creaturehood and all creatures, every plurality and all pluralities, all law and every law, all relations, all causes, all thoughts, all mysteries, all enigmas, all feeling, all desires, every uttered secret, all thrones and dominions, all personalities, all things visible and invisible in heaven and in earth, motion, space, time, life, death, good, evil, heaven, and hell…” A.W. Tozer

1. **Our heavenly Father sees the past, present and future.**
2. God declares the end from the beginning. Isaiah 46:8-11, Isaiah 41:21-24
3. His ways are past finding out. Romans 11:33-36
4. **All men and their hearts are open and exposed to the Creator.**
5. The Creator of all things sees the inhabitants of the earth. Psalm 33:13-15

* God is both far and near. No one can hide from the Lord. Jeremiah 23:23-24
* He humbles himself and is involved in the affairs of men. Psalm 113:5-9
* Our Father sees, and provides for our needs. Matthew 5:45, 6:25-34, Psalm 37:25-26
* Heartaches, tears, and sorrow do not go unnoticed by God. Isaiah 38:4-5, Lamentations 3:49-51, 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

1. God’s view penetrates to the deepest level imaginable.

* Whether wilderness, temple, or heart, God sees. Genesis 16, Ezekiel 8, Heb 4:12-13
* No hidden secrets, no hiding from the Lord. Psalm 44:20-21, Luke 8:17
* God is fully aware of our movements, words, and thinking. Psalm 139:1-12
* Even our sins are always before the Lord. Psalm 90:7-8, Psalm 69:5

**Question: After recognizing that God knew everything about him, what did David ask the Lord to do? (Psalm 139:23-24)**

1. **Responding to the one who sees all things.**

No matter the generation or the severity of man’s sins, the Lord wants our hearts—and He wants all of the heart!

1. When God’s people sinned, He made a return possible. Obedience and a whole-hearted commitment were necessary. Deuteronomy 30:1-10

1. Reconciliation with our Father requires nations and individuals be free of idolatry and serve the Lord with prepared hearts. 1 Sam 7:3-4
2. Jesus taught that we must love God with all our being. Matthew 22:34-40
3. The Hebrew writer said we must draw near to God with a true heart in full assurance of faith. Hebrews 10:19-23

**When we have sinned against God, and have offered prayers for forgiveness, what did Solomon say we must recognize or know to be forgiven? 1 Kings 8:38**

1. **The God of heaven tests the hearts.**
2. Our heavenly Father tests both the hearts and minds of men.

* I search the heart; I test the mind. Jeremiah 17:9-10, Psalm 7:9, Proverbs 17:3
* “The testing of your faith…” James 1:2-4

1. God’s purposes in testing.

**Fill in the blanks below with God’s purposes for testing:**

* James 1:2-3 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Psalm 66:10-12\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Deuteronomy 13:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Exodus Chapter 16\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* 2 Chronicles 32:27-31\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Psalm 139:23-24\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. The Christian’s response to testing.

* Count it a joy. James 1:2
* Realize testing produces patience, perfection, and a complete person. James 1:3,4
* Remaining steadfast during testing leads to a crown of life. James 1:12, 1 Peter 1:7