

GOD SURPASSES GOOGLE

Google is considered to be a synonym for the word **search**. This technology company has the world's most powerful search engine whose headquarters is in Mountain View, California. Although Google has a vast amount of information, it is miniscule compared to the omniscience of one who resides on a great Holy Mountain in the New Jerusalem. - Hebrews 12:22-23.

God is the greatest searcher in the universe. He not only knows all the external details of our lives, he is also aware of our deepest thoughts, motives and desires.

.....the LORD **searches** all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts.....- **1 Chronicles 28:9 NKJV**

I the LORD **search** the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve. -**Jeremiah 17:10 NIV**
(see also **Romans 8:27, Revelation 2:23**)

Except for Jesus, more is written about David than any other person in the Bible. He was Israel's greatest king who was a man after God's heart (**1 Samuel 13:14, Acts 13:22**) and yet he fell into some terrible sins. However, in God's eyes, our lives are not defined by our beginnings or failures along our spiritual journey, for God is most concerned with how we finish our life. David truly repented to God and finished with a heart after God as evidenced by his personal prayers and love songs that we can read in the book of Psalms.

O LORD, you have **searched** me and you know me. You **know** when I sit and when I rise; you **perceive** my thoughts from afar. You **discern** my going out and my lying down; you are **familiar** with all my ways. - **Psalms 139:1-3**

David was not only aware of God's searching ability, he welcomed it.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
Psalms 139:23-24

In February of 1981 I attended a 10 week concentrated 250 hour Christian ministry course in Florida. One of our teachers was Mac Owen, who had a great zeal for missions and stressed upon us the importance of the **right heart motivation** for God and his work. One scripture really impacted me from his teaching..... 2 Chronicles 16:9a

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose **heart is loyal** to Him. -NKJV

For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose **hearts are fully committed** to Him. - NIV

Two years later I was listening to 10 orientation messages for a mission group called Operation Mobilization. The most powerful one was a message on **commitment** that Billy Graham had given at an Urbana Missions Conference in 1957. **God is looking** for men and women who will stand in the gap for the world - Ezekiel 22:30. Here are some excerpts from that amazing message.....

‘Here we have an unbelievable picture, an almost impossible picture for us to comprehend. The great and the Almighty God of the universe, the mighty God, the everlasting Father who is from everlasting to everlasting in majesty and glory and power, this mighty God is among us tonight. He is in this gymnasium at the University of Illinois on the last night of 1957, on the threshold of another year, **searching, looking, searching, questing** for a man, for a woman who will say, Lord, I will be thy man in(he goes on to mention many countries and then and gives the example of how the communists are totally committed to their cause. How much more should we be committed to the cause of Christ.) ‘The New Testament uses these kind of words: fight..wrestle..run....work....suffer...endure...resist...agonize...mortify.’ Billy Graham concluded his message with these words:.

Will you say to God, 'I will go where you want me to go, I'll be what you want me to be. Oh God, I want to be thy man and thy woman. I will stand in the gap and make up the hedge. I will deny self and take up the cross, and whatever the cost I will follow the Savior.’ Source: **sermonindex.net** (for printed copy go to search area and put:

Christ demanded no less. Letter written by a communist.

Scroll down and you will find it re: Urbana 1957 speech)

I have a cassette copy of this sermon but have not been able to find another audio version.

God searches us through His Written Word

The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from to whom we must give account. - Hebrews 4:12-13

When we read God's Word, it is also reading us and revealing things in us just as a mirror does in the physical realm. There are incidents in recent years when smart TV's and computers have been hacked so that others can actually spy on unsuspecting users. We know that governments and big tech companies are watching people in many places in the world. If only the people of this world believed that God was watching them, there would be less strife, violence and immoral behavior. The enemy of our souls seeks to keep us from reading God's Word.

Close Encounters of the Highest Kind

At the time God gave the 10 commandments to his people, the mountain was filled with thunder, lightning and smoke. (I have seen photos of this charred mountain peak which have been discovered by archaeological explorers in recent years)

Then the people trembled with fear and stayed back and told Moses to speak to them and not God, or they would die. Moses then said to them:

Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the **fear of God** will be with you to keep you from sinning. - Exodus 20:20

Jesus lived by the fear of the Lord and also taught it, for he knew its importance.

...Rather **fear Him** who can destroy both soul and body in hell.- Matt.10:28b

At some point we will have a message in more detail regarding the fear of the Lord, a much neglected subject in the church as evidenced by the worldly lifestyles we see in so many who proclaim to be Christians. (The Amplified version clarifies what this fear is: **reverential and worshipful fear of the LORD**.) David knew God's great love, but also was aware of his awesomeness. -Psalms 89:1-2, 6-8. Psalm 34 is one of my favorite chapters which mentions fear of the LORD as an important truth in God's school (v.11).

Let us be like David who asked God to search him and who meditated often on God's Word. We can also benefit from the practice of the Christians in Berea who **searched the Scriptures** daily - Acts 17:11. We have the privilege of being like prospectors who search for gold, silver and other hidden treasures.

God told us through Solomon in Proverbs 2:1-5

- * store up and treasure his commands
- * turn your ears to wisdom
- * apply your hearts to understanding
- * call out for insight and discernment
- * cry aloud for understanding
- * look for it as for silver
- * search for it as for hidden treasure
- * then you will understand the fear of the Lord
- * and find the knowledge of God

KNOWING GOD IS THE GREATEST TREASURE!

johnbeckerink@yahoo.com