

What is the core element in our life that God sees at all times?

Jeremiah 17:10: "I, the LORD, search the heart and examine the mind."

Why?

1 Samuel 16:7, "For *the LORD* does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

What's more?

Hebrews 4:13: "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."

1 Chronicles 28:9: "The LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever."

Obviously, there is nothing God doesn't see in our life. Whether our actions, words or even thoughts, God sees it all.

As such:

Proverbs 16:2: "All the ways of a man *are* pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirits."

In the same vein Paul said concerning salvation:

Romans 10:10 "For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Therefore:

2 Corinthians 13:5: "Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified."

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Deception is the tool that Satan uses to draw us away from God. It is found in religions, politics, in business, and it works by attracting us to the flesh rather than God.

Here's how Jesus warned us:

Matthew 7:15: "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."

Why?

Matthew 24:24: "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

As such, to the Pharisees Jesus said:

Luke 16:15: "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God."

What's more?

Jesus highlighted Isaiah's prophecy concerning the deceived, saying:

Matthew 13:14-15 "Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; for the hearts of this people have grown dull. *Their* ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with *their* eyes and hear with *their* ears, lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn, so that I should heal them."

Therefore:

Ephesians 5:6: "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience."

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THE CONSEQUENCES OF A DECEIVED HEART

*“A good man out of the good treasure
of his heart brings forth good things,
and an evil man out of the evil
treasure brings forth evil things.”*

Mat 12:35

How does the Word of God warn us on the consequences of a deceived heart?

Mark 7:20-21, “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders.”

James 4:17: “To him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.”

Proverbs 28:14: “He who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.”

As such:

James 1:14: “Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.”

James 4:4: “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

Why?

Romans 8:7-8: “Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”

As a result:

Romans 1:21: “Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

Therefore:

Jeremiah 17:10: “I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.”

How strongly do I stand firm in Christ, so I am not deceived by the world?

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Proverbs 4:23 tells us, “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it *spring* the issues of life.”

How is that achieved?

Matthew 22:37: “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

Romans 12:2: “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

2 Timothy 2:22: “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

Philippians 4:6-7: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Colossians 3:1: “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.”

Why?

Galatians 5:24: “Those *who are* Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Therefore:

Hebrews 10:22: “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.”

Jeremiah 29:13: “And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

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DOES CHRIST REIGN IN OUR HEART?

*"Your Word I have hidden in my heart,
that I might not sin against You."*

Ps 119:11

How are we enjoined to seek God and have Christ reign in our hearts?

Psalm 51:10: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

Psalm 19:14: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer."

Why?

Psalm 34:18: "The LORD *is* near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit."

Psalm 73:26: "My flesh and my heart fail; *but* God *is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

Psalm 24:3-4: "Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully."

As such:

Psalm 119:2: "Blessed *are* those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart!"

Psalm 37:4: "Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart."

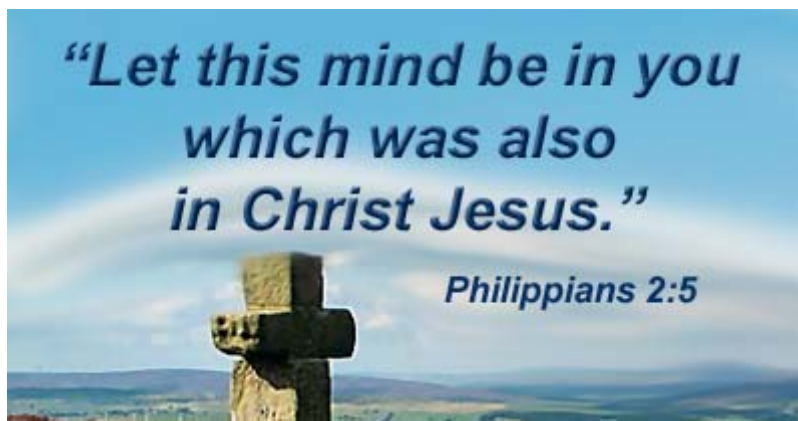
And as Jesus said:

Matthew 5:8: "Blessed *are* the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Is God's Word my source of inspiration, and the Lordship of Christ the focus of my heart?

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How must we direct our hearts, so we live to abide in Christ to the glory of God?

Philippians 2:2-11: "Fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind."

"Let nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself."

"Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross."

"Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

And as Jesus clearly said:

John 15:4: "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."

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