Dear Open Door Family,

When I was in Junior high I used to have a recurring dream that somehow I got dropped off at school in my underwear and started walking through the halls before I realized that I was not fully dressed. At about that point I would wake up in a total panic. Why? Because I was exposed in ways that I did not want to be. Thankfully, it was only a dream. But it does point out a fear we all have at some point in our lives. That of being vulnerable or exposed in front of others. Each of us in our lives has things which we have not shared with anyone, things we would never want others to know about us. Yet God knows those things and still loves us. God knows are deepest thoughts, and our most twisted motivations. I'm thankful that He is also aware of the best part of us. Those times when we do honestly seek to honor God in difficult circumstances and situations. He is aware of those times we have tried really hard and yet failed. But again, He still loves us and cares for us. I Love the fact that He knows us better than we know ourselves and loves us even when our motives are twisted and sinful. That is why the words of these verses from Psalms were so challenging to me today.

Psalm 26:2 *(NET) Examine me, O LORD, and test me! Evaluate my inner thoughts and motives!*

Psalm 139:23-24 *(NLT) Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.*

Psalm 34:4 *(NIV) I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.*

Am I willing to pray, LORD take a close look at ME? Will I say, Lord, look at my inner thoughts, my motives? Will I ask God to search every part of my heart? Am I willing for my anxious thoughts and fears to be exposed by the light of His Truth? If I'm not, then I really cannot expect God to answer when I ask for His strength and help. The first step in seeking after God is to make sure that we are right with God. That means submitting to His examination of our heart, thoughts, and motives. When God shines his truth on our sinful twisted hearts He exposes all those things which we thought we were keeping well hidden. The amazing and the wonderful thing is that if we are willing to let God expose these things, then we can confess them and be right with Jesus once again. That is the only way for us to really seek after Him wholeheartedly. We must submit to Him as He points out those things that are sinful or offensive in our lives. Once we deal with those things then we are free to seek God, to seek His help, His strength as we face the fear, doubts, and struggles of each day.

PRAYER: Lord God, shine the truth of Your Word on my life. Please guide me by your Holy Spirit to know those things that dishonor You. Help me Lord, to leave them behind, to turn away from them and to seek Your help and strength to honor You in my life today. May my inner thoughts and motives come under Your total and complete control.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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