

## Episode 021

# Heart searching (Being Prayerful Series)

---

## Introduction

No matter how long we have been prayer warriors, God wants us to examine our lives in light of His truth. He is deeply interested in our inner lives as prayer warriors and intercessors.

Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV) "Search me, 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."

Matthew 6:12 (NIV) "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Today's topic on heart searching addresses three issues: our sin, God's forgiveness of that sin, and how we can access His forgiveness.

### 1. Our Sin – Missing the bull's eye

Sometimes we excuse our sin because it seems small and insignificant compared to someone else's sin. Yet, God wants us to confront it. When sin is not confessed, it begins to grip every part of our being until we are emotionally and spiritually paralyzed. We must hate sin and view it as God does.

Psalm 32:3-5 (NIV)

"When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Selah. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.' And you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah."

"Forgive us our debts" implies not just our trespasses, but also our shortcomings, weaknesses, bitterness, resentment, and any wrongs we've done.



God does not focus on how pious we may appear outwardly. He is concerned with our heart attitudes and desires to cleanse us if we come to Him in repentance and humility.

## 2. Forgiveness – To dislodge and Let Go

God wants to wipe our slate clean and free us from any sense of entanglement. This is possible through Jesus' redemptive work on the cross—He became the divine substitute for our sins.

The blood of Jesus is the most powerful “cleanser” in the entire universe. Let us walk in God's grace by coming to Him in repentance and humility, so we can be restored to intimacy with the Lord. Closeness with God is crucial in prayer because prayer overflows from a place of intimacy with Him.

1 John 1:7-9 (NIV) "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

When we repent of our sins, God forgives them and will not bring them up again.

Micah 7:19 (NIV) "You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea."





### 3. Confession – Acknowledging and Admitting

We are blessed to have access to God's amazing forgiveness, moving from sin to forgiveness. To confess means to agree with God's view on a matter and to admit our guilt. Confession is the act of verbally admitting our shortcomings and acknowledging our sin. Unconfessed sin weighs us down and paralyzes us over time.

Psalm 66:18-20 (NIV) "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and heard my prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld His love from me!"

The prayer of confession heals our hearts. It is a spiritual cleansing from within. The Good News is that we can come to God daily, laying our sins at the foot of the cross. This is an ongoing, heartfelt activity due to our imperfection.

God wants us to be real with Him and with ourselves. He convicts us of sin, but the enemy comes to condemn. Be cautious of false guilt, which can lead to shame and lingering negative feelings from our sinful past. Start living by God's Word.

Sometimes, restitution may need to follow repentance. Learn to be still before God and allow Him to reveal if anything is amiss. Let's live in freedom before Christ as praying people and enjoy the fruits of our intercession before God.



## Discussion Questions

---

These questions could be done personally or as part of a group discussion.

1. Let's quiet our hearts before God today. Just as David prayed in Psalm 139:23-24, is there anything standing between us and God? Is there anything we need to make right with God, repent of, and receive His amazing forgiveness?
2. Can you share a time when you rationalized or made excuses for following your way instead of God's way? How were you convicted to live rightly before God, and what role did the Holy Spirit play in that moment?





# Ministry Equipping Resources

### Leadership Episodes

[www.wilsonlailing.com/episodes-1/leadership](http://www.wilsonlailing.com/episodes-1/leadership)

### Prophetic Episodes

[www.wilsonlailing.com/episodes-1/prophetic](http://www.wilsonlailing.com/episodes-1/prophetic)

### Intercession Episodes

[www.wilsonlailing.com/episodes-1/intercession](http://www.wilsonlailing.com/episodes-1/intercession)

### Blog Articles

[www.wilsonlailing.com/blog](http://www.wilsonlailing.com/blog)

Bible, Christian Living, Reflections, Church & Q&A



<http://bit.ly/subscribenewsletterWandL>



Do subscribe to receive regular newsletters on updates

# Inspirational Resources

### Sermons

[www.wilsonlailing.com/sermons](http://www.wilsonlailing.com/sermons)

### Quotes

[www.wilsonlailing.com/quotes](http://www.wilsonlailing.com/quotes)

# Connect with Us

### Ask Questions

[www.wilsonlailing.com/contact](http://www.wilsonlailing.com/contact)

### Hope International Ministries

[www.byhim.org](http://www.byhim.org)

### Social Media



[www.facebook.com/Wilson.LaiLing](http://www.facebook.com/Wilson.LaiLing)

[www.instagram.com/wilson.lailing](http://www.instagram.com/wilson.lailing)

### Hope Church (QLD)

[www.hope-church.com.au](http://www.hope-church.com.au)

Copyright © 2021 by Wilson Lim & Lai Ling Lim. All rights reserved. Materials are free to be distributed in whole or part as long as proper acknowledgement is given to the author and not sold for profit.



Open PDF with  
Adobe Acrobat Reader

