

HOW DO WE LOOK TO GOD?

I Samuel 16:7

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INTRODUCTION

1. We learn from this text that God sees more than the outward appearance -- He sees our heart -- Heb. 4:13.
2. There is the outward man and the inward man -- 2 Cor. 4:16; I Pet. 3:4.
3. As men we are so often influenced by external appearance, and we think God is also.
4. Of course, God is aware of our outward appearance, manner of dress, and conduct, but these are only manifestations of the heart -- Prov. 4: 23.
5. Is God ashamed of us many times today as He sees us as we truly are? -- Heb. 11:16.
6. David wanted God to search and know his heart -- Psa. 139: 23 - 24.
 - (1) Do we?
7. David said, *"I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies; I made haste and delayed not to obey thy commandments"* --Psa. 119: 59.
 - (1) All spiritual improvement must begin with a thought -- Prov. 23:7 --"*As he thinketh in his heart so is he*".
 - (2) The examination must be PERSONAL -- *"I thought on my ways"*. . . We must think on our own imperfections and how to correct them -- 2 Cor. 13:5.
 - (3) The EXAMINATION must be SPECIFIC -- I must see my sin.
 1. David -- 2 Sam 12:3 *"I have sinned against the Lord."*

I. DOES GOD SEE LOVE IN MY HEART?

1. Does He see LOVE FOR GOD?
 - (1) Matt. 22: 37 - 38
 - (2) John 14:15 -- *"If ye love me, keep my commandments"*.
2. Does He see LOVE FOR THE TRUTH?
 - (1) 2 Thess. 2:10
 - (2) I must have the TRUTH to be saved -- John 8: 32; Prov. 23:23.
 - (3) Does He see men OBEYING the truth? -- James 1: 22; I Pet. 1:22.
 - (4) Does He see me TEACHING men the truth? -- 2 Tim. 2:2.
 - (5) Does He see me DEFENDING the truth? -- Jude 3
 - (6) Does He see me UPHOLDING the truth? I Tim. 3:15.
 - (7) Does He see men ASHAMED of the truth? -- Rom. 1:16.
3. Does God see LOVE FOR MY BRETHREN?
 - (1) John 13:35
 - (2) 2 Pet. 1:7 *"brotherly kindness"*.
 - (3) Rom. 12:10
4. Does He see LOVE FOR THE CHURCH?
 - (1) Does He see me working for the unity of the church? -- Eph. 4: 1 - 3; I Cor. 1:10.
 - (2) Does He see me working to keep down strife? -- James 3:16 ; (contentions) I Cor. 1:41.
 - (3) Does He see me undermining the work by talking down the work; by talking about the members and the preacher?

- (4) Does He see I have no loyalty to the local church where I am a member?
- (5) Does He see I do not support the local church with my money? -- I Cor. 16: 1 - 2.
- (6) I Cor. 3:17 -- "*If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy*".

II. DOES THE LORD SEE SINS IN MY HEART?

1. Does God see SELFISHNESS in my heart?

- (1) 2 Tim. 3:2
- (2) Selfish ambition? -- Gal. 5:20 -- "*Idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contention, jealousy, outbursts of wrath, SELFISH AMBITION, dissentions, heresies,*" (NKJV).
- (3) Does he see me seeking my own interest above all else? -- Phil. 2: 1 - 5; I Cor. 10:24.

2. Does God see HATRED DWELLING in my heart?

- (1) This is a work of the flesh -- Gal. 5:20.
- (2) This is murder in the sight of God -- I John 3:15.
- (3) This positive proof that one does not love God -- I John 4:20.
- (4) Hate is a characteristic of people of the world -- Tit. 3:3.
- (5) Hate stirs up trouble -- Prov. 10:12; "*hatred stirreth up strifes*".
- (6) Hate leads to sins of the tongue -- Psa. 109:3

3. Does God see ENVY?

- (1) ENVY is "a feeling of pain or unhappiness over the success or good fortune of another; envy is the daughter of pride."
- (2) ENVY feels upset or unhappy over another's good fortune or accomplishments -- ENVY never loves to honor another -- I Sam. 18: 6 - 9.
- (3) God says ENVY is "*the rottenness of the bones*"-- a spiritual cancer -- Prov. 14:30.
- (4) ENVY is a work of the flesh -- Gal. 3: 21.
- (5) "*Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?*" --Prov. 27:4; Song of Solomon 8:6.
- (6) "*Envy is a raging fever, and has no rest*" -- "*envy keeps no holiday*".

4. Does God see INGRATITUDE?

- (1) Being unthankful is wicked -- 2 Tim. 3:2.
- (2) We have read that the badger will dig a hole with enough room to share with the fox, but later the fox will run off the badger and keep the home for himself -- this is cruel ingratitude.
- (3) We should be grateful -- Eph. 5:20.

5. Does God see STUBBORNNESS?

- (1) STUBBORNNESS is actually a refusal to recognize any authority but one's own will.
- (2) Saul was STUBBORN-- I Sam. 15:23.
- (3) STUBBORNNESS is the hardening of the heart and refusing to hear and obey God.
- (4) Being self-willed is sinful -- 2 Pet. 2:10.

6. Does He see SINS OF THE TONGUE?

- (1) Meddling -- I Thess. 4:11.
- (2) Tale bearing -- Lev. 19:16.
- (3) Lying -- Eph. 4:25.
- (4) Contentious words -- Prov. 16:28.
- (5) Murmuring, and complaining -- Phil. 2:14; I Cor. 10:10.
- (6) Impure speech -- Col. 3:8.

- (7) Profanity.
- (8) Tattling -- I Tim. 5:13.
- 7. Does He see DISHONESTY?
 - (1) In our speech? -- Eph. 4:25.
 - (2) In business dealings?
 - (3) In handling of the Word of God? 2 Cor. 4:2.
- 8. Does He see PRIDE? (self-importance)
 - (1) PRIDE is sin -- Prov. 21:4; Prov. 16: 5, 18.

CONCLUSION

- 1. How can we drive sins from our hearts and become acceptable to God?
 - (1) There must be a determination to make some changes -- Psa. 119: 59.
 - (2) We should set definite goals for ourselves -- we must pin-point our weakness.
 - (3) We must "*overcome evil with good*" -- Rom. 12:21.
 - (4) We must fill our hearts with GOOD -- Phil. 4:8.
- 2. Are you here and not a Christian??

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