



## OBEDIENCE & RESPONSIBILITY

## CONVERSATION #2: TURNING FROM SIN

### ICEBREAKER: SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Take a few minutes and work together to spot the seven differences between the two pictures below.



Answers: (1) paintbrush in container (2) light switch on wall (3) square on floor (4) brush on floor (5) paint spot on wall (6) tube of paint (7) shelf

### STUDY: SEARCH ME

The heart of our conversation today will center on a passage from Psalm 139. Before we read this passage, it's important to understand what's happening beneath the surface. This Psalm is written by someone who understood that God already saw every part of their life - thoughts, choices, and motives included. Nothing was hidden. They knew that nothing would be surprising to God. And *because* God already knew everything about him, he made a bold and mature choice. Instead of avoiding self-examination or defending himself, he invites God to instruct and correct him at the deepest level.

### READ PSALM 139:23-24

- What part of this prayer feels hardest to pray honestly, and why?
- How might this be a “dangerous” prayer?
- In what ways do you tend to excuse, ignore, or avoid what God might want to reveal about you?
- Why do you think spiritual growth requires admitting there may be blind spots you can’t see on your own?

This prayer assumes something we often resist: **There may be something in me I don't see - but God does.** Spiritual immaturity avoids this kind of prayer because it feels uncomfortable. Spiritual maturity embraces it because it leads to growth. Rather than waiting for someone else to point out what's wrong, this prayer teaches us to ask God to reveal what needs attention - trusting that whatever He exposes, He also desires to heal and lead forward.

## READ JEREMIAH 17:5-10

- According to this passage, what's the danger of trusting your own heart or strength apart from God?
- Why do you think self-reliance can feel so natural - even in our spiritual lives?
- Jeremiah contrasts two trees: one struggling and one flourishing. What daily choices determine which one a person becomes?
- Verse 9 says the heart can be deceptive. What are some ways our feelings or instincts can quietly lead us away from truth?
- How does this passage challenge the idea that "if it feels right, it must be right"?
- What does it look like, practically, to place your trust in the Lord instead of in yourself?

## CONSIDER: FROM COMFORT TO FREEDOM

Spiritual growth isn't shown by how much we know, but by how willing we are to look inward. When we wait to be corrected, assuming that if something is wrong and someone else will point it out, we reveal a lack of spiritual maturity.

Maturity grows when we learn and choose to examine our own hearts and lives, intentionally inviting God into the places we would rather avoid. Avoidance may feel safer in the moment because it keeps us comfortable, but it also keeps us stuck. Awareness, on the other hand, opens the door to freedom.

Each time you choose to invite God to search your heart - before excuses, before comparisons, before deflection - you take a meaningful step forward.

## CHALLENGE: NO BETTER TIME THAN NOW

This week, begin your day by praying a simple but courageous prayer: "*God, search my heart today, and lead me in Your ways.*" Then pause and ask yourself three honest questions:

**(1) What attitude needs adjusting?**                            **(2) What habit needs interrupting?**  
**(3) What step of obedience is God inviting me to take right now?**

Write down one sentence each day that captures what God brings to mind. Instead of waiting to be confronted or corrected by others, learn to invite God to show you where you need to obey.