



MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

www.mountainstreamchurch.com

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

Search Me



Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

I do not like being searched.

I remember with distaste the many times my luggage was searched when I was clearing customs at various airports. While I understand the necessity of these procedures and I know I am not transporting any contraband, I do not like the idea of strangers going through my personal stuff.

Luggage searches are bad enough, but I especially do not like enduring physical searches.

Even though most times, these are just quick patting downs, I do not like strangers touching me all over my body. I believe most of you are like me in this area.

Yet, as believers, we need to frequently ask the Lord to search us. God already searches us, as David frankly admits in the first few verses of this Psalm (verses 1-6), but that search can feel to us like an invasion of our privacy.

But after thinking through God's amazing power and plan in creating Him (verses 7-16), and recognizing God's great love for him (verses 17-18), David begs God to search him thoroughly. He is aware that as much as he despises the wicked and their wickedness (verses 19-22), it is possible that he himself has some wickedness lurking in his heart – hiding in the shadows. That awareness leads him to voluntarily submit himself to the all-seeing, searching gaze of his God and Savior. He longs for God to uncover and purge him of any wicked ways, and lead him in the right path.

We today need to develop the same perspective, and utter the same prayer. We are prone to miss the attitudes, thoughts and prejudices hiding in our hearts that corrupt our relationships with each other, and our walk with God. We need to acknowledge God's vested, gracious interest in us and open ourselves up to Him so He can examine, convict and change us.

May God help each of us today to honestly pray: "Search me, O God."

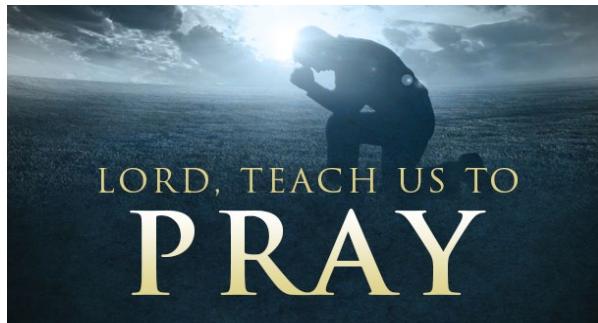
God bless you, Pastor James

QUICK TIPS

Two ways to give your offering.

Traditional with a check by mail or through our secured website online giving is now possible. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!

GAINING A HEART OF WISDOM



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We celebrate **our 12th Anniversary on October 4**. If you'd like to share a video testimony in that service, please contact Pastor James right away.
- Please invite as many of your friends to join our online Anniversary service on October 4th.
- Please pray for Marilyn Johnson recovering from shoulder surgery.
- Dwain & Tashoy Gayle are to be received into membership soon. If you have any comments, please contact Pastor James.
- Pray for Neyda and her family. Neyda's mom went to be with the Lord recently.
- Pray for Ena as she recovers from heart surgery.
- Thursday & Friday **online Growth Groups begin October 8th! Sign up via email** at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com
- **Ladies Online Meeting on Saturday September 26th @ 10:30 am.**
- Support the Pregnancy Resource Center of the Poconos annual Walk for Life on October 3. Contact Lori Ditaranto for more information @ 570 688 3072.
- **As we observe social distancing** at our in-person services, there is only a limited number of persons who can be accommodated inside the building at one time. Please call ahead (570-856-3310), or email us at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com if you are planning to attend this Sunday's service so we can make adequate preparations. If you'd prefer to come and stay outside, you are welcome to. You don't need to call.
- If you are **interested in learning basic music** (primarily for church worship purposes), please come to church on **Saturdays at 5 pm** for free instructions in keyboard, guitar and drumming. For more information please contact Dwain Gayle at 347 677 2923.
- Please see our webpage for detailed information on in-person gatherings.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

If at any time during this virus outbreak you feel that you need some help: whether you are physically unable to go out for groceries, or you might need a little financial help due to the virus, or you just need prayer, feel free to reach out to us, our contact details are below.

305 Dartmouth Dr., East Stroudsburg, PA 18301 * email: mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com * PH: 570-856-3310

Mailing address: Box 192 Bushkill, PA 18324

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

CORPORATE PRAYER TUE. @ 7 PM

September 22

Join us via Zoom video

Please contact Pastor James for details.
rcantuo@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP FRI @ 6:45 PM

September 25

Youth meetings are in-person at church.

SUNDAY SERVICE @ 11 AM

September 27

In-person service and livestream.

Livestreaming is only on Facebook and our church's website.

VIRTUAL KIDZONE SUN @ 4 PM

September 27

Kidzone is available every Sunday.

Contact Candice at candicebrich@gmail.com for logon information.