

Psalm 139:23-24

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.



SERMON NOTES

June 6, 2010

T. Don Guthrie, preaching

A Hard Prayer

Psalm 139:23-24

Prayer is our resource for continued life

"I called to the Lord...he rescued me." (Psalm 18:6, 19)

This prayer is **not** easy.

"Deep down in me, I knowed it was a lie, and he knowed it. You can't pray a lie, I found that out." –Mark Twain

- **Invisible path.** "Lead me in the everlasting way."
"olam" – Hebrew for concealed or invisible
- **Involves a change.** "Lead me in the everlasting way."
"nachah" – Hebrew for guide or transport

"Before we pray, 'Lord, Thy Kingdom come,' we must be willing to pray, 'Lord, my Kingdom go!'" --Alan Redpath

- **Individual courage.** "Lead me in the everlasting way."
"What is that to you? You follow me." (John 21:22)
A desire to run! (v. 7)
- **Inner obstacles.** "Search me, try me, know me, lead me."
Acts 7:51

Dear God,

Will you show me the path that leads me into spiritual life? I can't see it. I know you can. Will you show me? I am willing to change, willing to trust and follow. I know that others may not go with me. I can't lean on them anymore – only on you. Even now, I have many parts of my flesh that are afraid and reluctant. I open all of myself to you – even the parts that are hurtful and anxious. Get me forward, Lord! In Jesus' name, Amen.