

# The Nature Of A Disciple

PART 5 - STAYING RIGHT WITH GOD

# NATURE OF A DISCIPLE

- Knowing God
- Growing in God
- Surrendered to God
- Obeying God
- **Staying right with God**
- Holding tight to God
- Empowered by God
- Counting for God

**Psalm 139:1-4** You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.

**Vs.23-24** 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.

**Psalm 17:1-3** Hear me, Lord, my plea is just; listen to my cry. Hear my prayer – it does not rise from deceitful lips. Let my vindication come from you; may your eyes see what is right. Though you probe my heart, though you examine me at night and test me, you will find nothing; I have resolved that my mouth will not sin.

**Psalm 51:1-17** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity .

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your way, and sinners will turn back to you. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Saviour, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

**Tim Keller:** Legalistic remorse says, "I broke God's rules," while real repentance says, "I broke God's heart"

**R.C. Sproul:** Not until we take God seriously will we ever take sin seriously.

**Anonymous:** Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.

## The Antidote to Sin

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

- Don't hide your sin from God – Bring it to God.
- Don't feel bad about your sin – Turn away from it.
- Don't justify or normalize your sin - See it for what it is.

## How can you stay right with God?

### 1. Pour your heart out to God

- Psalm 63:8
- Psalm 142:1-2

## How can you stay right with God?

### 2. Guard your heart

- Proverbs 4:23
- Ephesians 4:1-3; 30-32

## How can you stay right with God?

### 3. Feed your heart on God's Word

- Psalm 119:7, 9-11, 25-28, 127-128, 133

**John Bunyan:** This book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book.

**Titus 2:11-14** For the grace of God teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

## Three Questions you need to ask:

1. **Have I been made right with God?** (Justification)
2. **Am I currently right with God?** (Sanctification)
3. **Is there anything in my life that is putting distance between me and God?** (Repentance)

**Isaiah 66:2** These are the ones I look on with favour: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word.