

## Where Are You?

By: Timothy Richards

The Lord has been doing a deep work in my heart and I think one of the greatest truths that I have come to know recently is that God is God. What I mean by that is I have forgotten that He has the answers to every question, He knows everything before it happens, He sees all things, and nothing is hidden from Him. Everything we think, everything we say or do, God knows the motive and the reason for it. But knowing all this He wants us to come into the Truth of it all and for us to be able to judge ourselves. The heart is deceitfully wicked above all things (Jeremiah 17:9). God searches our hearts and knows the thoughts of man (Jeremiah 17:10). It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of a king to search it out (Proverbs 25:2). God wants us to come to a place where we cry out to Him, where we are honest with ourselves about our spiritual condition or about the condition of our soul so that we live in Truth, because it is truth that will set us free (John 8:32). But we have to be like David who said, "Show me my heart oh God, see if there be any wicked thing within me." (Psalms 139:24). God is faithful to show us our hearts (1 Corinthians 4:5). Which brings me to my first verse here in Genesis.

**Genesis 3:8-11** - They heard the **sound** of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. (9) Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "**Where are you?**" (10) He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, **and I was afraid** because I was naked; so I hid myself." (11) And He said, "**Who told you that you were naked?** Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

**SOUND** here is "qowl" which means, "voice, proclamation, to call aloud, thundering,"

Many times God is speaking to us. He speaks to us through His Word, through our pastors or elders. He will even speak to us through a donkey if He has to because God knows how to get our attention. The issue is we hear Him speaking but we tend to either shut Him out or even pervert what we hear and twist it to fit our agenda. I've heard people say "God hasn't spoken to me" or "God has to speak to me directly because I have to hear for myself," even though God is speaking to them directly through an individual. God is always speaking and will use whomever He chooses to communicate His message to us. The problem is not with God speaking; it is with our hearing.

Our OLD ADAM, which consists of our mindsets, doctrines, emotions and feelings, hides himself from the presence of the Lord not wanting to be exposed. I know in my own

life, anytime things didn't go the way I wanted them to or I didn't like the way I was being corrected, the first thing my flesh wanted to do was live in denial and run away and hide.

**Proverbs 6:4** says, "when a thief is found out he must repay sevenfold"

That's what old Adam is, he is a thief and he doesn't want to be found out. If we truly want freedom in our lives, we need to learn to be transparent because it's the only way to obtain freedom.

Most of all, we need an understanding that the things that defile a man are from within not from without. This understanding gives us a responsibility to own and be accountable for what the Lord is speaking so we can grow up in the full stature of Christ.

**Mark 7:21-23** says, "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, (22) deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. (23) "All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

One of the biggest revelations I had growing up was that no matter where I ran, God was there; but the second revelation was that no matter where I ran there I was also. We have to understand it's not the things from without that defile a man (Mark 7:15). The Bible clearly shows that the problem lies within us. I finally realized that no matter where I tried to run to get away from my problems they would always follow, because I had to accept that the problem was me. When I understood that verse it opened my eyes and I stopped running. God's not the problem and the people are not the problem, so that leaves just me.

**Psalms 139:7-12** - Where can I go from Your Spirit? **Or where can I flee from Your presence?** (8) If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. (9) If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, (10) Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. (11) If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night," (12) **Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You.**

**WHERE ARE YOU?** This was the question that God asked Adam. **Where are you Adam?** I always pictured God in the garden looking for Adam trying to find him because somehow Adam was able to hide from God, right? The thing is God knows where we are. God knows everything...so why would God ask Adam where he is? God wanted Adam to be truthful and honest with himself and to identify what he was operating out

of. Where was Adam positioned? Where was Adam living? These are questions that God is asking us; we have to be honest with where we are at. The truth sets us free (John 8:31). When we can't be truthful, honest and transparent with where we are at, we will never get the victory.

**Luke 12:33-34** - "Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. (34) **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

The things that we desire, the things that we love the most reveal to us where our hearts are. What do you treasure? What is it that you feel you can't live without?

**Romans 13:1-5** - Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. (2) **Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.** (3) **For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority?** Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; (4) **for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.** (5) **Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.**

We put so much blame on people and things when the Truth is we are a people without **excuse**. The Bible says in **Romans 1:20** – For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that **they are without excuse**.

We try and make **every excuse** we can but it will not work with God. The condemnation that we feel is only present because we put it upon ourselves. **Romans 8:1** says there is no condemnation for those who are positioned and living according to and in Christ. Our leaders are not the ones who are punishing us, or correcting us. Correction really is a word used to describe "being spoken to in truth."

**Jeremiah 2:19** says, "Your own **wickedness will correct you** and your **apostasies will chastise you**" so we are simply reaping what we have sown.

**John 3:17-21** says, For **God** did not **send the Son** into the **world** to **judge the world**, but that the **world might be saved through Him**. 18 **He who believes in Him is not judged**; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 This is the judgment, that the Light has come

into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 **For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.** 21 **But he who practices the truth comes to the Light,** so that his **deeds** may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

**Matthew 7:24-27** also says, "**Therefore everyone who hears these words** of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. (25) And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. (26) **Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them,** will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. (27) The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall."

You see, most of us just dwell on the problem but we never deal with the problem. We wonder why our spiritual walk is like a roller coaster ride or we wonder why we never see our prayers answered or experience the victory. Like I said, we tend to blame others or say it's God's fault when we need to take a hard look in the mirror. Verse 26 says **"Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them..."**

Adam heard the sound of God, He heard His voice, but he chose to sin and then cover it up. Like him, if we choose to continue living in cover up or hiding we will reap death in our lives as well. We are responsible and accountable when we know Truth.

**James 4:1** says "Does not the strife within your body not come from the lusts that war within your members."

You can apply this scripture two different ways. It can apply to the church body as well to our own bodies which the Lord says is the "temple of the Holy Spirit" and we are to treat it as such (**1 Cor. 6:19**). Where does the strife and battle rage? The battle and strife is from within our own hearts and bodies to want to fulfill our own lustful desires. Why do we get angry? Usually we get angry because we aren't getting our way. The Bible tells us that our problems are not from without, but from within.

If we choose to live in the old Adam and in accordance with our selfish carnal desires with their **flimsy excuses**, we will not be able to stand in the day of testing and trials. We must choose to humble ourselves and live in the **TRUTH**, taking full responsibility for our sin, error and disobedience. When we do this, we will live in **stability and freedom** because we are choosing to be grounded upon the firm foundation which is Christ Jesus the Rock and His Word.