

Litmus Test of the Human Heart



人
心
的
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驗

講道經文

Scriptures

Proverbs 箴言 4 : 23 & 17 : 3

4:23

你要保守你心、勝過保守一切, 因為一生的果效、是由心發出.

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

(New Living Translation)

17:3

鼎為煉銀、爐為煉金. 惟有耶和華熬煉人心。

A crucible is for silver and a furnace for gold, but the LORD is the tester of hearts.

(Berean Standard Bible)

Psalms 詩篇 139 :1, 2b; 23, 24

1 耶和華阿、你已經鑒察我、認識我。**2b** 你從遠處知道我的意念。**23** 神阿、求你鑒察我、知道我的心思、試煉我、知道我的意念。**24** 看在我裡面有甚麼惡行沒有、引導我走永生的道路。

1 LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. **2b** You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.
23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
24 Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.
(New Living Translation)

Psalms 詩篇 51 : 5, 10

5 我是在罪孽裡生的．在我母親懷胎的時候、就有了罪。

10 神阿、求你為我造清潔的心、使我裡面重新有正直的靈。

5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

(English Standard Version)

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Proverbs 箴言 4 : 23 ; 17 : 3

Psalms 詩篇 139 : 1, 2(下), 23, 24 ; 51 : 5, 10

Maryland Gospel Church 馬利蘭福音教會 10 -19-2025

Foreword 前言

Since the beginning of 2024, I have been preaching a long series on the Holy Spirit. This important series is still ongoing and not yet complete. 自從2024年初以來，我一直在講關於聖靈的系列信息。這個重要的系列至今尚未完成。

However, for the past six months, I feel that God has placed other messages upon my heart. 然而，在過去六個月，我感到神把其他信息放在我心中。

Not wanting to quench the Spirit and let His inspiration to fade away, I temporarily set aside the Holy Spirit sermon series for the third time and preached a stand-alone message instead.

因為我不想消滅聖靈的感動，也不願讓這些靈感漸漸消失，所以我是第三次暫時擱下聖靈系列的講道，轉而傳講一篇獨立的信息。

Today's sermon is titled
“Litmus Test of the Human Heart.”
今天的講道題目是：「人心的考驗」。

Message Overview

講章概述

Before we begin, I want you to have a general idea of what today's sermon is about. So, please take a look at the following sermon outline.

在我們開始之前，我希望你們能夠對今天的講道有一個大致的了解。所以，請看一下以下的講道大綱。

1. Introduction – What the title means

引言——標題的涵義

2. What Is the Heart?

什麼是「心」？

3. The Importance of the Heart

心的重要性

4. The God Who Searches, Tests, and Refines Our Hearts

察驗、試驗並煉淨人心的神

5. Litmus Tests for the Kings of Israel

以色列君王的試煉時刻

6. Comparing the Sinfulness of Saul and David

掃羅與大衛罪性的對比

7. Two Responses to Failing the Test

試煉失敗後的兩種回應

8. Lessons for Us

給我們的提醒

9. God Looks for People After His Own Heart

神尋找合乎祂心意的人

10. Conclusion

結論

Introduction 引言

Have you ever been surprised by someone's "true colors" being revealed when they were placed under pressure? Maybe you thought you knew them well, until a crisis, a conflict, or a temptation exposed what was really inside. 你是否曾因某人顯露出「真面目」而感到震驚？也許你以為自己很了解他，但當他面對壓力、衝突或試探時，他內心真正的本質卻被揭露出來。

A simple illustration: A brother and sister were raised in a Christian home in China.

一個簡單的例子：有一對兄妹在中國的基督徒家庭中長大。

After immigrating to the United States, they opened a Chinese restaurant together. Business prospered, and they made a great deal of money.

移民美國後，他們一起開了一家中餐館。生意興隆，賺了不少錢。

But soon, greed crept into the sister's heart. She began plotting to push her brother out of the partnership and eventually succeeded. 但不久，貪婪進入了妹妹的心，她開始設法把哥哥趕出合夥，最後真的得逞。

Her brother became furious, and their relationship was broken beyond repair.

哥哥憤怒不已，兩人的關係從此決裂，無法挽回。

Who would have thought such a thing could happen between siblings raised in a Christian family? Yet **the litmus test of wealth exposed the hidden ugliness in the sister's heart.**

誰能想到這樣的事竟會發生在一對從小在基督徒家庭長大的兄妹之間？然而，財富的「石蕊試驗」揭露了妹妹內心隱藏的醜陋。

Two Kinds of Test 兩種測試

Before we move further, let's first understand what a **litmus test** means.

在進一步探討之前，讓我們先

A litmus test comes from a simple test used to **reveal** whether it is acidic or alkaline. 領域，是一種簡單的測試，用鹼性的。



Litmus is a natural dye extracted from lichens. Acidic solutions turn blue litmus paper red, while alkaline solutions turn red litmus paper blue. 石蕊是一種從地衣中提取的天然染料。酸性溶液會使藍色石蕊試紙變紅色而鹼性溶液則會使紅色石蕊試紙變藍

Litmus Test

石蕊試驗



The litmus paper itself doesn't create the acidity; it **merely reveals what is already there.**

試紙本身不會改變物質的性質，只是顯出那原本存在的特質。

In the same way, life's trials often serve as spiritual litmus tests. They don't create our character; they **reveal it.** 同樣地，人生的試煉常常就是屬靈的「石蕊試驗」。它們不會塑造我們的品格，而是揭露它。

Pressure, success, temptation, or suffering — these experiences simply **expose what has been hiding in our hearts all along.** 無論是壓力、成功、試探或苦難，這些經歷都會顯明我們心裡早已存在的真實光景。

Touchstone Test 試金石測試

In English, we often use “litmus test” metaphorically to mean “a decisive test that reveals the true nature of something.” But in Chinese, we actually have **two** distinct images: 在英文裡，「litmus test」常被比喻為「揭露真相的關鍵考驗」。但在中文裡，實際上有兩種不同的意象：

1 Litmus test — is a test of nature or character
石蕊試驗 是對性質的測試

2 Touchstone test — is a test of quality or purity
試金石 是對「品質」或「純度」的測試。

A touchstone is a piece of fine-grained dark schist or jasper formerly used for testing alloys of gold by observing the color of the mark which they made on it. 試金石是一種細粒的深色片岩或碧玉，過去用於檢測金的合金，方法是觀察合金在試金石上留下的痕跡顏色。

A touchstone
試金石



Man Under Test by God 人被神試驗

The Bible tells us that **God tests us in both ways**. Sometimes, He reveals **our nature** — what we are truly made of. Other times, He refines **our quality**—purifying and strengthening our faith, like gold tested by fire. 聖經告訴我們，**神試驗人有這兩個層面**。有時祂揭示我們的**本性**——讓我們看見自己真正的樣子；有時祂熬煉我們的**品質**——如同金子被火煉淨，使信心更加純粹堅定。

These divine tests are not meant to destroy us but to refine us, helping us become vessels that reflect **God's heart**. 這些屬天的試驗並非為了毀滅我們，而是為了煉淨我們，使我們成為能夠反映神心意的器皿。

If God uses tests to reveal and refine what is inside us, then we must ask: **What exactly is being tested?** What is at the core of our being that God so deeply examines?

既然神藉著試驗來顯明並煉淨我們的內在，我們就該問：**神所考驗的到底是什麼？** 祂如此關切的核心所在是什麼？

The answer is — **our heart**. 答案就是——**我們的心**。

What Is the Heart? 什麼是「心」?

In Scripture, the heart represents **the core of who we are** — our thoughts, emotions, desires, motives, and will. It's not just about our feelings, but **the control center of our spiritual life.**

在聖經中，「心」代表著我們的內在核心——包括思想、情感、慾望、動機與意志。它不只是情感的所在，更是靈性生命的「控制中心」。

The Bible often uses “heart” to describe **the real person within** — **who we are** before God, not who we appear to be before people. Outward behavior can be deceiving, but the heart tells the truth.

聖經常以「心」來描述我們真實的內在自我——是我們在神面前的真我，而非在人面前的表現。外在行為可以偽裝，但心卻揭露真相。

The heart is where thoughts are formed, desires are born, and decisions and choices are made. **Faith is conceived there**—but so is sin.

「心」是思想形成的地方，是慾望誕生之處，是作出決定和選擇的地方。信心在那裡孕育，但罪惡也從那裡萌生。

That's why God is far more concerned with the heart than with outward appearance.

因此，神更看重人的心，而不是外在的表現。

The Importance of the Heart 心的重要性

The Importance of the Human Heart To God

人心對神的重要性：

Because the heart is the core of who we are, it's what God looks at and evaluates. 1 Samuel 16:7 reminds us, "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

因為「心」是我們整個人的核心，所以神看重的不是外在，而是內心。撒母耳記上16章7節提醒我們：「人是看外貌，耶和華是看內心。」

Outward appearances can deceive, but God sees what lies beneath—our motives, desires, and true loyalties. 外貌可以欺騙人，但神能看透我們的動機、慾望與真正的忠誠。

God values what is unseen. Our words and actions may fool others, but God searches motives, thoughts, and intentions. He measures not by how we appear, but by the posture of our hearts toward Him. 神重視的是人所看不見的部分。我們的言語與行為也許能欺騙人，但神鑒察我們的動機、思想與意圖。祂衡量的標準，不是外表，而是我們對祂的心態。

The Importance of the Heart 心的重要性

The Importance of the Heart To Us

心對我們的重要性：

For us, the heart is equally vital. Proverbs 4:23 says, “Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life (New Living Translation)”

對我們而言，「心」同樣至關重要。箴言4章23節說：「你要竭力保守你的心，因為你的人生方向取決於你的心」(英文新活譯本翻譯)

Everything we think, say, and do flows from the condition of our heart. If the heart is right, life flows rightly; if the heart is corrupt, everything else becomes distorted. 我們所思想、所說、所行的一切，都取決於內心的狀況。心若正確，生命就會流出正確的方向；心若敗壞，一切也隨之扭曲。

Moreover, saving faith arises from the heart. Romans 10:9–10 says, “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart (not in your head) that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved.”

此外，使人得救的信心出於心。羅馬書10章9至10節說：「你若口裡認耶穌為主，心裡信神（不是頭腦信神）叫耶穌從死裡復活，就必得救」

Salvation Comes from a Regenerated New Heart 得救源於重生的「新心」

Many people decide to believe in the Lord after rational analysis. While it is good that they do not “blindly” believe, merely agreeing with biblical truths in the mind is not enough.

許多人決志信主是在經過理性分析之後。雖然他們不「盲目」相信是好的，但僅僅在頭腦上認同聖經的真理是不夠的。

Saving faith does not arise from intellectual consent but from a new heart which is created by the Holy Spirit through regeneration. 得救的信心不是出於理智的同意，而是出於一顆藉著被聖靈重生賦予的新心。

The Word of God is like a seed, but this seed requires God to impart life before it can germinate.

神的道就像一粒種子，但這種子需要神賦予生命才能萌芽。

When regeneration happens, we get a new heart that can respond to God, know the need to repent, and is given the saving faith to believe in the Lord unto salvation.

當重生發生時，我們便得著一顆能夠回應神的新心，認識到自己需要悔改，並蒙賜予得救的信心來信靠耶穌，以致得救。(Eph. 弗 2; Rom. 羅

The God Who Searches, Tests, and Refines Our Hearts 察驗、試驗並煉淨人心的神

If the heart is the core of who we are, then it's no wonder that God pays such close attention to it.

既然「心」是我們整個人的核心，就難怪神特別關注我們的心。

The Bible tells us that the Lord not only sees our actions, but He searches our hearts and minds to reveal what truly lies within. 聖經告訴我們，主不僅看我們的行為，祂也察驗我們的心思意念，顯明我們裡面真正的情況。

He doesn't test us to find out something He doesn't know—but so that we may know ourselves as He sees us, and be refined through the process.

祂試驗我們，並不是因為祂不知道我們如何，而是要讓我們照祂所看到的認識我們自己，並在試煉中被煉淨。

Scripture repeatedly affirms that God searches our hearts and minds because our inner life matters deeply to Him.

聖經一再強調，神鑒察人的心思意念，因為祂極其看重我們內在的生命。

The God Who Searches, Tests, and Refines Our Hearts 察驗、試驗並煉淨人心的神

Jeremiah 17:10 declares, “I, the Lord, search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways.” Nothing in our hearts—no motive, no hidden thought—escapes His gaze (Hebrews 4:13).

耶利米書17章10節說：「我耶和華是鑒察人心、試驗人肺腑的，要照各人所行的報應他。」在神的眼前，沒有一個動機或意念能被隱藏（來4:13）。

King David understood this truth well. In Psalm 139:23-24 he prayed, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

大衛深知這一真理。他在詩篇139篇23-24節禱告說：「神啊，求你鑒察我，知道我的心思；試煉我，知道我的意念；看在我裡面有甚麼惡行沒有，引導我走永生的道路。」

David was asking for God’s examination of his spiritual condition, so his heart could be aligned with God’s will. 大衛是求神檢視他的屬靈狀況，使他的心與神的旨意相符。

The God Who Searches, Tests, and Refines Our Hearts 察驗、試驗並煉淨人心的神

**David taught the same lesson to his son Solomon:
“Serve God with a loyal heart and a willing mind; for the
Lord searches all hearts and understands every intent
of the thoughts” (1 Chronicles 28:9).**

**大衛也把這真理教導給兒子所羅門：「你當以誠心樂意事奉耶和華，
因為祂鑒察眾人的心，知道一切心思意念。」（代上28:9）**

**Sadly, Solomon later strayed from the right path, proving
that even with great wisdom, one may still go astray if
one does not guard his heart. 可悲的是，所羅門後來偏離了正
道，證明人即使擁有極大的智慧，若不謹守內心，仍可能誤入歧途。**

**The testing of our hearts is also a refining process.
Proverbs 17:3 says, “The crucible is for silver and the
furnace for gold, but the Lord tests the heart.” Just as
fire exposes impurities in metal, trials expose what still
needs to be purified in us.**

**神試驗人心的目的，也是要煉淨我們。箴言17章3節說：「鼎為煉銀，
爐為煉金，惟有耶和華試驗人心。」火能顯出金屬的雜質，試煉也能
顯出我們裡面需要被潔淨的部分。**

The God Who Searches, Tests, and Refines Our Hearts 察驗、試驗並煉淨人心的神

God's goal in testing our heart is not to condemn us but to transform us—to bring forth sincerity, humility, and truth in the inward parts (Psalm 51:6).

神試驗的目標不是定我們的罪，而是轉化——要在我們裡面產生真誠、謙卑與內裡的真實（詩51:6）。

When God shows us what's wrong inside, He invites repentance and renewal.

當神讓我們看見自己內心的問題時，祂是在邀請我們悔改與更新。

If the purpose of searching and examining our hearts is not to condemn us, but to refine our hearts and transform us, then what is God's ultimate purpose in doing all these?

倘若察驗我們內心的目的，並非是要定我們的罪，而是要煉淨我們的心並轉化我們，那麼神作這一切的最終目的又是什麼呢？

The answer is: God wants to turn us into men after His own heart

答案是：神要把我們轉化為合乎祂心意的人。

Litmus Tests for the Kings of Israel

以色列君王經歷的試煉

Every ruler of Israel faced moments that tested the true nature of his heart. Saul and David—Israel's first two kings—both underwent divine “litmus tests.”

以色列的每一位君王都經歷過顯明他內心真實光景的時刻。掃羅和大衛——以色列的前兩位君王——都經歷過神所設下的「石蕊試驗」。

These tests did not come in the laboratory but in real-life circumstances that **exposed what ruled within them: faith or fear, humility or pride, obedience or self-will.**

這些試驗並非發生在實驗室裡，而是在現實生活的處境中，揭露掌管他們內心的是信心還是恐懼、謙卑還是驕傲、順服還是己意。

Saul's first test came when he was told to wait for Samuel before offering sacrifice (1 Sam 13). Pressured by fear and impatience, he crossed the line of priestly authority and took matters into his own hands.

掃羅的第一次試煉，是當撒母耳吩咐他在獻祭之前必須等候先知到來（撒下十三章）。因為害怕和不耐煩，他越權行事，親自獻祭。

Litmus Tests for the Kings of Israel

以色列君王經歷的試煉

What seemed like a small, even reasonable action revealed a heart ruled by anxiety and self-confidence rather than trust in God. 表面上看似微不足道、甚至合理的舉動，卻顯出他內心被焦慮與自信所支配，而非信靠神。

His next test came when he was commanded to completely destroy the Amalekites (1 Sam 15). Saul spared King Agag and the best livestock, excusing his disobedience as “religious zeal—to sacrifice to the Lord.” 接下來的試煉，是當神吩咐他要滅盡亞瑪力人時（撒下十五章）。掃羅卻留下亞甲王與上好的牲畜，並以「要獻給耶和華」為藉口為自己辯護

That failure revealed a deeper disease: rebellion disguised as devotion.

這次的失敗揭露了更深層的病根：以敬虔為外衣的悖逆。

Then came the song of the women praising David: “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousand” (1 Sam 18:7).

之後婦女們唱歌讚美大衛：「掃羅殺死千千，大衛殺死萬萬」（撒下十八章七節）

Litmus Tests for the Kings of Israel

以色列君王經歷的試煉

Jealousy, pride, and insecurity boiled to the surface. Saul's need for recognition, popularity and control consumed him, he could not bear David overtaking him and pursued to have David killed on multiple occasions. 嫉妒、驕傲與不安在心中翻騰。掃羅渴求認可、名望與掌控權，這股渴求吞噬了他，他無法忍受大衛超越自己，多次企圖置大衛於死地。

The litmus paper turned dark—Saul's heart was far from God. 試金石已然變黑——顯明掃羅的心已遠離神。

In contrast, David's greatest failure began after he had firmly established himself as king of Israel. Life grew comfortable and complacent. 相對之下，大衛最大的失敗始於他穩坐王位、成為以色列王之後。生活變得安逸而怠惰。

Then came the litmus test—temptation arose, stirring lust within him and drawing him into a vortex of adultery, deceit, and murder (2 Samuel 11).

隨後試金石臨到——試探出現，導至他內心湧出情慾的誘惑，使他步入通姦、欺詐與謀殺的漩渦（撒母耳記下11章）。

Litmus Tests for the Kings of Israel

以色列君王經歷的試煉

For months David lived as though nothing had happened, convincing himself that he could bury his sin and move on. 數月之久, 大衛過著若無其事的生活, 說服自己可以埋葬罪孽, 繼續如常生活。

But God would not allow him to harbor sin and live an unrepentant life. 然而神不容許他心藏罪惡活在不肯悔改的生活中。

God sent Nathan the prophet with a parable that pierced David's defenses: "You are that (evil) man!" (2 Sam 12:7). 神差遣先知拿單以比喻揭穿大衛的防線:「你就是那(惡)人！」

In that moment the test was complete—the truth of David's heart was revealed. 那一刻試驗結束, 大衛心中的真相完全曝光。

The difference between Saul and David was not that one sinned and the other didn't, but that one hardened his heart while the other humbled it. 掃羅與大衛的不同, 不在於誰沒有犯罪, 而在於一個心硬拒絕神, 另一個謙卑降服於神。

Comparing the Sinfulness of Saul and David

掃羅與大衛罪性的對比

From a human point of view, Saul's offenses might appear to be “misdemeanors”—ritual mistakes, leadership lapses and narrow mindedness—while David's crimes were “felonies” of passion, craftiness and murder.

從人的角度看，掃羅的罪似乎只是「輕罪」——儀式上的錯誤，領導失誤以及心胸狹窄；而大衛的罪卻是「重罪」——情慾，狡猾與謀殺。

Yet God judged not by degree but by depth of sin: Saul's lesser sins sprang from a rebellious heart; David's greater sins ended in repentance. 然而，神看的是罪的「深度」而非「程度」：掃羅的輕罪源於悖逆的心，大衛的重罪卻以悔改收場。

Saul's pattern was consistent—disobedience followed by self-justification and blame-shifting.

掃羅的行為模式一貫如此：違命之後便為自己辯護、推卸責任。

When confronted, he rationalized: “I forced myself to offer the sacrifice.” “The people spared the animals.”

These excuses showed that he feared losing face more than losing God's favor.

當先知責備他時，他說：「我勉強自己獻上祭。」又說：「百姓留下了牲畜。」這些藉口顯示他怕失去人的面子，多於怕失去神的恩寵。

Comparing the Sinfulness of Saul and David

掃羅與大衛罪性的對比

David's transgressions were far graver. He took another man's wife and orchestrated that man's death. 大衛的過犯更為嚴重。他奪取他人妻子，又設計讓那女子的丈夫被殺。

Yet when Nathan confronted him, David uttered no defense—only confession: “I have sinned against the Lord.”

然而當拿單責備他時，大衛沒有辯解，只承認：「我得罪耶和華了。」

Psalms 51 records David's broken heart crying for cleansing, renewal, and the Spirit's restoration. 詩篇第五十一篇記錄了大衛痛悔的心聲：求神洗淨，更新，並恢復他裡面的聖靈。

He confessed, “I know my transgressions... Against You, You only, have I sinned” (Ps 51:3–4). 他承認：「我知道我的過犯.....我向你犯罪，惟獨得罪了你。」（詩五十一篇三至四節）

David realized that his greatest offense was not against Bathsheba, or Uriah but against God Himself. 大衛明白，他最大的得罪不是對拔示巴或烏利亞，而是對神自己。

Comparing the Sinfulness of Saul and David

掃羅與大衛罪性的對比

David understood that sin was not an event but an innate nature—“Surely I was sinful at birth” (Ps 51:5)—and only God could **create a clean heart** within him.

大衛看見罪不僅是一件事，而是一種與生俱來的本性：「我是在罪孽裡生的。」（詩五十一篇五節）唯有神能在他裡面**創造一顆清潔的心**。

Even today, we have seen respected Christian leaders whose hidden sins were eventually exposed. 時至今日，我們仍看到一些備受敬重的屬靈領袖，他們隱藏多年的罪最終被揭露。

They may have stopped their sinful acts long ago, yet never came clean before God or genuinely sought forgiveness from their victims. 也許他們早已停止犯那些罪，卻從未在神面前坦白、也從未真誠地向受害者尋求寬恕。

But Scripture warns, “Be sure your sin will find you out” (Numbers 32:23). 聖經警告說：「你們的罪必追上你們。」（民數記三十二章二十三節） God would rather uncover sin publicly than let His servant perish privately. He exposes sin in order to redeem. 神寧可讓人的罪被公開揭露，也不願祂的僕人在隱密中滅亡。祂揭露罪行，是為了拯救。

Two Responses to Failing the Test

試煉失敗後的兩種回應

When confronted by God, Saul and David took opposite roads. 當神的責備臨到時，掃羅與大衛走上了相反的道路。

Saul chose rebellion—he hardened his heart, justified himself, and blamed others. His pride became the chain that dragged him into paranoia, despair, and finally destruction. The man who once stood tall ended up falling on his own sword. 掃羅選擇叛逆——剛硬己心，為自己辯護，並責怪他人。他的驕傲成為套在頸上的鎖鏈，最終把他拉入猜疑、絕望與自毀之中。這位曾經高大威猛的人，最終倒在自己的刀下而死。

David chose repentance. He came clean before God, admitted his guilt, and sought mercy. His confession opened the door to restoration. God forgave him, refined him through discipline, and still called him “a man after My own heart.”

大衛則選擇悔改。他在神面前坦誠自己的罪，尋求憐憫。他的認罪為復興開了門。神赦免他，藉管教煉淨他，仍稱他為「合乎我心意的人」。

True repentance does not erase the past, but it transforms the heart for the future.
真正的悔改不能塗抹過去，卻能改變未來的心。

Convictions of Sin 對罪的覺悟

To understand why Saul and David ended up on such different paths, let us look at the **four degrees of conviction of sin** that reveal the heart's true response.
為了明白為何掃羅與大衛最後走上截然不同的道路，讓我們來看人對罪覺悟的四個層次，這四個層次揭示了人心在罪面前的真實反應。

The Four Degrees of Conviction of Sin 對罪覺悟的四個層次

Sorry 抱歉	Regret 遺憾	Remorse 懊悔	Repentance 悔改
Emotional acknowledgement of wrong, often superficial. 只是情緒上的承認錯誤，往往流於表面。	Feeling bad about consequences but not about sin itself. 對後果感到難過，而非對罪本身。	Deep sorrow without change; guilt dominates. 深感痛苦但無實際改變；被罪疚感控制。	Turning away from sin toward God with a changed heart. 心意更新，離棄罪歸向神。

Responses to Failing the Test

試煉失敗後的回應

Saul felt sorry and remorseful (1 Sam 15:30) but never repented. David's repentance, by contrast, led him to worship and restoration. As the Apostle Paul later said, "Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted" (2 Cor. 7:10).

掃羅感到抱歉與懊悔（撒下十五章三十節），卻從未真正悔改；相反，大衛的悔改使他回到敬拜與更新之中。正如使徒保羅所說：「依著神的意思憂愁，就生出沒有後悔的懊悔以致得救。」（林後七章十節）

It was not the size of their sin that separated Saul and David, but the posture of their heart after sin. God is still searching hearts today—not to condemn, but to reveal, heal, and refine.

區分掃羅與大衛的，不在於罪的大小，而在於犯罪之後心的姿態。如今神仍在察驗人心，不是為了定罪，而是為了顯明、醫治與煉淨。

Lessons for Us 給我們的教訓

As we reflect on the stories of Saul and David, we must remember that **God still tests hearts** today—not to condemn us, but to **reveal what's inside and purify us.**
當我們反思掃羅和大衛的故事時，我們必須記住，神今天仍然考驗我們的心——不是為了譴責我們，而是為了揭示我們的內心並淨化我們。

Every test, every trial, and every temptation becomes God's instrument to expose what we truly trust in.
每一次考驗、每一場試煉、每一個誘惑，都是神用來顯明我們真正信靠對象的工具。。

When our hidden motives, fears, or pride surface, God is not surprised. He already knows what is there. 當我們隱藏的動機、恐懼或驕傲浮現時，神並不驚訝；祂早已知道一切。
He allows these “litmus tests” so that **we might see ourselves as He sees us—and turn to Him for cleansing.**
祂容許這些「石蕊試驗」發生，為的是要我們看見自己在祂眼中的樣子，並回轉向祂求潔淨。

The question is not whether we will fail a test, but **how we will respond after we fail.** Will we harden our hearts like Saul, or humble ourselves like David?
關鍵不是我們會不會失敗，而是失敗之後我們如何回應——是像掃羅一樣剛硬己心，還是像大衛一樣謙卑悔改？

God Looks for People After His Own Heart

神尋找合乎祂心意的人

From generation to generation, God continues to look for people after His own heart—men and women who **long not for power, fame, or success, but for God Himself.** 自古以來，神一直在尋找合乎祂心意的人——那些**不追求權力、名聲或成功，而是渴慕神自己的人。**

To be after God's heart means to desire what He desires, to love what He loves, and to obey Him wholeheartedly even when it costs us something. **所謂「合神心意」，就是渴望祂所渴望的，愛祂所愛的，並在任何代價下全心順服祂。**

David was not perfect—but he was pursuing the heart of God. His repentance opened the way for restoration and intimacy with God. **大衛並不完美，但他追求神的心。** 他的悔改使他得著恢復與神親密的關係。

Saul, on the other hand, wanted **the approval of men** more than the favor of God. This is the ultimate difference between religion and relationship. God does not delight in outward performance, but in an **honest and yielded heart.**

相反地，掃羅更在意人的稱讚，而非神的喜悅。這正是宗教與關係之間的最大差別：神不喜悅外表的表現，而喜悅一顆誠實、降服的心。

Conclusion

結 論

The litmus test of life will come to every one of us. It may appear through success, failure, temptation, or hardship—but its purpose is the same: to reveal the **true condition of our hearts before God.**

人生的石蕊試驗臨到我們每一個人。它可能透過成功、失敗、試探或困苦而出現——但目的都一樣：要顯明我們在神面前真實的內心狀況。

When the Lord tests us, it is not to destroy us, but to refine us like gold.

當主試驗我們時，並非要毀滅我們，而是要像煉金一樣煉淨我們。

If He exposes sin, it is to invite repentance.

倘若祂揭露罪惡，是要呼召我們悔改；

If He allows pressure, it is to purify faith.

若祂容許壓力臨到，是要提煉我們的信心。

The worst failure is not to fall—it is to refuse correction and stay in pride. 最大的失敗不是跌倒，而是拒絕被糾正，仍然驕傲。

But when we confess our sins and turn to Him, He is faithful to forgive, cleanse, and renew our hearts.

但當我們承認自己的罪並回轉向祂時，祂是信實的，必赦免、潔淨並更新我們的心。

Conclusion

結 論

So let us pray like David:

“Search me, O 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 139:23–24)

讓我們像大衛那樣禱告：

「神啊，求你鑒察我，知道我的心思；試煉我，知道我的意念。看在我裡面有什麼惡行沒有，引導我走永生的道路。」（詩篇139:23–24）

Closing Prayer 結束禱告

Heavenly Father,

You are the God who searches and knows our hearts.

We thank You that Your testing is not to shame us, but to refine us and perfect us.

天父上帝，

祢是鑒察並知道人心的神。我們感謝祢，因為祢試驗我們不是為了羞辱我們，而是為了熬煉我們，使我們變得完美。

Like David, we confess that our hearts are often divided, distracted, and defiled.

像大衛一樣，我們承認自己的心常常分裂、分心、被污穢。

Closing Prayer

結束禱告

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us.

求祢為我們造清潔的心，使我們裡面重新有正直的靈。

Help us to walk humbly before You, quick to repent and not to harden our hearts.

求祢幫助我們在祢面前謙卑行走，快快悔改，不剛硬己心。

When we face the litmus tests of life, may our faith be found genuine, our love be sincere, and our obedience complete.

當我們面對人生的石蕊試驗時，願我們的信心被顯明為真，我們的愛真誠，我們的順服完全。

Teach us to treasure You above all else, that we may truly become people after Your own heart.

教導我們以祢為至寶，好使我們成為真合乎祢心意的人。

In Jesus' name we pray.

奉主耶穌基督的名求，

Amen. 阿們。

LITMUS TEST OF THE HUMAN HEART



人
心
的
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驗

Proverbs 箴言 4 : 23 ; 17 : 3

Psalms 詩篇 139 : 1, 2(下), 23, 24 ; 51 : 5, 10

Maryland Gospel Church 馬利蘭福音教會 10-19-2025

Response Song 回應詩歌： 求你為我造清潔的心

