



Prayer Guide for First Friday Fast 2020: September 4

“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way.” Psalm 139:23-24

Outline and quotes from *Dangerous Prayers: Because Following Jesus Was Never Meant to Be Safe* by Craig Groeshel (Zondervan, 2020) *Recommended reading!*



Search Me

“With all his heart, David wanted to please God. ...David surrendered his heart before God and prayed one of the most vulnerable, transparent, and dangerous prayers you’ll ever hear.” (p. 31)

“The heart is more deceitful than anything else, and incurable — who can understand it?”
Jeremiah 17:9

“Our heart deceives us and is desperately wicked. At its core, our heart is all about self—not Christ. ...It’s obsessed with what we want—not what God wants.” (p. 33)

“The Lord said: ‘These people approach me with their speeches to honor me with lip-service, yet their hearts are far from me, and human rules direct their worship of me.’”
Isaiah 29:13

“I realized the closer I got to Jesus, the more I’d have to face my shortcomings. My pride. My selfishness. My lust. My critical spirit.” (p. 37)

“Instead of simply asking God to do something for you, ask God to reveal something in you.” (p. 38)

What are you hearing from Him?

Reveal My Fears

“What we fear the most often reveals where we trust God the least. ...The things that keep me awake at night were the things that I wasn’t trusting God to handle.” (p. 40)

“Our fears matter. Because ultimately, our fears show how we’re relying on our own efforts and not trusting in our Savior.” (p. 42)

*“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness.’ Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may reside in me. So, I take pleasure in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” **2 Corinthians 12:9-10***

“The pathway to your greatest potential is often straight through your greatest fear... what God wants for you may be on the other side of what your fear the most.” (p. 43)

*“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.” **2 Timothy 1:7***

*“There is no fear in love; instead, perfect love drives out fear” **1 John 4:18***

“As God reveals your fears, he will also build your faith. You need Him. You need His presence. You need His power. You need His Spirit guiding you. You need His Word strengthening you. Faith doesn’t mean you don’t get afraid. Faith means you don’t let fear stop you.” (p. 43-44)

What do you fear? What are your anxious thoughts?

Where do you need to grow in faith?

Uncover My Sins

“Show me if I am doing anything that offends or hurts Your heart.” (p. 45)

“We need God’s help to see the sin that’s difficult to see in the mirror.” (p. 50)

*“For with his flattering opinion of himself, he does not discover and hate his iniquity. The words from his mouth are malicious and deceptive; he has stopped acting wisely and doing good.” **Psalm 36:2-3***

“Without even knowing it, our deceptive hearts deceive us into ignoring our own sin. And the rationalizations continue.” (p. 50)

*“A fool’s way is right in his own eyes, but whoever listens to counsel is wise.” **Proverbs 12:15***

“I’ve learned that when I’m defensive, that’s an indication I need to pay more attention and be open to what God wants to show me. ...I’ve found that the more convinced I am that I’m right about something, the more likely that I’m wrong.” (p. 52)

“Would you ask God to show you if this is something He would have you change?” (p. 53)

What are you hearing from the Lord?

Lead Me

“We want God to lead us, to direct us, to guide us to become what He wants us to be.” (p. 55)

“This is where genuine, Spirit-filled, life-altering change becomes possible.” (p. 56)

“Listen for what God says. Watch for what He shows you. ...Discovering our deepest need is a gift. It’s an opportunity. It’s a blessing. Because your deepest need becomes a gift when it moves you to depend on Christ.” (p. 57-58)

As we continue to face the challenges of the pandemic, hear these words:

“I’ve chosen not to use the word enduring. Enduring is a passive response to something that is happening. ...I’m embracing this whole situation. With everything in me, I believe God is using it to help me know Him better and help others know Him too.” (p. 58)

Where do you hear Him leading you?

“Are you tired of boring, safe, sterile prayers? Are you stuck in a spiritual rut? Is your faith fat? Your passion low? Are you hungry for more? And ready to obey?”

Then venture out into the deep waters of communication with God. Open your heart to healing from a divine God. Step into the beauty of God’s forgiveness and grace. Seek his unfailing, unconditional, and unquenchable love. And have the courage to pray this dangerous prayer. But don’t just pray it. Respond to what he shows you. Step through your greatest fear and into faith. Embrace your deepest need and let it drive you to depend on Christ. Step through your greatest fear and into faith. Embrace your deepest need and let it drive you to depend on Christ.

Are you ready?

“Search me, Lord.”” (p. 59)

- **Search me, God, and know my heart.**
- **Test me and know my concerns.**
- **See if there is any offensive way in me.**
- **Lead me in the everlasting way.**

