

365

APPOINTMENTS

WITH GOD

SEARCH  
MY HEART,  
O GOD

KAY  
ARTHUR

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MY HEART,  
O GOD

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WITH GOD

KAY ARTHUR



WATERBROOK  
PRESS

SEARCH MY HEART, O GOD  
PUBLISHED BY WATERBROOK PRESS  
12265 Oracle Boulevard, Suite 200  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

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Some of the material in this book originally aired on Kay Arthur's *Precepts from God's Word* radio broadcast.

ISBN 1-57856-274-0

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Printed in the United States of America  
1999—First Edition

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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## INTRODUCTION

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# A WORD FROM KAY



The heart is the innermost part of our being. No matter how hard we might try, we cannot disguise the true state of our heart; it will be revealed in our thoughts, our conversations, our actions, our relationships. Of course, we may fool others for a while, but we can never deceive God, “for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

Have you ever taken time, beloved, in the busyness of life to allow God to take you by the hand and, in the gentleness of His love, search your heart, to see if there is any hurtful way in you? How often have you looked deeply, allowing God to shine the spotlight of His holiness into every corner and hidden recess of your innermost self? What dangerous temptations, pet sins, or wrong beliefs have you been quietly entertaining? What passion drives you through each day? What secret guilts or worries are creeping over your heart, stifling your God-given joy and stealing away your peace?

While living with hidden sin, guilt, or pain will lead only to sorrow, a heart cleansed by and filled with the Holy Spirit will lead to joy and peace. As you allow God to reveal the true state of your heart, I encourage you to pray along with King David, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.... Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit” (Psalm 51:10,12).

There’s so much that goes on inside us that no one sees or knows or even realizes, isn’t there? Private thoughts, fears, temptations, wrestlings, conflicts, hurts, doubts. Things we want to hide, to keep to ourselves for fear of condemnation...rejection...embarrassment...or even something as simple as the possibility of disappointing another person should they discover what we deal with in our inner man.

We can hide it all except from One, the One who is omnipresent, omniscient. The One whose name is El Roi, the God who sees. And that’s all right, because He’s also a God who loves, who cares, who desires our highest good. A God who promises to be our ever-present help in the time of need. Thus our prayer, our heart’s cry, “Search my heart, O God,” is not only safe, it’s wise and pleasing to our creator for it’s the pure in heart who will see God.

This, beloved, is the purpose of this book: taking a moment each day to allow God to search your heart and cleanse you with the washing of His Word, that you might ascend His hill of holiness with clean hands and a pure heart.

JANUARY

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SEARCH  
MY HEART



You may have heard it before under many and varied circumstances—maybe as a warning: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9, KJV). It’s a true statement and a biblical one, but the Word of God also tells us our hearts don’t have to stay that way.

God is in the business of heart transplants, taking hearts of stone and replacing them with hearts of flesh. It happens at salvation. When God awesomely performs this divine transplant, He then writes His laws upon our hearts and puts His Spirit within us. He becomes our God, and we become His people. Life begins—life eternal—and with it the process of making us more and more like our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26).

So on this first day of a new year, examine your heart, beloved. Are you sure that you have a new heart, that you are a child of God, born truly from above—a new creature in Christ Jesus?



*O God, You know all things. There's nothing hidden from Your sight. If I am Your child, let Your Spirit bear witness with my spirit. And if not, bring me into Your family. Give me a heart for You, a new beginning that leads to life eternal and grants me the privilege of calling You Abba, Father, forever and ever.*

Have you become a slave to someone or something?

Don't faint, precious child of God. Soon in the midst of the darkest of days, maybe even sooner than you think, your day of jubilee is coming!

Leviticus 25 describes the year of jubilee, a joyous time in which those who'd been sold into slavery could return to their families and others regained land they had lost through financial troubles.

All this, my friend, provides a picture of what is promised when you receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Redeemer! Through Him we are set free from the bondage of sin and become heirs of the kingdom "which He promised to those who love Him" (James 2:5).

"Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God" (Galatians 4:7).

God's Word is full of such wonderful symbols of His love, care, and protection of us. Determine to know your God and His Word. Take time to study God's Word and to realize afresh that He is God and He offers hope that can hold you through any dark night of your soul.



*I thank You, Lord, that I have been bought with a price, paid by Jesus. I am no longer a slave to sin. I have the Holy Spirit, and "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (2 Corinthians 3:17).*

Are there times when you doubt God's love for you?

When things aren't going as you had hoped, when your life is reeling out of control, do you wonder how a loving God could allow you to suffer such pain?

What a comfort it is to remember that God paid the dearest of prices to redeem you from your life of sin. You were dead in your trespasses and sins; you were condemned to death row for all eternity—and justly so. Yet the Father gave His Son to die in your place, enduring the most brutal of deaths. He did this when you were still walking your own way, not even realizing the price He was paying. And had you known it, you probably wouldn't even have cared. That's how lost you—and I—were!

Romans 5:6-10 says that God loved you when you were His enemy. When you were a sinner, ungodly and without hope, He loved you, pursued you, and wooed you. And He did not let go until you gave in and succumbed to His desire to be your Father, your God, your Lord, your Master, your Redeemer. Isn't that awesome?



*O Father, thank You for demonstrating Your love for me in that, while I was yet a willful, wandering sinner, Christ died for me. Help me to focus on Your proven love when life isn't quite what I had hoped for. May I remember Your sacrifice and realize that because You are working on my behalf, as Romans 8:28-29 says, even this will result in my good and Your glory.*

Are you feeling anxious, my friend?

It's hard sometimes, isn't it...

...to have peace when your circumstances are difficult?

...to have joy when your heart is filled with anxiety?

Circumstances, as well as our frustration with and anxiety about life, can rob us of our joy. The apostle Paul was well aware of this as he wrote from prison:

“I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do [bear] all things through Him who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:11-13).

If you'll let Jesus infuse you with His strength, you'll find contentment to carry you through each day. When your heart is overwhelmed by anxiety, ask yourself what Jesus would do. Then, beloved, do it in His strength.



*Lord, in an act of my will, I roll the anxiety in my heart onto Your shoulders. Help me to remember that my circumstances are well within Your sovereign control and that You have offered me Your strength to endure every challenge that comes my way. In faith's confidence I appropriate Your strength right now.*

When the report says “storms ahead,” do you trust God or evacuate the area? It’s difficult, isn’t it, to trust God when the “forecast” is contrary to what we want—or feel we need?

Maybe you’re in financial straits, you’re agonizing over a broken relationship, or you’ve lost your job. Whatever your situation, it seems the forecast is bleak at best!

So what will you do?

When the apostle Peter urged the hurting, suffering, persecuted Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor to “stand firm” in the grace of God (1 Peter 5:12), some of them thought it strange that suffering would come their way. So he wrote, “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:6-7).

Have you asked God to hear your cry? He has promised never to desert you (Hebrews 13:5).

You can boldly say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear what man does to me!”



*Lord, I give You today's anxieties and worries, realizing that I am helpless without Your strength and grace. I thank You that the Holy Spirit will help me to stand firm, if I will only choose to appropriate His love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*



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