

STEP 4 – MADE A SEARCHING AND FEARLESS MORAL INVENTORY OF OURSELVES

(Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious heart. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.)

Are you experiencing some form of apprehension as you approach Step 4? This is not only understandable but, it is also the reason why it needs to be “searching and fearless”. This step has a specific place in the great plan that God has for each of our lives and as Christians we need to move into and through this step with faith believing and expectancy. Hebrews 12:11 tells us that –

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

God really does love us and He urges us in Isaiah 1:13 to –

“Come now, let us reason together”, says the Lord. “Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool”.

He then begins to unfold the inventory plan He has for us in Ezekial 36:26, 27, and 31-

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit in you and move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws. Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices.

We need to ask ourselves at this point, why would God, after doing all these good things in us and for us, want us to remember (look at) our “evil ways” and to loathe ourselves for our “sins and detestable practices”? Does this seem like it’s pretty drastic? Let’s look at what God says in Psalm 36:1 and 2 –

Concerning the sinfulness of the wicked, there is no fear of God before his eyes, for in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detest or hate his sin.

This is confirmed by what He says to us as Christians in 1 John 18 and 10 –

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His Word has no place in us.

In essence, God is telling us that He associates refusal to identify sin with wickedness and, that when we deceive ourselves by refusing to identify these things in our lives, that our understanding of His Word is blocked (has no place in us). Praise God that His plan continues to unfold for us He tells us in 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.

This is our guarantee, this is our green light, this is the encouragement we need to proceed as God would have us, “searching and fearless”. Jesus said in John 15:1 and 2 –

“I am the true vine and My Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He trims clean so that it will be even more fruitful.

If, after considering what has been said, we believe that the inventory step does have a definite place in God’s plan for us, we are now ready to involve ourselves in a practical way. Since to confess means to identify and acknowledge, we can begin the process of doing this by first asking the Holy Spirit to guide us in identifying to what extent the strengths and weaknesses (personality traits) in our lives manifest themselves. We will get some idea of this as we check the appropriate columns in the listings on the following page. **REMEMBER**, God is with us and He wants this to be “searching and fearless.”

4TH Step Inventory

A=Very Little (Practically never)	C=Considerable (Most of the time)
B=Occasional (Some of the time)	D=Consistently (Almost never)

	FruitLESSness	A	B	C	D
1.	Self-pitying				
2.	Resentful				
3.	Critical				
4.	Suspicious				
5.	Angry				
6.	Tense and apprehensive				
7.	Emotionally Uncontrolled				
8.	Withdrawn				
9.	Jealous				
10.	Fearful (afraid to assert self)				
11.	Selfish, Self-indulgent				
12.	Domineering				
13.	Self-rightous				
14.	Stubborn				
15.	Intolerant				
16.	Dishonest with self				
17.	Sexual fantasizing				
18.	Depressed and gloomy				
19.	Smug, narrow minded				
20.	Feeling superior				
21.	Expect too much –too soon				
22.	Hyper-sensitive				
23.	Despondent				
24.	Sullen (silent treatment)				
25.	Apprehensive of the future				
26.	Procrastinating				
27.	Aimless and indifferent				
28.	Excessive television				
29.	Worrisome, over-anxious				
30.	Ungrateful				
31.	Prone to gossip				
32.	Obsessed with own problems				

	FruitFULLness	A	B	C	D
33.	Unselfish, thoughtful of others				
34.	Not holding grudges				
35.	Charitable				
36.	Trusting				
37.	Patient				
38.	Relaxed				
39.	Calm				
40.	Outgoing				
41.	Loving attitude				
42.	Confident				
43.	Generous and loving				
44.	Yielding				
45.	Uncritical				
46.	Agreeable				
47.	Forgiving				
48.	Truthful				
49.	Meditation of God's Word				
50.	Optimistic and cheerful				
51.	Open-minded and gracious				
52.	Humble				
53.	Realistic				
54.	Willing to admit faults				
55.	Hopeful				
56.	Having a sense of humor				
57.	Living 24 hours a day				
58.	Being prompt				
59.	Finding a purpose				
60.	Spiritual reading (studying)				
61.	Serene				
62.	Thankful for all blessings				
63.	Protect confidences of others				
64.	Helpful to others				

NOTE: Retain this form in your records. Periodically you will have the opportunity to do it again and when you do you will be blessed by the progress you will have made.

REMEMBER, God tells us in Romans 8:1:

There is therefore no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

And since we have now followed the Holy Spirits direction and allowed Him to guide us and reveal to us what both our strengths and weaknesses are, we are now ready to proceed to Step 5- Admitted to God, ourselves and another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.