



0726 February 15, 2025

How To Get Closer To God

SERIES: 50 Days of Transformation # 2
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*The further away you get from God, the more your life is troubled
The closer you get to God, the more your life is transformed*

The LOST Son & LOVING FATHER: Luke 15:11-24

1. GET FED UP WITH MY L_____ THE W_____ IT IS.

(Luke 15:13-14, 17(Paraphrase) "...he wasted it all...he had nothing left...he got desperate and hungry...he finally came to his senses..."

(Jeremiah 29:13 (MSG) GOD: "When you come looking for me, you'll find me. Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else."

2. OWN UP TO M_____ SIN.

(Luke 15:17-18 (ESV) "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.'"

(Isaiah 59:2 (ESV) "...but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear."

(Psalm 51:1-4 (ESV) "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin! ³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight."

(Isaiah 1:18 (NLT) "The Lord says, 'No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can remove it. I can make you as clean as freshly fallen snow.'"

The DISCIPLINE of a Regular Spiritual Check-up:

(2 Corinthians 13:5 (MSG) "Test yourself to make sure you're solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourself regular checkups....If you fail the test, do something about it."

(1 Corinthians 11:28 (NIV) "Everyone ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks from the cup."

3. O_____ UP MYSELF.

(Luke 15:12 (ESV) "he younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share.'"

(Luke 15:19 (ESV) "He said...Treat me as one of your hired servants."

(Romans 12:1-2 (ESV) "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind

THE FATHER'S RESPONSE

(Luke 15:20, 22 (ESV) "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion and ran and embraced him and kissed him!...Bring the best..."

4. LIFT UP MY P_____.

(Luke 15:23-24 (ESV) "And bring the fattened calf and kill it and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to celebrate."

(Psalm 68:4 (ESV) "Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him...his name is the Lord!"

(Psalm 13:6 (NLT) "I will sing to the Lord because he has been so good to me!"

(1 Corinthians 11:23-24 (ESV) "...the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In Life Groups We'll Learn 7 Habits for Spiritual Health

This week you will do a purpose driven spiritual health assessment.

Next Sunday: "From Stressed to Blessed" (Physical Health)