

HOW TO GET CLOSER TO GOD

Transform By Grace - Part 3

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 LIFE.

"...he wasted it all...he had nothing left...he got desperate and hungry... he finally came to his senses..."

Luke 15:13-14, 17

God: *"You'll find Me when you get serious about finding Me and want it more than anything else."* Jeremiah 29:13 (Mes)

2. OWN UP TO MY SIN.

"When he came to his senses, he said... "I have sinned against God and you..." Luke 15:17-18

"Your sins have separated you from your God, and have hidden His face from you..." Isaiah 59:2

"Be merciful to me, O God, because of your constant love. Because of your great mercy wipe away my sins! Wash away all my evil and make me clean! I recognize my faults and I am conscious that I've sinned against you." Psalm 51:1-4 (TEV)

"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.'" Isaiah 1:18 (NLT)

The HABIT of a Regular Spiritual Check-up:

"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."

2 Corinthians 13:5 (Mes)

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

3. OFFER UP MYSELF.

The son drifted away saying, "give me my share..."

Luke 15:12

He returned to the Father saying, "Make me a servant"

Luke 15:19

"Because God is merciful to you, offer yourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. And do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

THE FATHER'S RESPONSE:

"Filled with love and compassion, he ran out to his son, threw his arms around him, and kissed him!...Bring the best..."

Luke 15:20, 22

4. LIFT UP MY PRAISE.

"We're going to celebrate with a feast of eating and drinking...He was lost but now he's found! So the party begins!" Luke 15:23-24

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

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

"On the night he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread and spoke a prayer of Thanksgiving. He broke the bread and said, 'This is My body, which is given for you. Do this to remember Me.'" 1 Corinthians 11:23-24

