

GETTING CLOSER TO GOD: SPIRITUAL HEALTH

Luke 15:11-24

SERMON TEACHING SERIES: BE TRANSFORMED

¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13 (ESV)

Central Idea:

- 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 PATHWAY TO SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION:

1. I Get _____ With My _____

¹³ "And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. ¹⁴ "Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. ... ¹⁷ "But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger!' *Luke 15:13-14, 17 (NASB)*

¹³ "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.
Jeremiah 29:13 (MSG)

2. I _____ To My _____

¹⁷ At last he came to his senses and said, 'All my father's hired workers have more than they can eat, and here I am about to starve!' ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against God and against you.
Luke 15:17-18 (TEV)

² It is because of your sins that he doesn't hear you. It is your sins that separate you from God when you try to worship him.
Isaiah 59:2 (TEV)

¹ Be merciful to me, O God, because of your constant love. Because of your great mercy wipe away my sins! ² Wash away all my evil and make me clean from my sin! ³ I recognize my faults; I am always conscious of my sins. ⁴ I have sinned against you—only against you— and done what you consider evil. So you are right in judging me; you are justified in condemning me.
Psalms 51:1-4 (TEV)

¹⁸ "Come now, and let us reason together." Says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.
Isaiah 1:18 (NASB)

The HABIT of a Regular Spiritual Check-up:

⁵ Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?
2 Corinthians 13:5 (NASB)

²⁷ Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.
1 Corinthians 11:27-28 (NASB)

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3. I Offer Up _____

¹² "The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them. ... ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men."
Luke 15:12, 19 (NASB)

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. *Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)*

THE FATHER'S RESPONSE

²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ... ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.
Luke 15:20, 22 (ESV)

4. I _____ My _____

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

⁴ Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the LORD; exult before him!
Psalms 68:4 (ESV)

⁶ I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me. *Psalms 13:6 (ESV)*

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (ESV)