

How to Get Closer to God
1-8-2017

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."
Romans 12:2

"All we like sheep have gone astray. We each have turned into our own way." Isaiah 53:6

1. GET FED UP WITH MY 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 (Message)

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:

"Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone. A new life has begun."
2 Corinthians 5:17

"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 (Message)

"Search me O God and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts. See if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24

"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

"We reflect the Lord's glory and are being transformed into his likeness. With ever increasing glory which comes from the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:18

“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)