

Key Points to Consider

1. We are being transformed into the perfect image of Jesus Christ. (2Corinthians 3:18)
2. We have been delivered from the penalty of sin, the power of sin, and soon the presence of sin, so that we may know Jesus Christ, become like Jesus Christ and to be useful to Jesus Christ. (John 17:3, Romans 8:28-30, Ephesians 2:10)
3. Since we have been delivered and are being transformed, we are called to participate in the process of our transformation through putting off the old life, which was a life of sin, so that we may put on the new life, which is a life of obedience and dedication to Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 4:17-23)
4. Living a life of obedience and dedication to Jesus Christ will lead God to disclose Himself to us resulting in being in His presence at an intimate level. (John 14:21-23)
5. Being in God's presence leads to experiencing the fullness of His joy and pleasures forever at the level possible on this side of Heaven. (Psalm 16:11)
6. Therefore if we want to know Jesus Christ, become like Jesus Christ, and be useful to Him resulting in the fullness of His joy, and pleasures forever in His presence we must pursue Godliness. (1Timothy 4:7-11)
7. Godliness can be defined as having reverence for and giving honor to God; being God-centered or God-conscious in all aspects of life; living a life of devotion to God. **(Definition adapted from Wayne Mack)**
8. Godliness is developed through practicing the essential Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Faith with the objectives of knowing Jesus Christ, becoming like Jesus Christ and being useful to Jesus Christ, resulting in experiencing the fullness of His Joy and pleasures forever in His Presence.
9. If the spiritual disciplines are not practice for the above objectives, then one is walking in self-righteousness or self-indulgence which is in essence is self-centeredness.

Pursuing Godliness through Spiritual Disciplines

A. We can pursue Godliness through the disciplines of Confession and Repentance of Sin (Proverbs 28:13)

1. To confess sin is to acknowledge or agree with God that you have sinned (Psalm 32:3-5)
2. To confess sin is to own up to your inappropriate thoughts, words, actions, or relational patterns as God has made you aware of them (Psalm 51:1-4)
3. To confess sin is to acknowledge to another that you were inappropriate in some word or action towards them (James 5:16)
4. To forsake or repent of sin is to have a change of mind towards the inappropriate thoughts, words, actions, or relational patterns; Seeing the sin as God sees it (2Corinthians 7:9-11)
5. To forsake or repent of sin is to turn away from practicing the inappropriate thoughts, words, actions or relational patterns (2Corinthians 7:9-11)
6. To forsake or repent of sin is to abandon the practice of the inappropriate thoughts, words, actions or relational patterns (2Corinthians 7:9-11)
7. God grants mercy and forgiveness when judgment is deserved when one confesses and repents of sin (Proverbs 28:13)
 - a. When one confesses and repents of his sin he will experience a sense of peace from God (2Corinthians 7:10)
 - b. When one confesses and repents of his sin he will experience a sense of confidence before God (Psalm 32:5-11)
 - c. When one confesses and repents of his sin he can count on God cleansing him of his sin (1John 1:9)

Take time this week and analyze what you need put off and what you need to put on

Sinful thoughts/desires I need to confess and repent of:	Godly thoughts/desires I need to replace them with:
Sinful words I need to confess and repent of:	Godly words I need to replace them with:
Sinful behavior and actions I need to confess and repent of:	Godly behavior and actions I need to replace them with:
Sinful relational patterns I need to confess and repent of:	Godly relational patterns I need to replace them with:
Areas I have neglected to serve God as He has designed me:	Areas I will serve God as He has designed me to serve:

**B. We can pursue Godliness through the discipline of Studying God's Word
(Psalm 1:1-3, 2Timothy 2:15, Psalm 119:1-16)**

1. One is to study the Word of God so that He may come to know who God is
2. One is to study the Word of God so that He may learn how to govern his life by the precepts of God
3. One is to study the Word of God so that He may learn how to establish himself in a lifestyle of holiness
4. We can study the Word of God through three basic principles:
 - a. Observation – Learning to identify the topic of discussion in a passage
 - b. Interpretation – Learning to identify the meaning and importance of the topic of discussion in a passage
 - c. Application – Gaining awareness on how to apply the topic of discussion in a passage to the context of his life
5. We can meditate on the Word of God through three basic questions:
 - a. Based upon what I have just studied what are the godly patterns of thinking I need to develop?
 - b. Based upon what I have just studied what are the godly patterns of communication I need to develop?
 - c. Based upon what I have just studied what are the godly patterns of behavior and relating to others I need to develop?
6. One who disciplines himself to study and meditate on God's Word can expect:
 - a. Spiritual nourishment and vitality as a result of disciplined study and meditation
 - b. Stability and productivity in life apart from the uncertainty of life due to obeying what he has studied and meditated on in Word of God
 - c. Prosperity in accordance to God's design for his life as result of obeying what he has studied and meditated on in Word of God

Questions to Consider while Reading Scripture

Passage: _____

1. Who is talking in this passage?

2. Who is he/she talking to?

3. What is the topic of discussion?

4. What is being said about the topic of discussion?

5. Based upon what I have just read, what do I need to turn from and what do I need to start to do in the way I think about God, myself, and others?

6. Based upon what I have just read, what do I need to turn from and what do I need to start to do in the way I speak to or about God, myself, and others?

7. Based upon what I have just read, what do I need to turn from and what do I need to start to do in the way I behave?

8. Based upon what I have just read, what do I need to turn from and what do I need to start to do in the way I relate to God, myself, and others?

9. Based upon what I have just read, how do I need to serve God and others?

10. Who will hold me accountable to work on these changes?

C. We can pursue Godliness through the discipline of Forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32, Luke 17:3-4)

Definition of Forgiveness: To disregard, to let go of, to release from, to pardon, to cancel a debt owed

1. We must confront clear sin lovingly before it can be forgiven (Luke 17:3-4)
2. If clear sin is confessed and repented of it can then be forgiven (Luke 17:3-4)
3. As long as the sin is confessed and repented of it does not matter how often it happens it must be forgiven accordingly and put up with patiently (Luke 17:3-4)
4. If there is no confession and repentance of the sin there can be no forgiveness of the sin; The sin issue must then be taken before witnesses and ultimately before the Church leadership if not confessed and repented of before witnesses (Matthew 18:15-17)
5. Before one confronts another about an issue he must determine if it is a personal preference issue, expectation issue or clear sin before approaching the person (Proverbs 13:3)
6. If it is a personal preference issue or expectation issue confrontation may not need to happen because no sin has occurred; only disappointment and denial of a particular desire. Dealing with preferences and expectations is the issue. This needs to be considered personally to determine if it even needs to be addressed since it is not a sin issue (Romans 14:1-22)
7. One must identify all unloving thoughts, words, and actions within self in response to the preference issue, expectation issue or clear sin. and confess and repent of all unloving thoughts, words, and actions to God and to others when appropriate (Proverbs 28:13)
8. After dealing with self one must confront the person about clear sin with the intent to restore them not with the intent to destroy them (Luke 17:3-4, Galatians 6:1-2, Proverbs 27:6a, 1 Thess 5:15)
9. If the person confesses and repents of the sin forgive them (Luke 17:3-4)
10. If the person confesses and repents of the sin dismiss it and never bring it up again (Luke 17:3, 1 Peter 4:8)
11. If the person refuses to confess and repent of the sin bring witnesses to address it (Matthew 18:15-17)

12. If the person refuses to confess and repent of the sin with witnesses take it to the leadership of the Church so that they can address it (Matthew 18:15-17)
13. No matter what the reaction of the other person or the outcome of the situation one should be an open channel of love to the person (Luke 6:27-36)
14. One should pray and do good to the person.(Luke 6:27-36, Romans 12:14,20-21,1Peter 3:9)

Implication: *As we forgive properly we will be forgiven accordingly by God*

Take time and address these matters in relation to forgiveness:

Who do I need to confront about clear sin issues?

What are the sins I need to confront them about?

Who do I need to involve in the confrontation if the sin issues are not resolved in private?

What are the non sin issues I need to learn to accept in others?

What are the attitudes, word, and actions I need to adjust to accept the non sin issues that irritate me?

Who do I need to seek forgiveness from?

**D. We can pursue Godliness through the discipline of Obeying God's Word
(James 1:22-25, John 14:21)**

1. One must look intently at the Word of God – to look closely at the Word of God (James 1:22-25)
2. One must abide by what he looks at intently in the Word of God – to obey God's Word continuously according to what it commands (James 1:22-25)
3. One must become an effectual doer of God's Word – to work hard at obeying God's Word continuously according to what it commands resulting in God's blessings of his efforts (James 1:22-25)
4. We must look closely at and continue to work hard on having a thought life that is pleasing to God as God's Word commands (Romans 12:2-3)
5. We must look closely at and continue to work hard on communicating in ways that are honest and edifying to others as God's Word commands (Ephesians 4:29)
6. We must look closely at and continue to work hard on walking in behavior that is consistent with Christ's character as God's Word commands (Ephesians 5:1-17)
7. We must look closely at and continue to work hard on relating to others in ways that demonstrate the love of Christ as God's Word commands (Romans 13:8-12)
8. We must look closely at and continue to work hard on serving others in ways that will bear their burdens and meet their needs as God's Word commands (1Peter 4:10)
9. We must look closely at and continue to work hard on living a holy and sacrificial life unto Jesus Christ as God's Word commands (Galatians 5:16-24)

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Sinful relational patterns I need to confess and repent of:	Godly relational patterns I need to replace them with:
Areas I have neglected to serve God as He has designed me:	Areas I will serve God as He has designed me to serve:
Movies, Media, Music, Books, Relationships, Products, and Places that are leading me to partake in sin and ungodliness as I indulge them:	Movies, Media, Music, Books, Relationships, Products, and Places that I must replace them with in order to walk in holy and sacrificial lifestyle unto Jesus Christ:

**E. We can pursue Godliness through the disciplines of Serving
(John 13:1-17, 1Peter 4:10-11)**

1. A servant of God serves others in ways that demonstrates humility.
2. A servant of God serves others in ways that demonstrates love.
3. A servant of God serves others in ways that prepare others for future ministry.
4. A servant of God serves others in ways that help others stay in fellowship with God.
5. A servant of God serves others in ways that help others walk in Holiness with God
 - a. Helping unbelievers recover from sin and move into a right relationship with God (Matthew 28:18-20)
 - b. Helping believers recover from sin and mature in fellowship with God (Galatians 6:1-2)
 - c. Providing the monetary and material items that people need to function in society as God intended (1John 3:16-19)
 - d. Providing Godly wisdom in a way that helps people grow to maturity in Jesus Christ so that they will function as God designed (Ephesians 4:15-16)
 - e. Being hospitable to others (1Peter 4:9)

Question**Do You****or****Do You**

1. When someone insults you	Turn the other cheek, return blessings for cursing	Mount a counter attack and always fight back
2. When someone asks you to give of your time, talents or treasure	Give everything possible and walk the extra mile if necessary	Grasps, protect and cling onto personal time and schedules
3. When you face suffering and pain	Face it with quiet confidence and continual joy	Gripe, complain and question God
4. When you serve or perform tasks faithfully	Expect no recognition or reward	Desire self glory or applause, always wanting compensation and recognition
5. When you don't get your way and face disappointment	Continue to praise God being content in every situation	Always want more and are never content or satisfied
6. When asked to sacrifice your own preference for the sake of others	Gladly sacrifice for others	Constantly demand to have things your way
7. When asked to do menial tasks	See no task as to menial or humble	Want no part in humbling menial tasks
8. When asked to serve	Gladly respond and serve to fulfill a purpose in life	Instead want to be served
9. When you see sin in other people	Grieve over sin in people's lives and have compassion and mercy toward them	Criticize, judge and condemn them
10. When you see someone who is down and out	Respond in love, mercy, generosity and acceptance	Snub your nose at them and are too concerned with your own agenda to make time for those really hurting
11. When asked to follow someone else's leadership	Gladly follow spiritual leaders with a spirit of love and joy, encouraging those who lead	Constantly criticize and be cynical and suspicious of them leading
12. When asked to submit to authority	Gladly submit to the authorities God has placed over you	Resist submitting to any authority
13. When asked to step out of your comfort zone	Gladly vacate comfort zones, understanding that Christ's call is not to a life of comfort and convenient	Resist abandoning the comfort zone, not wanting to do anything uncomfortable or inconvenient
14. When asked to forgive someone who has truly offended you	Gladly and intentionally forgive because you have been forgiven of much	Hold grudges and harbor bitterness and anger and feel justified
15. When other people receive recognition and reward	Find joy in their success	Feel jealous and hostile

(Material Adopted from the book: The Servant Principle by Rick E. Ferguson)

**F. We can pursue Godliness through the discipline of Worship
(John 4: 24, Matthew 4:8-10)**

Definition of Worship: Honor and adoration directed to God. Our innermost being responding with praise for all that God is, through our attitudes, actions, thoughts, and words, based on the truth of God as He has revealed Himself. (John McArthur)

1. True worship must be based on the God of Salvation
2. Genuine worship flows from the inside out; from the mind, the will and the affections of man
3. Genuine worship is always tied to Truth- God's revelation of reality, which culminates in the incarnate Word, Jesus Christ
4. Genuine worship is the process by which the mind, will, and affections of man connect with and pay homage to the God of the Bible through the power of the Holy Spirit ; This can be accomplished by:
 - A. Paying homage to the God of the Bible according to the Truth of who He is (Matthew 6:9)
 - B. Praising the God of the Bible in accordance to the Truth of who He is (Hebrews 13:15)
 - C. Presenting our bodies to the God of the Bible as a living and holy sacrifice, thus obeying God and accomplishing the work we were gifted and designed to do (Romans 12:1-8)

Take Time this week and Worship God in Spirit and in Truth

Show Respect in words and prayer to God for Being:	Praise Him for Being:	Submit as a Living and Holy Sacrifice to Him: (in order to obey Him and live for Him in Worship)
The Eternal Creator	Yahweh –self existent eternal God	Your Thought Life
Holy	El Shaddai – God Almighty	Your Attitudes
Loving	El Elyon –Most High God	Your Words
Merciful	El Olam – Everlasting God	Your conversations
Sovereign	Yahweh – Jireh – The Lord will Provide	Your Behavior
Righteous	Yahweh –Rapha – The Lord who heals	Your lifestyle
Gracious	Yahweh- Nissi – The Lord our Banner	Your responsibility as a Husband
Kind	Yahweh –Shalom –The Lord our Peace	Your responsibility as a wife
Good	Yahweh –Raah – The Lord is my Shepherd	Your responsibility as a parent
Glorious	Yahweh-Tsidkenu – The Lord our Righteous	Your responsibility as a Child/sibling
Omnipotent	Yahweh-Shammah - The Lord is there	Your responsibilities as Kingdom of God Citizen
Omnipresent	King of all Kings	Your responsibility as an employee
Omniscience	Lord of all Lords	Your responsibility as a friend
Wise	Our Refuge	Your responsibility as a citizen

**G. We can pursue Godliness through the discipline of Prayer
(Matthew 5:5-13)**

1. The Precaution to Prayer (v5-v9)

- A. Prayer is not for public approval of men but for personal devotion to God (v5-v6)
- B. Prayer is not done in private to negotiate a blessing but prayer done in private will result in God's blessing as He wills (v6)
- C. Prayer is not a mantra to chant so God will give you what you treasure but a means of communication to the God you treasure (v7-v8)
- D. Prayer is not a formula merely to receive our personal request but a means to rich fellowship with God (v7-v8)
- E. Prayer is not to make God aware of your need; it is to make you aware of your need for God (v7-v8)
- F. Prayer is not a means to connect God to your agenda but a means to connect yourself to God's agenda (v7-v9)

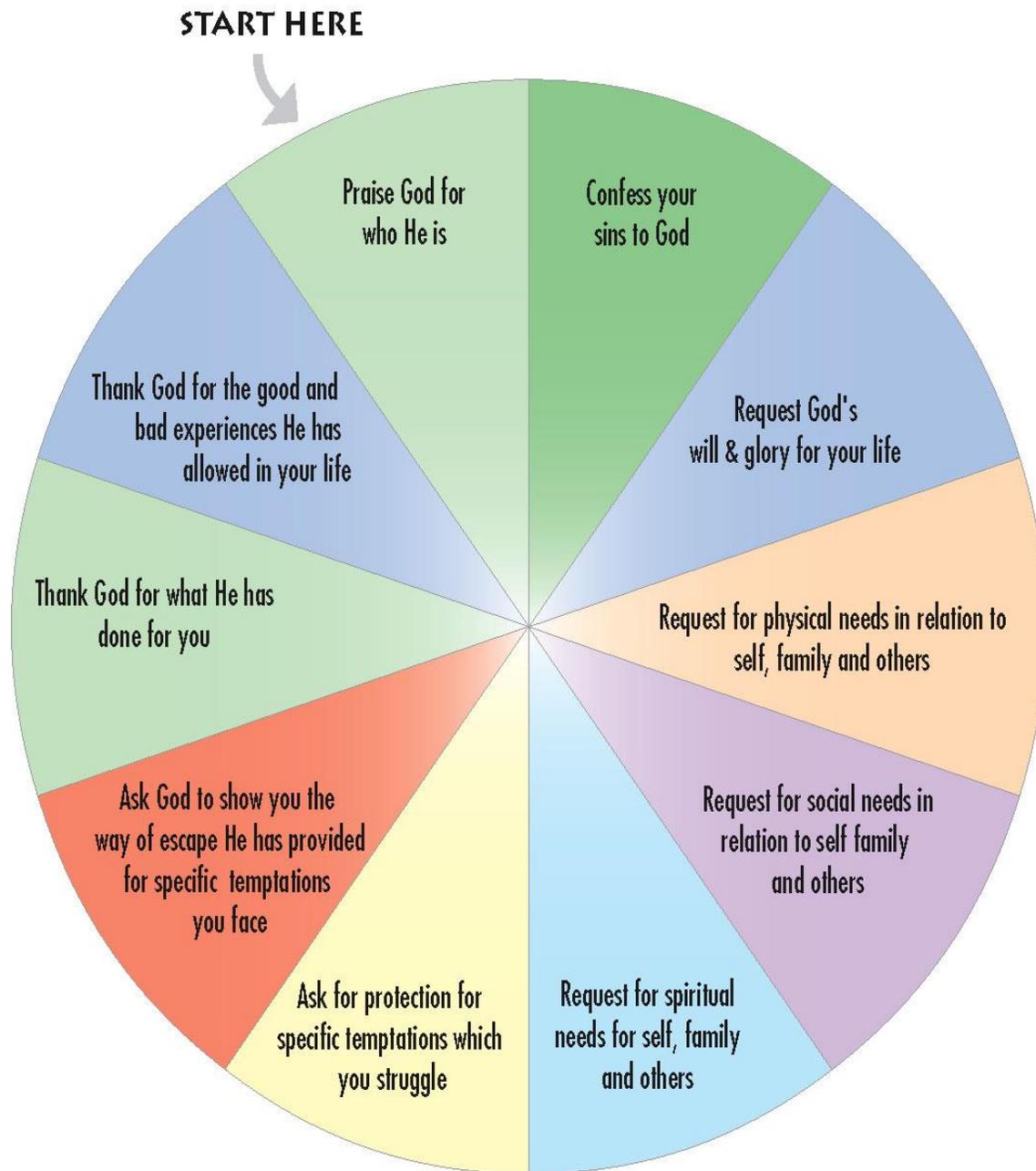
2. The Pattern of Prayer (v9-v13/Ephesians 5:20)

- A. Adoration of the Character of God (v9)
- B. Aligning with the Agenda and Will of God (v10)
- C. Asking for provision from God (v11)
- D. Admission of sin to God (v12)
- E. Appealing for protection from God (v13)
- F. Appreciating and Accepting the blessings and hardships from God (Ephesians 5:20)

3. The Practicality of Prayer

- A. Come to God knowing He is a person to know, not a concept or formula to follow (Hebrews 11:6)
- B. See prayer as an avenue to fellowship not merely a means to your personal request (John 17:1-26)
- C. Make sure you confess your sins or your prayers will not be listened to by God (Psalm 66:18)
- D. Study the Word of God so you can know the will of God in order to pray in the proper way to God (John 15:7)
- E. Get alone with God to pray as a practice (Matthew 6:6)
- F. Come to God with an attitude of gratitude, understanding you deserve hell and all you have received from God is out of mercy and grace from God (Ephesians 5:18-20)

(Review prayer wheel: Concept from Stuart Scott, The Master's College, BC 502s: Essential Qualities of Biblical Counselor Santa Clarita, California: Adapted from Class Information, 2004).



SPEND A MINIMUM OF 3 MINUTES PER SECTION PER DAY FOR THE NEXT WEEK.