

How to Develop a Powerful Prayer Life by Dr. Gregory Frizzell
Chapter 5 – Getting Clean Before God – The Path to Holiness
Wednesday AM/PM – 8/23/17

Phase 1: Spend the first several moments in genuine praise, thanksgiving, and worship.

Psalm 139:23-24

God calls for a through process, not a brief casual formality. Sometimes sin enters our lives and we are unaware of it. **Jeremiah 17:9 – *The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?***

Psalm 66:18 – *If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear. “The depth and power of your prayer life will never be greater than the depth of your daily confession and cleansing.*

Shantung Revival – pg. 54-56

5 Categories of Potential Sin

1. Sins of Thoughts and Attitudes

Sin begins in the realm of our spirit thoughts and attitudes. **Matthew 15:19 - *For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.***

2 Corinthians 10:5 – “...and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,”

As we examine our thought life, we should ask ourselves these questions: Are there unclean or lustful thoughts, thoughts that are consumed with earthly pursuits, thoughts of anger and bitterness, unloving thoughts, thoughts of fear and doubt, attitudes of pride and prejudice, attitudes of lukewarmness toward God, etc. Ask God to reveal any pattern of attitude or thought that is sinful. Immediately confess and forsake those sins.

2. Sins of Speech

God’s Word is clear about the enormous importance of our speech. **Matthew 12:36 - *But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.***

James 3:10 - *from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.*

Deuteronomy 5:11 - *You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.*

Here are some potential sins of speech: Using coarse or profane words, gossip, slander, unkind or unloving words to or about others, speech that is overly critical, speaking words that are exaggerations or untruths, speaking when we should be quiet, etc. Be specific in confessing sins of speech.

3. Relationship Sins

Perhaps the most common place we lose God’s fullness is in our relationships. Relationship sins generally fall in five major areas.

1) Can you think of people you may have hurt or offended in some manner?

Jesus was emphatic about the importance of getting right with those you have offended in **Matthew 5:23-24**

Christ is saying, “Don’t approach God until you first get right with those you have offended.” When God reveals people you have hurt or slighted, resolve to go to them and ask their forgiveness.

2) Are you bitter or holding grudges against people who have offended you?

In **Matthew 6:14-15**, Jesus made statement of enormous importance.

Matthew 18:35 - *My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.*

Is there anyone or any situation about which you harbor the slightest bitterness or resentment? Have you secretly resented God for allowing some painful situation in your life? Have you lost your passion toward God because He disappointed you in some manner? Be honest with yourself and confess those sins. Resolve in your heart that you are not going to harbor bitterness against anyone. Remember, forgiveness is a choice, not a feeling.

3) Are you involved in any improper relationships?

An improper relationship could be anything from adultery and fornication to simply being inappropriately close to someone. Don’t try to rationalize or defend a relationship you know is improper. Ask God to reveal any relationship that are improper or out of balance. Be honest with yourself and God.