

## 50 Days of Transformation

# How to Get Closer to God

### I. Introduction

- A. Romans 12:2 (NAS) *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*
- B. Isaiah 53:6a (NLT) *All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own.*
- C. Luke 15:11-23 (NLT) *<sup>11</sup>Go illustrate the point further. Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. <sup>13</sup>A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. <sup>14</sup>About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. <sup>15</sup>He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, <sup>19</sup>and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."<sup>20</sup> So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.' <sup>22</sup>But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. <sup>23</sup>And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast.'"*

### II. The Pathway Back to Spiritual Transformation

- A. We have to get fed up with our life!
- B. We have to own up to our sin.
  - 1. Luke 15:17 (NLT) *"When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger!'"*
  - 2. Luke 15:18 (NLT) *"Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you."*
  - 3. Isaiah 59:2 (NLT) *It's your sins that have cut you off from God.*
  - 4. I John 1:9 (NAS) *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

C. We have to offer up our life.

1. Luke 15:19 (NLT) *"I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."*
2. II Corinthians 3:18 (NAS) *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*
  - a. Get fed up with the way you've been living.
  - b. Own up. Get honest with God.
  - c. Offer yourself to God - - and ask Him to make you a servant.
3. Luke 15:20, 22 (NLT) <sup>20</sup>*"So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. <sup>22</sup>But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet.'"*

D. We lift up our praise to God!

1. Psalm 68:4 (NAS) *Sing to God, sing praises to His name; lift up a song for Him who rides through the deserts, whose name is the LORD, and exult before Him.*

### III. Conclusion