



MY SPIRITUAL HEALTH

“How to Grow Closer to Jesus”

Luke 15:11-24

January 21, 2024

1) **Get tired** of the way I’m living 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

“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 – **confess** and **repent**

“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)

3) **Offer** up myself to the Lord

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

“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)

4) Receive the love and grace of your Heavenly Father

“...But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him.” Luke 15:20 (CSB)

“The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by his love; He will exult over you with loud singing.” Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV)

“For the Lord your God has arrived to live among you. He is a mighty Savior. He will give you victory. He will rejoice over you with great gladness; he will love you and not accuse you.” Is that a joyous choir I hear? No, it is the Lord himself exulting over you in happy song. Zephaniah 3:17 (LB)

“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ssSalvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.” Ephesians 2:8-9

5) Respond in celebration – worship & celebrate with others

“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

“I tell you, in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who don’t need repentance.”

“I tell you, in the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels over one sinner who repents.” Luke 15:7, 10 (CSB)

“I will sing to the Lord because he has been so good to me!”
Psalm 13:6 (NLT)

RESPONSE QUESTIONS:

1. In the Jeremiah verse, God said, ‘get serious about finding Me.’ What would ‘getting serious’ look like in your life? How can you know when you’re are making serious progress?
2. What is something in your life you are fed up with? Has God been ‘knocking on your door’ trying to get your attention about something? What is it?
3. Why do sins make our lives unmanageable? What are you trying to manage in your life that you should turn over to God?
4. Sins develop when we begin to love something more than we love God, which becomes an idol. Name things that could easily become or are idols in your life right now.
5. God loves us unconditionally and is always waiting for us to come to him, like the loving father. Knowing this, what is making you hold back from getting closer to God?