



Free!

“THE SACRIFICES OF GOD ARE A BROKEN SPIRIT...” — PSALM 51:17

Week 4 of 8

We have been created for freedom // a gift that allows us to walk into bondage.

Luke 15:11-24 (p. 726)

Our goal for this series:

That we would work the steps to find wholeness and holiness.

1. Realize I'm not God. I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable.
2. Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover.
3. Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.

Openly **examine** and **confess** my faults to **myself**, to **God**, and to **someone** I trust.

This is the **SPRING CLEANING** step.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Matthew 5:8

PRAY // The blessing is incredible, but the prerequisite is hard! // PRAY to be free for anything we need to be freed from everything... freed from impurity known and unknown!

The impurity I **know** is my **guilt**.

1. Guilt destroys your **confidence**.
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's prank: "All is found out, flee at once."
2. Guilt creates more **damage**.
the bus stop accident: overcorrecting, overcompensating, overreacting.
3. Guilt sticks us to the **past**.

The impurity I don't know is my **blind spot**.

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

Matthew 6:22-23

1. OPENLY EXAMINE...

(Write out your moral inventory.)

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?

2 Corinthians 13:5

Questions to ask yourself:

What is wrong with me? • What bothers me about others?

What bothers others about me? • Where do I fall short of the standard of Jesus?

Tools to use:

**Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 • The Sermon on the Mount • Core Values
IT DOESN'T COUNT IF IT ISN'T WRITTEN DOWN!**

2. ...AND CONFESS MY FAULTS TO MYSELF...

(Accept responsibility for my faults.)

man who couldn't find a church that was good enough... I thought YOU'RE there!

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

Matthew 7:3-5

SAYING "THESE THINGS ARE WRONG, AND I DID THEM"

We want to say, "these things aren't that bad and I did the best I could."

3. ...TO GOD...

(Admit my sin to God.)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

Confession means "saying the same thing" as someone else or making a strong affirmation that something is true about yourself. // YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S WRONG

...No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can remove it. I can make you as clean as freshly fallen snow. Even if you are stained as red as crimson, I can make you as white as wool.

Isaiah 1:18 NLT

Don't even need to ask!

4. ...AND TO SOMEONE I TRUST.

(Open up to another person.)

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

James 5:16

WHO? trustable • values what you're doing • won't be shocked • can offer grace.

Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

Matthew 18:19-20

5. ACCEPT GOD'S **forgiveness**.

and forgive myself!

...there is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:22-24

PURITY IS SIMPLE, BUT DIFFICULT!