

# TRANSFORMED

How God Changes Us



## HOW TO GET CLOSER TO GOD

Jim Gerlach jim@ovbc.net 1.17.16 9:30 & 10:50 a.m.

### The Lost Son & the Loving Father *Luke 15:11-24*

<sup>11</sup> To 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.’”

### The Pathway to Spiritual Transformation:

#### 1. Get \_\_\_\_\_ With My Life

“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!’” Luke 15:17

**GOD:** “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ to My Sin.

I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you.” Luke 15:18

*It’s your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.* Isaiah 59:2

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.*

<sup>2</sup> *Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*

Psalm 51:1-2

- **The Habit of a Regular Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_:**  
*Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. . . 2 Corinthians 13:5a (NLT)*

#### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Myself

*The son drifted away saying,  
“Give me my share . . .” Luke 15:12a  
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*

#### The Father’s \_\_\_\_\_

*“Filled with love and compassion, he ran out to his son, threw his arms around him, and kissed him! . . . Bring the best . . .”  
Luke 15:20, 22*

#### 4. \_\_\_\_\_ My Face

<sup>23</sup> *“And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.”  
So the party began.* Luke 15:23-24

#### Next Steps for January 17:

- Record your Spiritual Health goal(s) in your workbook.
- Attend a home group this week. This week’s topic: “Seven Habits For Spiritual Health.”
- Read Day 1 – 7 in your devotional.
- Pray for TRANSFORMED at 12:02 PM everyday.
- Memorize II Corinthians 5:17.