

New Sermon Series: Let's Talk To God

1/12/25 "Get Right," Isaiah 55:6-7, MEV

INTRODUCTION Do we let preschoolers drive cars? Why?

As adults, do we keep our hands on the wheel?

MAIN IDEA: Keep returning to God. How? Here are three things we need to do on an ongoing basis.

I. First, do it immediately (6) as soon as you realize you've strayed

- A. His invitation is open to everyone (5)
- B. the time is limited
- C. the longer we go our way, the more difficult to turn... habits get entrenched, heart gets harder, our sinful path is comfortable, "safe," "secure"

ILLUSTRATION: annual exams, 2018 vs. 2020 (too late)

II. Second, do it completely (7abc)

Wicked: evil, guilty (*K/M*) [living by old nature]

Galatians 5:17, NLT: The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires.

Forsake: leave, abandon, reject, desert (*Kohlenberger/Mounce*)

- A. leave our normal path (7a)

Way: road, course of life (*Strong's*);

1. not just give up individual sins
2. give up way of life...*self-sufficiency/centeredness*

- B. transform our thinking (7b)...*forsake our thoughts*

Unrighteous: emptiness, wickedness (*Word Study OT*)

1. our thoughts are evil, rooted in sinful nature
2. cause our feelings, which cause us to act

- C. Take a new path (7c)

Return: to recover, restore (*K/M*)

LORD: Yahweh (*Strong's*: the proper name of the one true God; *K/M*: God, one who exists & causes existence)

1. God's way of life
2. His way of thinking

Romans 12:2, MEV: Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2Cor. 10:5, MEV: casting down imagination [*arguments & fantasies*] and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Philippians 4:8, MEV: whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue, and if there is any praise, think on these things.

ILLUSTRATION: changed, #1 cannibals; Paul Meier

III. Finally, do it confidently (7d)

- A. God will show mercy [*have compassion, take pity, love*]
 1. based on His character, not ours... *we can be unfair, inconsistent, emotional, reactionary*
 2. He will not give us what think we deserve
 3. He will not give us what He would be just to give
- B. God will pardon [to spare, to release]

Abundantly: to multiply [*Matthew Henry: Though our sins have been very great and very many, and though we have often backslidden and are still prone to offend, yet God will repeat his pardon*]

ILLUSTRATION: childhood—don't lie, but come to parents—always accepted, no matter what

CONCLUSION: ever try to find door in dark? Then find it--relief Jesus is our door to life; if we haven't turned to God, we need to

ALTAR: tried to add God to your life; want to do so completely?