



Invite God into your day with regular Bible reading and actions based on the Breakaway messages.

Bottom line for the week: **real prayer is right prayer**

DAY ONE: CONTINUE Read Colossians 2:6-7; Psalm 17:1

Recognizing our sin, our need for the gospel, and coming to the Cross for forgiveness is just the beginning of our life with Jesus. Unfortunately, for some, it's also the end: we lose the continual, ongoing need for the gospel in our lives and drift from living a lifestyle patterned after Jesus.

The Apostle Paul recognized this tendency in the early followers of Jesus. He reminded them, in Colossians 2:6-7, to stay closely connected to the source of their spiritual nourishment: Jesus. Ways to *let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him* include such things as regular Bible reading, Scripture memory, and prayer. These spiritual habits remind us of our daily need for the gospel of God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

Today, and through the week, memorize Psalm 17:1 as a reminder of your need to continually ask for and receive God's grace.

DAY TWO: HUMILITY Read 2 Chronicles 7:11-16

In his prayers, David demonstrated that the starting point of salvation—as far as a human response is concerned—is *humility*. Realizing his complete unworthiness and lostness because of sin, he prays accordingly. When he understood God as he really is (glorious and holy) in relationship to himself (sinful and unholy), he could pray no other way.

Scripture continually shows God honoring those who are spiritually humble. Speaking to David's son, Solomon, God promised that *if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.* (1 Chronicles 7:14)

Jesus' half-brother James speaks to the intensity of this type of humility when he writes we should *have tears, sorrow, deep grief and sadness* (James 4:9), meaning we're broken because of being lost and separated from God. This type of humility means we need to admit we're wrong: certainly to God and usually to others.

Today, review the past week and see if there's any sin you need to confess to God or anyone to whom you need to apologize. Take the time to do it and make sure you do it from an attitude of humility that honors God.

DAY THREE: HONESTY Read Psalm 22:1-2; 28:1

What if you started praying this way? What if you talked to God like the real you—like you would if you wrote a handwritten letter? What would you say?

So stop trying to be someone you're not. Stop using words you don't understand. Stop talking to God like he's a million light years away. I can imagine God looking at you today and saying, *If you only knew* how much I want to be close to you! The real YOU! Because I love you like crazy, I want to hear what's going on inside you. Don't hold back. Just be real.

Think about it this way. If there's a chance that God—who created the universe and you—wants to have a conversation with you, isn't it worth giving it a shot? Even if you're not sure what you think about God, or what He thinks about you, what's the harm of having one or two honest conversations?

That's what I want to challenge you to do today. Pray to God like David did: with total honesty. If it helps, write it out like a personal note, or type it like a text. But find a way to get real with God. Because **real prayer is right prayer**.

DAY FOUR: ATONEMENT Read Romans 5:9-11

Psalm 22 is considered to be a Messianic Psalm, meaning that much of it pointed to Jesus the Messiah (king) who was to come. David's honest question *My God, My God why have you forsaken me?* is also spoken by Jesus on the cross (Matt 27:46) as he is accomplishing what we call "atonement".

That is a fancy word that means Jesus died so that our broken relationship with God could be restored. It is accomplished by making amends, blotting out offenses, and giving satisfaction for wrongs committed. It is what Jesus did through the cross.

According to the Bible, we all sin against a holy and righteous God and need atonement. Because we have all sinned against God, we can't have fellowship with him until the relationship has been restored. But because we're sinful, we have no way to be right before God. Someone else needs to do it.

That's where Jesus comes in. In Jesus' death (as fully God and fully man), God made us his friends by paying the punishment for our sins (Romans 5:10).

Our restoration to God isn't accomplished by anything we could possibly do. We need God to do it on our behalf. That's exactly what God at the cross did in the death of Jesus. Jesus is the only one who could do this. Allow this powerful truth to sink into your soul by listening to the song *At the Cross* by Chris Tomlin.