

2 Chronicles 7:14

Last week, we started looking at how to bridge the gap between cursing and blessing. We looked first at humility and then at prayer. Now, we are going to take the next step. Humility and prayer starts us on the journey but it is now the seeking of God's face that continues us on our walk. So, as we look at seeking God's face, we ask some very basic questions.

- I. What it is not
 - a. This is not a forced subjection
 - i. Israel was given the choice to follow or not
 - ii. However, while the choice is there to seek or not, the consequences pertaining to either one is not for us to choose.
 - b. This is not a surface type move
 - i. When we seek the Lord's face, in this physical world, it is easy to fake it with others around us. Since we cannot see the true heart and motives.
 - ii. However, God is not fooled. He sees the heart and allows the consequences to continue or change – Notice **2 Chronicles 6:30**
 - iii. We may be able to act the part for a short time but that will end.
 - iv. By doubling down on our choice to deny God's Word and Work, God doubles down on the consequences – **Amos 4:6-13**
 - c. This is not a get out of trouble card
 - i. Notice in **2 Chronicles 7:14**. The troubles and consequences come. It is UNDER those consequences that we find what needs to be done to reverse it. It is only after we finish bridging the gap that the consequences turn from discipline to blessing.
 - ii. The consequences are designed to get us to correct what is wrong and bring us back into line. **Jeremiah 2:1-3:25** (God's case against Israel, His judgments and plea for them to repent)
- II. What it is
 - a. It is a serious evaluation of where we are at in light of where God wants us to be and what we are doing in light of what God has told us what He wants us to do
 - b. It is a serious seeking of where we have missed the mark and gone astray.
 - c. In seeking God's face, we are, laying every fiber of our being, every notion of our beliefs and every ounce of our practice of life before Him asking for His evaluation.
 - i. Scary? ABSOLUTELY! It is always scary to have the King of King's and Lord of Lord's evaluate us. To allow Him to penetrate even to the darkest corner of our lives and shine His light into the deepest recesses of our lives and show us what needs to be changed.
 - ii. This means then that when truth shines in there, we wince at the pain, cut it out, offer it to God and allow Him to re-instill what HIS righteousness dictates. That means there are changes that will affect who and what we are on the outside.
 1. It will involve sacrifice. And many want to hold fast to something thinking they are keeping those little things secret. But God, who sees everything, already sees those secret places and is not surprised.

2. It is like the kid playing flashlight tag. The father is looking for him. He is hiding behind a twig. The father's light is on the boy and He is saying, "I see you. I see you. You are right there." The little boy, who has his eyes shut is saying, "No you don't. You don't see me at all."
 3. We are that little kid that has our eyes shut trying to refuse to accept the fact that the darkest closet of our life is already illuminated by God's love
 - iii. When we talk about His truth, we must put ourselves in the place of Pontius Pilot and ask what He does in [John 18:38](#). If we honestly ask that question, God gives us an honest answer – [John 17:17](#)¹
- III. It is interesting the place this has in our list of bridges
- a. It comes after our humility and prayer showing we truly need Him. – [Psalm 25:9](#)
 - b. It comes before our turning from wicked ways
 - i. We cannot turn from our wickedness without God. It is only through the power of God that we can turn.
 - ii. We will only have the power of God when we seek His face because it is only through God that His power will come.
 - iii. He will only give us the power of God, after we come to Him acknowledging that we need Him.
 - c. When we realize that God is the only one who can forgive us, we can now look at the next part which is the turning. We will discuss this next week.
- IV. What is the result
- a. We start to see our error
 - i. Now, our lives are held up to the light of the Word and we will become disgusted at what exists in our life.
 - ii. David gives us a true picture - [Psalm 51:3](#)²
 - b. We can be restored in our walk with God
 - i. This starts by putting God before us – [Psalm 16:8](#)
 - ii. It really helps us to think of it as a renewal – [Psalm 51:10](#)
 1. This is the same word that can be translated as repair
 2. It then becomes our heart cry to be restored and renewed so we can walk with God which then becomes sweeter as time goes on. – [Did you know that God WANTS to walk with you? He does](#)
 3. Jeremiah made this cry in [Lamentations 5:21](#)³
 - iii. It becomes a prayer then to see and understand God's ways – [Psalm 25:4](#)
 - c. God's curses are then turned to blessings – [Deuteronomy 28:10-14](#)
 - i. Let us not fall into the trap of thinking of blessings as material wealth, health and happiness. These are superficial.

¹ [John 17:17](#) Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

² [Psalms 51:3](#) For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin *is* always before me.

³ [Lamentations 5:21](#) Turn us back to You, O LORD, and we will be restored; Renew our days as of old,

- ii. True blessing is a restored relationship with Jesus where hearts and minds turn toward God and He is followed and obeyed
 - iii. There is a restored communion with God. An openness to Him and the freedom for the Holy Spirit to work and move in our lives to use us as He sees fit.
- d. We can be used and not be a castaway
 - i. My fear is being a castaway. To get to the point that I am not useable, that I am not effective, and I am just spending my life just filling up space.
 - ii. All of us should fear this. As we turn to God and we see what God wants, this fear starts to grow that we are motivated to do more and more for God so as not to become a castaway.
 - 1. Paul was afraid of this – 1 Corinthians 9:27⁴ (disqualified is the same word meaning castaway)
 - 2. David was afraid of this – Psalm 51:11
 - iii. Our desire is to be so in-tuned with God and His purpose and will for our lives that we cannot help but to follow Him so we can stay useful and pliable for God as clay is to the potter.
 - iv. A great book for this is written by F.B. Meyer's titled, "Fit for the Master's Use". I would encourage a reading. It is not big at all but it packs a powerful message.
- e. We can teach others the true way
 - i. David realized this – Psalm 51:12-13
 - ii. Jesus tells us we are to take care of our own plank in our eye before taking care of the speck in our brother's eye – Matthew 7:3-5 (Can only be done when we are taught by God's truth, the areas WE need to change)
 - iii. When we realize the mercy that God has given us, we are going to be more than willing to show and share that with everyone we can.
 - iv. However, it is only possible to teach others the truth, after we ourselves are taught – 2 Chronicles 6:27

⁴ 1 Corinthians 9:27 But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.