

Introduction:

Jesus on “Authentic Spirituality”

- *...you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. – Jesus*
Luke 11:39 (NIV)
- *...thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that. – Jesus*
Mark 7:13 (NIV)
- *...you are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God's sight. – Jesus*
Luke 16:15 (NIV)
- *And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. – Jesus*
Matthew 6:5 (NIV)
- *And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. – Jesus*
Matthew 6:7 (NIV)

The pathway of communion with God:

1. **After observing Jesus' deep communion with the Father the disciples make a request -**

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

Luke 11:1 (NIV)

2. **Jesus condescends to their request and provides an approved pattern: The Lord's Prayer**

²He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be Your name, Your Kingdom come. ³Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation."

Luke 11:2-4 (NIV)

3. **Jesus now teaches that "the secret" to communion with the Father transcends any pattern or form by teaching them: An Astounding Parable**

⁵Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.'"

Luke 11:5-6 (NIV)

4. Jesus summarizes the message of the parable: “God is not like that” by His command –

⁹So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Luke 11:9-10 (NIV)

5. Jesus reveals the Pathway of Communion with God through one enduring principle –

¹¹Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹²Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!

Luke 11:11-13 (NIV)

The Abiding Principle – The God of the “_____ !”

First steps on the pathway of communion with God:

1. **Prayers of _____** – Pray Psalm 84:11 and Zephaniah 3:17 back to God in a slow, unhurried manner; pause and reflect on this truth as it relates to you.

2. **Prayers of _____** – Pray Psalm 103:1-5.
Read each verse and quietly thank God for specific ways these have been true in your life and relationships. Ponder over people, times of blessing and deliverance that God brings to your mind, and focus on enjoying God's presence and blessing His name.

3. **Prayers of _____ and _____** – Pray Psalm 103:8-14 slowly and deliberately back to God. Pause and sit quietly to dwell on the completeness of His forgiveness, the depth of His understanding and patience, and His commitment to you despite your failure. Ask Him to forgive any attitudes or actions that the Holy Spirit brings to your mind where you've sinned against Him or another. Accept and rejoice that verses 12-13 are now true of you.

4. **Prayers of _____** – Slowly read Luke 11:1-13 twice. Tell the good and generous God of "The How Much More" what you deeply long for.