

Session 2: Pilgrim's Progress—Dealing with Sin in Prayer to God through Christ

Kerry McGonigal, Wilds College & Career Retreat, Fall 2011

1. What Is True About God. — *When we deal w/ sin, we must start with the standard himself.*

- I thank you, Heavenly Father, that you are truth, that everything true comes from You.
- I believe, Father, that when You speak to us You always tell the truth. You either tell us...
 - what really *did* happen in the past,
 - or what *will* most certainly happen in the future.
- You never lie to us. Ever.
- And that's why we can trust in You every moment of every day.

2. What Is True About Me.

a. What God already knows. — *Be specific.* *What's the value of this? It takes humility.*

- Father, you know that my heart is full of deceit. You know that I lie to myself and that I lie to others.
- You know that I sometimes try to cover my sin, like pretending to take a nap when mommy opens our bedroom door.
- You know that I am not always honest with my parents when they ask me questions.
- You know that I sometimes shift the blame to my sister.
- You know that I sometimes sneak around, that I put things in my backpack or take things I shouldn't have hoping no one will notice.

b. What God must do.

- And I know from Your Word that all liars must be punished, that all liars will have their portion in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur (Rev. 21:8). I know I deserved to be punished by You.

3. What Is True About Jesus Christ. — *Hope: the Gospel*

- But I thank you, kind Father, that you sent Your Son Jesus into this evil world to rescue liars like me from the lake of fire.
- I thank You that even though Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life," He took in His body the punishment for lying that I deserved. *He's the prototype of the new humanity; the embodiment of truth*
- I thank You that because I have believed in Jesus You have forgiven me of all my sin—past, present, and future.
 - Every lie I have ever spoken in the past and every lie I will ever speak in the future is covered by the blood of Jesus Christ.
- And I thank You that because I am united to Jesus Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, I can have the victory today and throughout my life over a lying tongue.
- And I thank You that in spite of my failure to always be truthful, because I am united to Jesus Christ I will one day be completely delivered from lying lips when I see Him at His return and am conformed into His image.

** God is not only the Powerful Creator... He's the Successful Re-creator. He's creating a new humanity of which Christ is the prototype + He will succeed (that's the Gospel promise). Cooperate w/ this*

** Lord, help me see sin, not in the deceitfulness of what it offers, but in the destruction that it conceals.*

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

4. How Should I Respond?

- a. By Devoting My Life to God Because of His Mercies. Rom. 12:1
- So, Father, because You have been so merciful and gracious to me, and have not given me what I deserve, but instead have been so kind to give me so many good things in Jesus Christ, I want to live my life for You today. ** Obedience springs from a grateful heart.*
- b. By Desiring that Jesus Christ Be Praised. *↳ the Gospel turns duty to delight.*
- I want to point people to Jesus by the way I talk and by the way I live today.
- c. By Continuing to Confess My Sin Before God.
- I confess that I am not always truthful and that I need you to keep forgiving me and cleaning up my sinful heart, as 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins You are faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- d. By Remaining Secure in God's Love.
- I know that if I tell a lie today it doesn't mean that I am no longer Your child. I know if I sin today it doesn't mean that You love me any less. And I also know that if I were to tell the truth *all day long* You wouldn't love me any more than You do right now. Your love for me and your acceptance of me isn't based on whether I am good or bad. Your love and acceptance are based on the goodness of Jesus, Your Son. *— complete in three! God never accepts us based on our performance, but only ever on Christ's performance.*
- e. By Desiring Not To Make God Sorrowful.
- But I do know that my sin matters, that when I sin it hurts You deeply and disappoints You greatly. I know that when I tell a lie it makes you sad because You sent Your Son Jesus to the cross to rescue me from sins like lying. It makes You sad because You didn't create us to be liars.
- f. By Turning Away from My Sin.
- I don't want to tell lies anymore. I don't want to act like I don't care what Jesus did for me. No, I want to be like Jesus, a truth-teller. I want whatever I say or do to be the truth (what really happened).
 - I want my family and friends to be able to trust me, like I can trust You.
 - I want my life to be a sacrifice that is pleasing to You.
- g. By Seeking God's Help.
- But I need Your help. I need Your grace and the power of Your Holy Spirit who lives inside me to help me be a young lady who is known as being honest and true. *— Phil. 2:13*
- h. By Using the Sword of the Spirit in the Battle.
- Help me whenever someone asks me a question and I am tempted to lie, to look to You in prayer, to cry out to you in my heart, and use Your words from the Bible to have victory in telling the truth.

5. Memory Verse:

Ephesians 4:25: "Having put away lying, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another."

— Being filled w/ the Spirit (Eph. 5) is having the word of Christ dwell in you richly (Col. 3)