

# Daily Prayer

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

Today's prayer is the second of several exploring the difference between "religious" repentance and "gospel" repentance as presented in Tim Keller's *gospel in life Grace Changes Everything* (capitalization follows book cover), pages 28-30.

Gracious Father,

*Thank you that by grace you have saved me through faith.  
I know this is not my own doing; it is your gift to me.*

Thank you that Jesus earned forgiveness,  
and that your gift is my receiving that forgiveness through faith.  
Thank you for the gift of faith.

I confess, Father, that I have used my repentance  
as an attempt to pay for my sin.

I have tried to convince you - and myself -  
that I was miserable and regretful enough to deserve forgiveness.

Thank you that Jesus suffered for my sin.  
Thank you that I do not have to make myself -  
or fake making myself -  
suffer for my sin.

Thank you that I do not have to  
live a good enough life  
that I require you to bless me.

If that were the case every time I sinned and repented  
it would seem traumatic, unnatural and threatening.  
I have tended to admit my sin only when under great duress.  
My hope seems to have been more in my moral goodness  
than in Jesus' mercy.  
Lord have mercy.

But your good news is that I am accepted in Christ.  
It is so much easier now to admit my flaws,  
now that I know I will not be cast aside  
if I confess the true depths of my sinfulness.

Thank you, thank you thank you,  
that my hope is in Jesus' "right"-ness, not my own.  
Thank you that admitting my weaknesses and lapses  
is not nearly as traumatic as it once was  
when I confused my performance with Jesus'.  
Lord, I see that I am *exactly* what your Word tells me I am -  
a sinner in need of grace from first to last.

Thank you for setting me free from the body of this death,  
for Jesus and his kingdom's sake. Amen.

edited and adapted by ptc

The answer of our prayers is secured by the fact that in rejecting them God would in a certain sense deny His own nature.

- John Calvin