

Daily Prayer

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

Today's prayer is the third 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.

Merciful Father, from whom nothing is hidden,

I confess that, when I am thinking of my own moral performance,
I tend to minimize my sin,
to be less than honest with you,
because it is, in fact, tremendously embarrassing
that I continue to be petty and self-dependent time after time.

It seems to be my default setting.

Thank you that as I begin to believe your Word
which tells me how loved and accepted I am in you
I find myself much more open to admitting my failures.

It is still bitter - but there seems to be no other path
to the sweetness of your gospel.

Father, this is new for me,
a completely new dynamic for my spiritual growth.

The more I see my own flaws and sins,
the more precious, electrifying and amazing
does your grace look to me.

Lord, make me more and more aware of your grace
and my acceptance in Jesus.

In that new confidence help me to drop
my defenses, my blame-shifting,
and admit the true depth and breadth of my sin,
for Jesus and his kingdom's sake. Amen.

edited and adapted by ptc

To know God as the sovereign disposer of all good, inviting us to present our requests, and yet not to approach or ask of him, were so far from availing us, that it were just as if one told of a treasure were to allow it to remain buried in the ground.

- John Calvin