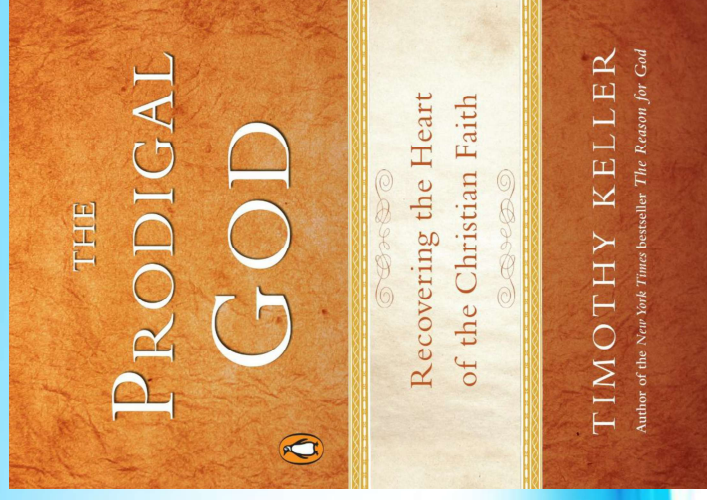


The Prodigal God

Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith

Review - Summer Reading 2025



1

Zoom Info – Bible Study Meeting Information Wednesday at 8:30 am

Click on the link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4497575748?pwd=iKMCS9qbngU-vcQo2zCt7lgy9QjRZW8X>

Or Go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter

Meeting ID → 449 757 5748, Passcode 04092006

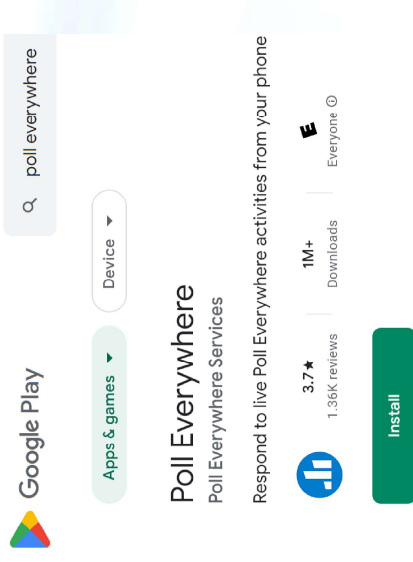
Or Dial in at 312-626-6799 or 929-205-6099

Enter meeting ID 449 757 5748#, Enter Password 04092006

2

Polling

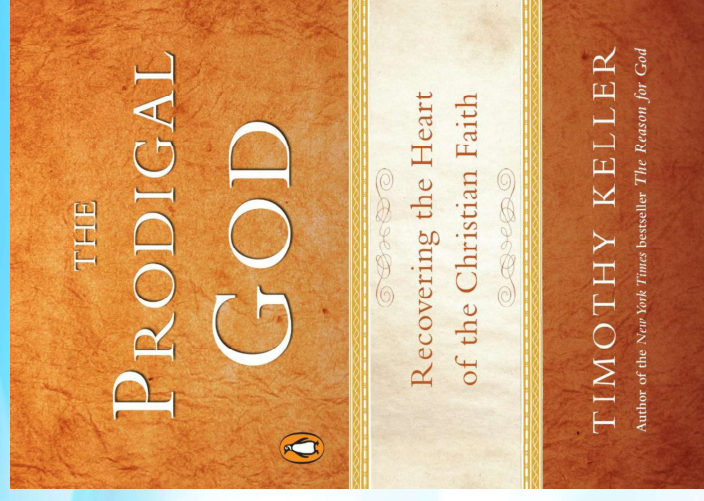
- **By QR Code** (Pollev.com)
QR Code allows you vote and/or to download the app
- **By text** → Send **jamesbrown897** to **22333**
- **There is also an app** you can download an open to avoid using the QR code every time
- If you want personalized help getting the polling app on your phone I (James Brown), Linda Murray, Deacon Robinson or Angela Simpson are willing to assist you in getting set up.



3

Agenda

- A. Your thoughts/testimonies
- B. Elder Brother Self Assessment
- C. Review – Ten Practical Takeaways



4

Your Thoughts and Testimonies

5

Your Thoughts and Testimonies

6

Elder Brother Self Assessment

- Before taking this assessment, please keep these guidelines in mind:
 - **Answer honestly about your current reality**, not your aspirations or how you think you should respond
 - **Reflect on your actual patterns** over the past 6 months - consider your genuine thoughts, reactions, and behaviors during that time
 - **Remember this is for your growth**, not judgment - God already knows your heart and loves you completely
 - **There are no "right" answers** - the goal is self-awareness that leads to deeper grace, not a perfect score"

7

Elder Brother Self Assessment

1. **When life doesn't go as planned despite my efforts to live righteously, I feel angry or bitter toward God.**
1 (Never) - 2 (Rarely) - 3 (Sometimes) - 4 (Often) - 5 (Always)
2. **I find it difficult to truly forgive people whose sins seem worse than mine.**
1 (Never) - 2 (Rarely) - 3 (Sometimes) - 4 (Often) - 5 (Always)
3. **My obedience to God is motivated primarily by what I hope to receive from Him in return.**
1 (Never) - 2 (Rarely) - 3 (Sometimes) - 4 (Often) - 5 (Always)

8

Elder Brother Self Assessment

4. I feel spiritually superior to Christians who struggle with "obvious" sins (addiction, sexual immorality, etc.).

1 (Never) - 2 (Rarely) - 3 (Sometimes) - 4 (Often) - 5 (Always)

5. When I see God blessing others more than me, I question whether He's being fair.

1 (Never) - 2 (Rarely) - 3 (Sometimes) - 4 (Often) - 5 (Always)

6. I believe my good works and moral behavior make me more deserving of God's love than others.

1 (Never) - 2 (Rarely) - 3 (Sometimes) - 4 (Often) - 5 (Always)

9

Elder Brother Self Assessment

7. I struggle to find joy in celebrating the spiritual growth or restoration of people I consider "worse sinners" than myself.

1 (Never) - 2 (Rarely) - 3 (Sometimes) - 4 (Often) - 5 (Always)

8. My Christian service is driven more by duty and obligation than by love and gratitude.

1 (Never) - 2 (Rarely) - 3 (Sometimes) - 4 (Often) - 5 (Always)

9. I avoid or judge Christians whose worship style, theology, or lifestyle differs significantly from mine.

1 (Never) - 2 (Rarely) - 3 (Sometimes) - 4 (Often) - 5 (Always)

10

Elder Brother Self Assessment

10. I secretly believe that God owes me good things because of how hard I've tried to live righteously.

1 (Never) - 2 (Rarely) - 3 (Sometimes) - 4 (Often) - 5 (Always)

11

Elder Brother Self Assessment

Scoring Sheet – You will not be asked to share your score

Question 1: _____

Question 2: _____

Question 3: _____

Question 4: _____

Question 5: _____

Question 6: _____

Question 7: _____

Question 8: _____

Question 9: _____

Question 10: _____

Total _____

12

Elder Brother Self Assessment

Scoring and Reflection

- **10-20:** You show few elder brother tendencies. This could indicate you've experienced the gospel's power to break religious pride, you're keenly aware of your need for grace, or you're in a season where God's love feels very real. Still examine your heart for subtle areas where pride might lurk.
- **21-35:** You show moderate elder brother tendencies. This is normal for most Christians—we all struggle with religious pride to some degree. The gospel speaks to our need for grace in both obvious sins and self-righteousness.

13

Elder Brother Self Assessment

Scoring and Reflection

- **36-50:** You show strong elder brother tendencies. Don't despair—recognizing this is the first step toward experiencing God's prodigal grace more deeply. Religious pride is often harder to see than obvious sin, so awareness is actually a gift.
- **For All Scores:** Remember, this assessment only measures elder brother characteristics, not the full picture of your spiritual condition. The point isn't condemnation but recognition of our universal need for grace. Both brothers needed the father's love.

14

Survey Personal Reflection Questions

Take a moment and think about these

- Which questions made you most uncomfortable? Why?
- What patterns do you notice in your responses?
- How might God want to grow you through this study?
- What would it look like to approach God with the heart of a beloved child rather than an employee trying to earn wages?

15

Background

Prodigal – What does it mean?

prodigal ▶

/prɒd'ɪ-gəl/

adjective

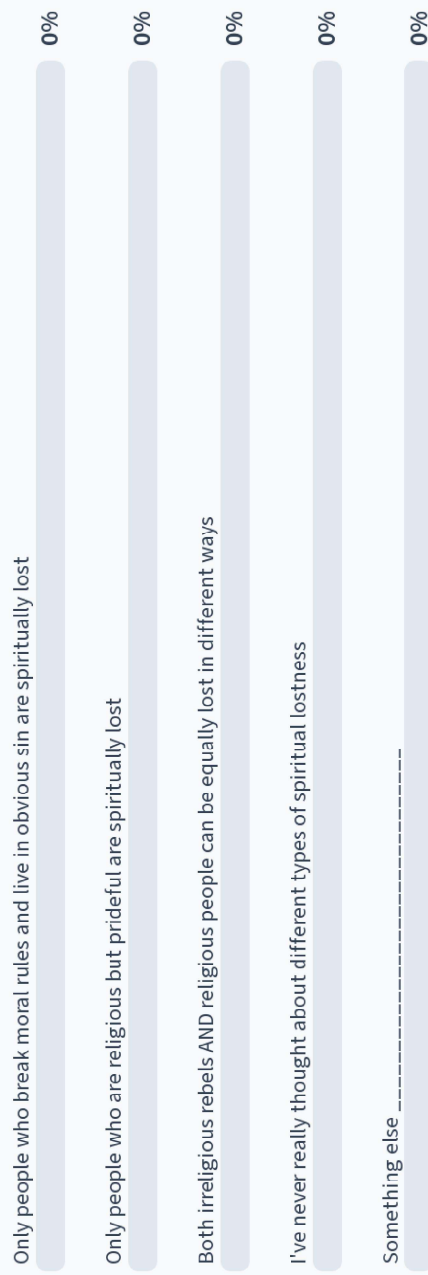
1. Rashly or wastefully extravagant.

"prodigal expenditures on unneeded weaponry; a prodigal nephew who squandered his inheritance."

2. **Giving or given in abundance; lavish or profuse**: synonym: profuse.

16

When you think about spiritual lostness, which statement best describes your past understanding?



Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at pollev.com/app

Background

Can you be saved and spiritually lost?

- **Yes... Let's review some scriptures that assure us with belief in Christ or Salvation is secure**
- **Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV):** "And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory."
- **2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NIV):** "Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

Background

Can you be saved and spiritually lost? – Yes!

- **Ephesians 4:30 (NIV):** "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."
- **John 5:24 (NIV):** "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."
- **John 10:28-29 (NIV):** "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand."
- **1 John 5:13 (NIV):** "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

19

Background

Can you be saved and spiritually lost? – Yes!

- **Now lets understand the context of being spiritually lost when saved**
- While salvation is eternally secured through faith in Christ alone—sealed by the Holy Spirit as our "deposit guaranteeing our inheritance" ([Eph 1:14](#))—both younger brother rebellion and elder brother self-righteousness significantly hinder our sanctification process and damage our witness to others.
- The younger brother's pattern of obvious moral failures can cause believers to "grieve the Holy Spirit" ([Eph 4:30](#)) and lose the joy of their salvation, while also providing ammunition for skeptics who dismiss Christianity based on hypocrisy they observe.

20

Background

Can you be saved and spiritually lost? – Yes!

- The elder brother's self-righteous pride is equally damaging, creating barriers between believers and those they're called to reach, as Jesus noted that such religious pride actually repels people from the kingdom ([Mt 23:13-15](#)). Both approaches quench the Spirit's work in our lives ([1Th 5:19](#)), rob us of the "peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" that characterizes God's kingdom ([Ro 14:17](#)), and prevent us from being effective witnesses who draw others to Christ through genuine love and transformed character ([Joh 13:35](#)).
- Though our position in Christ remains secure, our practical experience of abundant life ([Joh 10:10](#)) and our ability to "let our light shine before others" ([Mt 5:16](#)) are severely compromised when we operate from either brother's heart condition rather than from grateful recognition of God's prodigal grace.

21

Background

Can you be saved and spiritually lost? – Yes!

- **Romans 8:38-39 (NIV):** "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- **Romans 11:29 (NIV):** "For God's gifts and his call are irrevocable."
- **Philippians 1:6 (NIV):** "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

22

Overview

- Timothy Keller takes Jesus' most famous parable—traditionally called "The Prodigal Son"—and reveals that it's actually about **two lost sons and their relationship with a loving Father**. The book's title comes from the word "prodigal," which doesn't mean "wayward" but "recklessly extravagant." While the younger son was recklessly extravagant with his father's money, the Father is recklessly extravagant with His love and grace.
- **The Original Context** - Jesus told this parable to two groups: tax collectors/sinners (represented by the younger brother) and Pharisees/religious leaders (represented by the elder brother). Jesus' harshest words were for the religious people, not the obvious sinners.

23

Overview

- **The Two Brothers - Two Ways to Be Lost**
- **Younger Brother:** Rebels openly through immoral living, squanders his inheritance, but eventually returns home in repentance
- **Elder Brother:** Stays home, follows all the rules, but harbors resentment, pride, and entitlement; refuses to join the celebration when his brother returns

24

Overview

- **Keller's Revolutionary Insight** - Both brothers were equally lost and alienated from their father's heart. The younger brother broke the rules to get what he wanted. The elder brother kept all the rules to get what he wanted. Both were using the father rather than loving him. This reveals that you can be far from God through either irreligion OR religion.
- **The Gospel Application** - Jesus is our "True Elder Brother" who left the Father's house, paid the price for our rebellion, and welcomes us home to the feast. God's grace is "prodigal"—recklessly generous—toward both types of sinners. The book challenges all to see their need for grace and to understand the radical nature of the gospel.

25

1. Understanding the Two Ways We Run From God There are two types of "lost" people

- "there are two brothers, each of whom represents a different way to be alienated from God, and a different way to seek acceptance into the kingdom of heaven." (Page 7)
- "Neither son loved the father for himself. They both were using the father for their own self-centered ends rather than loving, enjoying, and serving him for his own sake." (Page 36)



26

1. Understanding the Two Ways We Run From God

There are two types of "lost" people

- **Younger Brother Rebellion:** Running from God through obvious sin and moral failure
- **Elder Brother Religion:** Running from God through self-righteousness and moral superiority
- Both approaches seek to control God rather than surrender to Him
- Both miss the heart of the Father who loves unconditionally
- **Self-examination:** Which brother do you most identify with in your spiritual journey?

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23, NIV)

27

What most honestly describes your motivation for doing good things (church attendance, moral behavior, service)?

Primarily to earn God's favor and blessings

0%

Primarily out of love and gratitude for what God has already done

0%

Primarily to feel good about myself or gain others' respect

0%

A mixture of all the above

0%

Is it easy to see the elder brother in others?

29

Is saying or thinking “I would never have done that” an elder brother tendency?

30

What can we do to see elder brother tendencies in ourselves?

31

2. Recognizing Elder Brother Spirit in Your Life Warning Signs of Religious Pride

- "The first sign you have an elder-brother spirit is that when your life doesn't go as you want, you aren't just sorrowful but deeply angry and bitter." (Page 49)
- "Elder brothers' inability to handle suffering arises from the fact that their moral observance is results-oriented." (Page 50)
- "It is impossible to forgive someone if you feel superior to him or her." (Page 55)
- "Elder brothers obey God to get things. They don't obey God to get God himself—in order to resemble him, love him, know him, and delight him." (Page 42)



32

2. Recognizing Elder Brother Spirit in Your Life

Warning Signs of Religious Pride

- You become bitter when life doesn't go as planned despite your "good behavior"
- You feel superior to others who struggle with different sins
- Your obedience to God is results-oriented - done to get things from Him
- You struggle to forgive others because you feel morally superior
- You're more focused on rule-keeping than relationship with God

"But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends'" (Luke 15:29, NIV)

33

When I see someone less moral than me experiencing success or blessings, I typically think:

Good for them - God's grace is available to everyone

0%

That doesn't seem fair based on how they live

0%

I wonder what I'm doing wrong in my spiritual life

0%

Life isn't always fair, but God is still good

0%

3. The Radical Nature of God's Grace God's "Prodigal" (Reckless) Love

- "God's love and forgiveness can pardon and restore any and every kind of sin or wrongdoing... There is no evil that the father's love cannot pardon and cover, there is no sin that is a match for his grace." (Page 24)
- "Mercy and forgiveness must be free and unmerited to the wrongdoer. If the wrongdoer has to do something to merit it, then it isn't mercy, but forgiveness always comes at a cost to the one granting the forgiveness." (Page 83)



3. The Radical Nature of God's Grace God's "Prodigal" (Reckless) Love

- God's love is extravagant and costly - He spends everything to bring us home
- Grace is free to receive but infinitely expensive for God to give
- God's forgiveness covers ANY sin - there is "grace to spare"
- The Father runs to meet us when we turn toward home
- Grace transforms both the irreligious sinner and the self-righteous

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8, NIV)

4. Repenting of Both Sin AND Righteousness

The Deeper Gospel Message

- "To truly become Christians we must also repent of the reasons we ever did anything right. Pharisees only repent of their sins, but Christians repent for the very roots of their righteousness, too." (Page 78)
- "The elder brother is not losing the father's love in spite of his goodness, but because of it. It is not his sins that create the barrier between him and his father, it's the pride he has in his moral record." (Page 35)
- "Pride in his good deeds, rather than remorse over his bad deeds, was keeping the older son out of the feast of salvation." (Page 77)



4. Repenting of Both Sin AND Righteousness

The Deeper Gospel Message

- We must repent not only of our sins but of our "righteousness"
- True Christians repent of the reasons they ever did anything right
- Our good works can be another way of trying to be our own Savior
- Pride in moral performance keeps us from the Father's feast
- The gospel shatters both religious and irreligious approaches to life

"All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6, NIV)

4. Repenting of Both Sin AND Righteousness

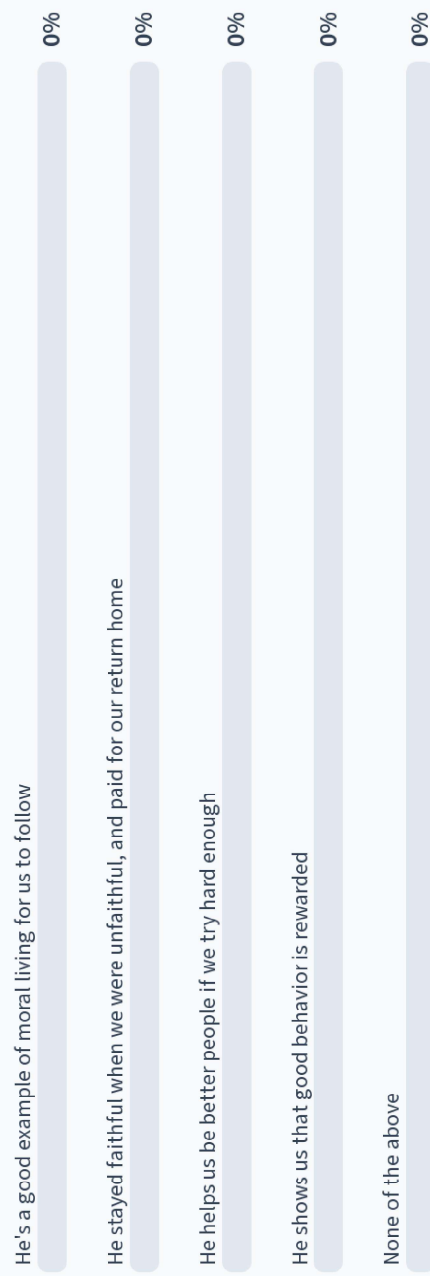
The Deeper Gospel Message

The Problem with "Right" Actions Done for Wrong Reasons

- You tithe regularly... but secretly expect God to bless your finances in return
- You serve in church.... but partly to gain respect and recognition from others
- You follow moral rules... but to feel superior to "worse" sinners
- You pray and read Scripture... but mainly to earn God's favor and get your prayers answered
- You avoid certain sins... but to maintain your reputation rather than out of love for God

39

Jesus as our "True Elder Brother" means:



5. Jesus as Our True Elder Brother

The Solution to Our Lostness

- "If, like the elder brother, you believe that God ought to bless you and help you because you have worked so hard to obey him and be a good person, then Jesus may be your helper, your example, even your inspiration, but he is not your Savior. You are serving as your own Savior." (Page 38)
- "How can the inner workings of the heart be changed from a dynamic of fear and anger to that of love, joy, and gratitude? Here is how. You need to be moved by the sight of what it cost to bring you home." (Page 85)



5. Jesus as Our True Elder Brother

The Solution to Our Lostness

- Jesus is the true Elder Brother who came to bring us home
- He paid the cost for our reconciliation through His sacrifice
- Unlike the parable's elder brother, Jesus welcomes us to the feast
- He endured exile from the Father so we could come home
- Through Jesus, we receive the Father's love without earning it

"For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help" (Psalm 22:24, NIV)

6. Living in Community as Family

The Necessity of Christian Community

- "You will never be able to do that by yourself. You must be deeply involved in the church, in Christian community, with strong relationships of love and accountability. Only if you are part of a community of believers seeking to resemble, serve, and love Jesus will you ever get to know him and grow into his likeness." (Page 127)
- "I have explained in this book why churches—and all religious institutions—are often so unpleasant. They are filled with elder brothers. Yet staying away from them simply because they have elder brothers is just another form of self-righteousness." (Page 125)



My predominate honest feeling about imperfect people in church is:

They make me want to find a "better" church

0%

They remind me that I need grace too

0%

They frustrate me because they should know better

0%

I try to avoid getting too close to them

0%

Something else -----

0%

6. Living in Community as Family

The Necessity of Christian Community

- You cannot grow spiritually apart from deep involvement in Christian community
- Churches are filled with "elder brothers" but staying away is also self-righteous
- Christian community helps us know Jesus better through relationships
- We need accountability, love, and service opportunities with other believers
- The church gives us a foretaste of the Father's eternal feast

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together" (Hebrews 10:24-25, NIV)

45

7. Handling Suffering with Gospel Perspective

When Life Doesn't Go Your Way

- "Elder brothers' inability to handle suffering arises from the fact that their moral observance is results-oriented. The good life is lived not for delight in good deeds themselves, but as calculated ways to control their environment." (Page 50)
- "If the elder brother had known his own heart, he would have said, 'I am just as self-centered and a grief to my father in my own way as my brother is in his. I have no right to feel superior.' Then he would have had the freedom to give his brother the same forgiveness that his father did." (Page 57)



46

7. Handling Suffering with Gospel Perspective When Life Doesn't Go Your Way

- Elder brothers become bitter in suffering because their obedience was transactional
- Gospel perspective: suffering doesn't mean God doesn't love you
- Your worth isn't based on your performance or circumstances
- God's love is secure regardless of your current situation
- Use difficulties to examine whether you're living like an elder brother

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28, NIV)

47

8. Practical Steps for Spiritual Growth Daily Applications for the Christian Journey

- "The gospel is distinct from the other two approaches: In its view, everyone is wrong, everyone is loved, and everyone is called to recognize this and change." (Page 45)
- "Because sin is not just breaking the rules, it is putting yourself in the place of God as Savior, Lord, and Judge just as each son sought to displace the authority of the father in his own life." (Page 43)
- "Christians cannot be passive about hunger, sickness, and injustice... Properly understood, Christianity is by no means the opiate of the people. It's more like the smelling salts." (Page 113)



48

8. Practical Steps for Spiritual Growth

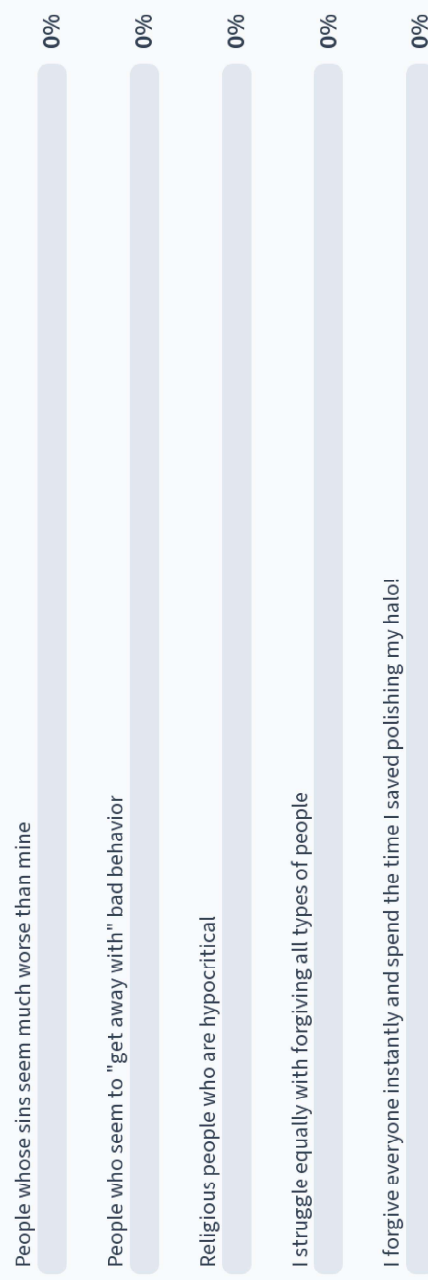
Daily Applications for the Christian Journey

- Regularly examine your motives - are you serving God to get things or to know Him?
- Practice true forgiveness by remembering you're just as needy of grace
- Engage with people different from you rather than judging them
- Join and actively participate in Christian community despite its imperfections
- Live generously, reflecting God's prodigal grace to others

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32, NIV)

49

Which type of person do you find it hardest to forgive or show grace toward?



9. The Hope of Our True Home Living with Eternal Perspective

- "The message of the Bible is that the human race is a band of exiles trying to come home. The parable of the prodigal son is about every one of us." (Page 97)
- "Jesus will make the world our perfect home again. We will no longer be living 'east of Eden,' always wandering and never arriving. We will come, and the father will meet us and embrace us, and we will be brought into the feast." (Page 104)
- "We can have a foretaste of that future salvation now in all the ways outlined in this chapter: in prayer, in service to others, in the changes in our inner nature through the gospel, and through the healed relationships that Christ can give us now." (Page 132)



9. The Hope of Our True Home Living with Eternal Perspective

- Our longing for "home" points to our ultimate destination with God
- This world is not our final home - we're living "east of Eden"
- Jesus promises a real, physical restoration where we'll feast with the Father
- Current experiences of joy are foretastes of future glory
- Hope changes how we handle present difficulties and relationships

"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20, NIV)

What is meant by east of Eden?

- After Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, Scripture records:
- *"So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he banished the man, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life."* (Genesis 3:23-24, NIV)

53

What is meant by east of Eden?

- **The Geography of Exile**
- **"East of Eden" literally means:**
 - **Outside the Garden** - expelled from the perfect place God designed for humanity
 - **Cut off from the Tree of Life** - separated from eternal, unbroken fellowship with God
 - **In a cursed land** - now living in a world marked by death, suffering, and frustration
 - **Unable to return** - the way back is barred by divine judgment

54

What is meant by east of Eden?

- Living "east of Eden," means:

1. We're Exiles from Our True Home

- Eden represents perfect harmony between God, humanity, and creation
- We were designed for unbroken fellowship with God in a perfect world
- Sin expelled us from that perfect state

55

What is meant by east of Eden?

2. This World Isn't How Things Should Be

- We experience death, disease, broken relationships, injustice
- Creation itself "groans" under the curse (Romans 8:22)
- Nothing in this fallen world fully satisfies our deepest longings

3. We Have a Built-in Homesickness

- Keller notes: *"The memory of home seems to be powerfully evoked by certain sights, sounds, and even smells. But they can only arouse a desire they can't fulfill"* (Page 92).



56

What is meant by east of Eden?

- This explains why:
 - Beautiful sunsets move us to tears
 - Perfect moments feel bittersweet
 - Even our happiest celebrations leave us wanting more
 - We long for "the way things should be"

4. We're Wanderers Trying to Get Home

- As Keller says: *"The message of the Bible is that the human race is a band of exiles trying to come home"* (Page 97).
- We're all like the prodigal son in the "far country" - displaced from where we belong.



What is meant by east of Eden?

- **The Gospel Hope**
 - **The Beautiful Resolution:** While we're currently "east of Eden," Keller emphasizes that Jesus is our "True Elder Brother" who:
 - Left the Father's house (heaven) to find us in our exile
 - Paid the price for our return home
 - Promises to restore us to perfect fellowship with God
 - *"Jesus will make the world our perfect home again. We will no longer be living 'east of Eden,' always wandering and never arriving"* (Page 104).



What is meant by east of Eden?



- Understanding we're "east of Eden" helps us:
 - **Expect disappointment** - this world will never fully satisfy
 - **Long for heaven** - our homesickness points to our true destination
 - **Find hope in suffering** - this isn't the end of our story
 - **Live as pilgrims** - we're passing through, not settling permanently
 - **Appreciate foretastes** - current joys are previews of future glory
- **The Ultimate Promise:** One day we'll return "home" - not to the original Eden, but to the New Heaven and New Earth, where we'll feast forever with the Father in perfect joy, free from sin, death, and exile forever.

59

10. Action Steps for Your Journey Moving Forward in Gospel Truth

- "In the end, Martin Luther's old formula still sums things up nicely: 'We are saved by faith alone [not our works], but not by faith that remains alone.'" (Page 123)
- "There are many people today who have abandoned any kind of religious faith because they see clearly that the major religions are simply full of elder brothers... And guess what? Jesus says through this parable—they are right." (Page 66)
- "Nevertheless, one of the signs that you may not grasp the unique, radical nature of the gospel is that you are certain that you do." (Introduction)



60

10. Action Steps for Your Journey Moving Forward in Gospel Truth

- **Self-Assessment:** Honestly evaluate whether you lean toward younger or elder brother tendencies
- **Repentance:** Ask God to forgive both your sins and your self-righteousness
- **Community:** Commit to deeper involvement in Christian fellowship and accountability
- **Service:** Look for ways to show God's prodigal grace to others
- **Study:** Continue exploring how the gospel transforms every area of life
Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12, NIV)

61

Reference Scriptures

- **Ephesians 1:14 (KJV)** Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.
- **Ephesians 4:30 (KJV)** And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
- **John 10:10 (KJV)** The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.
- **John 13:35 (KJV)** By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.
- **Matthew 5:16 (KJV)** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

62

Reference Scriptures

- **Matthew 23:13-15 (KJV)** But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.
- **Romans 14:17 (KJV)** For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:19 (KJV)** Quench not the Spirit.