

HONEST TO GOD

April 14, 2013 Psalm 42 by Bob Branch
Connecting With God Thru Prayer, Part 2

MAIN IDEA: Cultivating a life of honest faith in the place of prayer.

2 Samuel 15-19

¹ *As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.*

² *My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?*

³ *My tears have been my food day and night,
while people say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"*

1. Prayer is being HONEST TO GOD.

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

⁴ *These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I use to go
to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One
with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng.*

⁸ *By day the LORD directs his love, at night his song is with me—
a prayer to the God of my life.*

2. Prayer is the means of ANCHORING into God's truth by remembering what He has done and declaring His love for us.

I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds. **Psalm 77:11-12** (Psalm 105:4-5; 143:5-6; 40:5; 2 Peter 1:12-15)

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 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 8:35-39** (1 John 3:1; 4:10)

⁶ *My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you
from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.*

⁷ *Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls;
all your waves and breakers have swept over me.*

⁹ *I say to God my Rock, "Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?"*

¹⁰ *My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me,
saying to me all day long, "Where is your God?"*

3. Prayer verbally ACKNOWLEDGES where we are *and* where we want to be.

I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief! **Mark 9:24**

Hear me, my God, as I voice my complaint; protect my life from the threat of the enemy. **Psalm 64:1** (Jer. 12:1-4; 20:7f)

I pour out before him my complaint; before him I tell my trouble. **Psalm 142:2**

^{5, 11} *Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.*

4. Prayer is how we STEER our thoughts & emotions back into trust.

we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. **2 Corinthians 10:5**

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. **Hebrews 5:7**