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Description automatically generated **HE. WE. THEY. Prayer Study**

***Power of Purification (Choosing Grace Over Guilt)***

Matthew 6:9-13

We read a great truth in Psalm 59:10, “My God is changeless in His love for me (TLB).” It does not matter what we face in this life, we can be assured of God’s love for us. Do you know what holds us back more than anything else? It is guilt from our own unconfessed sin! We read in Hebrews 12:1-2, *“Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, 2 keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that lay before Him endured a cross and despised the shame and has sat down at the right hand of God’s throne.”*

How do we react? Rather than confess our sin, we deny it, excuse it, rationalize it, and justify it. Guilt causes us to avoid commitment to others and to God. *“Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy (Prov. 28:13).”*

Jesus said we are to pray, “And forgive us our debts (sins, trespasses).” There is another verse that parallels with the words of Jesus here in 1 John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (NIV).” John is saying, “If you genuinely confess sin God graciously forgive our sin.”*

The Prayer of Purification: Forgive me my sins! How can you have this in your own life?

I. R\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ EVERY PART OF YOUR LIFE

Take a personal spiritual i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of your life. We read in Lamentations 3:40, “Let us search out and e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ our ways, and turn back to the LORD.” Listen to the prayer of David in Psalm 139:23-24, “Search me, God, and know my heart; t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ me and know my concerns. 24 See if there is a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way.”

II. R\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ OF EVERY SIN GOD REVEALS TO YOU

What does it mean to repent?

► Take r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for your sin

► Turn away from your sin

► Turn b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God & receive grace & forgiveness.

We read in 1 John 1:8, “If we say, “We have no sin,” we are d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

III. R\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TO MAKE RESTITUTION

We see this in the life of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:8-9, *“But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, `Look, I’ll give half of my possessions to the poor, Lord! And if I have extorted (cheated) anything from anyone, I’ll p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ four times as much!’ 9 “Today salvation has come to this house,” Jesus told him…”.*

IV. R\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Listen to Hebrews 4:16, “Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time.”

►What is the difference between mercy and grace?

\* Mercy is forgiveness for your p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \* Grace is the power to change in the f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The word “confess” means “to a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with” God about your sin. We read in Romans 5:1, *“Therefore, since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

V. R\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ YOUR STRUGGLES TO A FRIEND

Listen to James 5:16, “Therefore, confess your sins to o\_\_\_\_ a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The urgent request of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.”

VI. R\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ THESE STEPS REGULARLY

Hebrews 10:22-2, *“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water. 23 Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works.”*