

# Transformed

FROM LONGING TO BELONGING

January 19, 2025



*"Do not conform to the pattern of this world,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."*

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Luke 15:11-24 (NLT) – "Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."'

So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'

But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began."

## Restoring the Relationship

1. \_\_\_\_\_ the need.

Luke 15:14 (NLT) – "About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve."

Luke 15:17 (NLT) – "When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger!'"

Jeremiah 29:13 (MSG) – "When you come looking for me, you'll find me. When you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed."

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2. \_\_\_\_\_ to the Father's embrace.

Luke 15:18-20 (NLT) – "I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant." So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him."

Psalms 103:8,12 (NLT) – "The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love... He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west."

James 4:8,10 (NLT) – "Come close to God, and God will come close to you... Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor."

3. \_\_\_\_\_ control.

Luke 15:19 (NLT) – "I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT) – "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take."

Luke 15:22-23 (NLT) – "His father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate.'"

Matthew 16:24-25 (NLT) – "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it."

4. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Luke 15:22-23 (NLT) – "His father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate.'"

Galatians 4:7 (NLT) – "Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are His child, God has made you His heir."

Luke 15:24 (NLT) – "'This son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began!"

Philippians 4:4 (NIV) – "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

## SING!

Psalms 68:4 (NLT) – "Sing praises to God and to his name! Sing loud praises to him who rides the clouds. His name is the LORD—rejoice in his presence!"

Psalms 100:1 (KJV) – "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD!"

*"Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom He gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts."*

Colossians 3:16 (NLT)

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