

# If My People

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## Happy Wednesday!

“[I]f my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14 ESV

When you're a believer in the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ the Messiah, most people agree you're called a “Christian”, so we “are called by His Name.”

The Bible describes that there are only 2 groups of people who are *called by the Name of God* as today's Bible passage describes:

- either a child of the God of Abraham, like the nation of Israel,
- or a child of God through faith in Jesus

Today's Bible passage details that everyone who is called by the Name of the Lord should look differently and act differently than those who are not identified with Christ Jesus. Each of us, as believers in Christ, should:

- Humble
- Pray
- Seek
- Turn

How do we humble ourselves? By bowing low in surrender to the Lord's authority in our lives: He made you, you didn't create yourself. Apart from Him we have nothing, and we are nothing. “But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”” James 4:6 ESV

Humble = surrender your rights and thoughts on what's the King says is best

Once you've humbled yourself, taking a lowly position or stance before God, then you can follow the next command from the Lord to pray!

“pray without ceasing,” 1 Thessalonians 5:17 ESV

“The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.” Proverbs 15:29 ESV

Once you've prayed what's on your heart, you can seek God's response: What is God asking you to do?

“Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!” Psalm 105:4 ESV

Then you can turn from what you wanted so that you can choose to pursue what God said. To turn is to repent, and to repent is to stop doing wrong to do what God says is right. And when we mess up, we repeat the process: humble ourselves, pray and ask God, seek His face and His response, and turn from our ways to follow His.

“Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,” Acts 3:19 ESV

My friends, THIS is the way to live. This is the “recipe for success” - not a new car, house, life, the latest fashion, or the American Dream, but *to walk with God*. Because after you’ve reached your next goal on earth, then what? And after you’ve reached that goal, then what? And eventually retirement, then what? And eventually death... *then what?* Two things in this life are true: God never changes and people always do. Your relationship with God is the most important thing in your lifetime, because what you do and believe in this life will affect your life that comes after death.

Humble. Pray. Seek. Turn.

It will not be easy and there will be some who oppose you, but nothing else matters when you live for God:

“The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” Psalm 118:6 ESV

Lord, help us be humble before You and before others. Help us not demand our own way. Help us pray without ceasing, and learn to reach out to you, our first line of defense. Help us to seek You and to seek Your face and Your presence as our greatest need. Help us repent and turn from wrong and do what is right. By Your power and Your power alone we are healed of our sins and made right with You. Make us right, Father. Help us in our weaknesses, for You never change and neither does Your love for me. Amen.

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