

# The Messy Parts of Life

The \_\_\_\_\_ needs to be as honest about struggling with faith and the pain of life as the Bible is.

We tend to think Yahweh needs us to \_\_\_\_\_ His image so He doesn't get a bad rap for not answering a prayer.

Wrestling with \_\_\_\_\_ prayer is not an act of unbelief or a sign of immature faith. It's a sign of defiant and deepening faith.

Authentic \_\_\_\_\_ isn't rooted in faith in our faith. It's rooted in Yahweh, the Author and Finisher of faith.

We have to be able to \_\_\_\_\_ the miracles we see and the "unmiracles" that we don't see.

*John 16:24 Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.*

Unanswered prayer is only a problem for those who \_\_\_\_\_.

*Luke 18:10-14 "Two men went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men –swindlers, evildoers, adulterers–or even like this tax collector. 12I fast twice a week and pay tithes of all that I acquire.' 13But the tax collector stood at a distance, unwilling even to lift up his eyes to heaven. Instead, he beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner!' 14I tell you, this man, rather than the Pharisee, went home justified."*

The one who looked a mess and felt like a failure is the one who went home \_\_\_\_\_ by God that day.

*"When we open our hearts to be honest with God in prayer, He hears us, and steps through the door to be with us, totally unfazed by the mess of our interior world. The thing that keeps God out of our lives is not our sin. It is our compulsion to pretend, to cover up our nakedness with fig leaves, to climb sycamore trees in order to see without being seen." [Pete Grieg]*

Matthew 5:4 *Happy/Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

Luke 4:18-19 *"The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, 19to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

**It's in the hard, messy parts of life that we \_\_\_\_\_.**

**\_\_\_\_\_ is what primes the tree for new life in the season to come.**

- Day 1: Maundy Thursday
- Day 2: Good Friday
- Day 3: Holy Saturday
- Day 4: Easter Sunday

**We have \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus who went through agony, abandonment, and eventual resurrection so that He can come into our circumstances and be with us.**

Hebrews 12:3 (MSG) *When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!*