

PERFORMANCE – END STRIVING

Lord, I have come to see my performance orientation. I confess to You that, although my head believes salvation is by grace, my heart drives me to earn favor, to be good enough to present myself to others and to You. I admit that I cannot change myself. The fear of not being accepted or loved is so overwhelming it puts me into gear, and I begin performing again. When acceptance is given with no strings attached, I cannot receive it. I ask You into my heart to do the work in me, for me. Bring my striving to death. I want to rest in Your love. Help me remove the hindrances I have erected which prevent me from entering into Your love.

Lord, I have been angry with You for putting me into this family and this position. I don't want my anger to keep me from You so I ask that You restore my heart. I forgive my family for _____
_____ (list the woundings that helped form performance orientation and those that fueled it). I ask Your forgiveness for my angry responses, my fear and insecurity, impure motives, and for not believing the truth.

Lord, I renounce the family lies (name them specifically): _____.

I accept my identity as Your child. Help me learn how to live that identity in my daily life. Help me to feel, to know within me that "success" is simply being Your child. Help me to be like You, Lord.

I ask You to bring to death in me the structures (the habit patterns of performing) I have created (be specific): _____.

I ask You to minister to the ambivalence in me when I want correction but cannot receive it, or when I want and need compliments but cannot believe them. Likewise, be the Lord of my tongue so that wisdom and kindness permeate the corrections and compliments I give. Help me to take my eyes off my needs and fears.

Lord, I resign from managing the universe. I give to You my compulsive need to control people and situations. I recognize I have wounded _____ (*list those you know*) by not affirming their contributions – I always had to edit, add, or correct. I could always do it better. Forgive me, Lord, for both my insecurity and my arrogance, as well as for the wounds I have caused. Help me to believe I am not responsible for all that goes on around me. Forgive me for always being a “Martha,” and help me to hear when You call me to be “Mary.” Show me where I have taken on jobs or duties for the wrong reasons, and give me the wisdom to resign from them if necessary.

Help me to fall in love with You, Jesus, so that what others think of me is not important. You have said that it is You working in us that enables us first to will and then to act according to Your good purposes. I want to be a good workman, but only with Your strength and Your will. Help me to be like You, Lord. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

IMPORTANT: These prayers are not formulas; rather they offer ideas and direction. Be led by the Holy Spirit, and use the substance of this prayer as a guide.

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