

DISCUSS

What does David expect from God according to verse 17?

How do you feel about this request? Do you ask and expect from God the same benevolence? Why or why not?

What has your experience been with the prosperity gospel?

What's wrong with the prosperity gospel? In what ways does it miss the point of the gospel of Jesus?

How does Matthew 7:7-11 describe the heart of God?

How should this passage inform our expectations in prayer?

What distinction does Matt make between the prosperity gospel and a biblical view of God's generosity?

What are some words you would use to characterize David's tone in verses 18-24?

How have you experienced the tension between following God's Word and dealing with a sinful world in your own life? What did your prayer life look like during those times?

As you reflect on those times, how did God respond to your circumstances? What have you learned about Him as a result of going through them?

How does Matt describe the theme of verses 25-32?

According to verse 26, what action does David say he took in response to his circumstances?

How does God respond to Him as a result?

How have you practiced confession in your own life?

What were the practical effects you experienced after confessing sin? How did it influence your relationship with Christ? What about your witness to others?

In what ways do you practice confession today? What could you do to grow in that discipline in the days ahead?

What is the consistent theme Matt points out about verses 27-32?

What is the difference between belief and knowledge?

Where are some areas in your life where you need God to move you from knowledge to belief?

What obstacles stand in the way of you confessing your sin?

How do they keep you from the comfort of God's presence and power?

How would your life look different if you were to act on the truth you've learned

LIVE IT OUT

Pray: As you think about the areas of your spiritual life where you need to move from *knowing* to *believing*, invite God to bridge that gap and transform you in such a way that your life reflects what you claim to believe.

Study: Over the course of the next week, devote your quiet time to studying the generosity of God throughout Scripture. Find a handful of passages that describe God's generous heart in order to further shape your understanding of your Heavenly Father.

Confess: If you are hiding sin or keeping secret any doubts or fears you have about your spiritual life, seek out a trustworthy believer and confess those today. Trust that the truth of God's Word will not mislead you.

Ask: If you are in a season of need, boldly ask God to provide for your needs, like David in the passage we studied. Trust that He is a generous Father who gives good gifts and will provide you with whatever you need for sustenance.

Praise: As you reflect on the generosity of God in your life, spend some time each day this week praising God for His gifts to you.