

7. **On Repentance** Quite often we hear this statement in public prayer: *“Forgive us of our sins as we repent of them.”* God won’t forgive unless we repent but if saying it (though unnecessary) reaffirms our recognition of the essential value of penitence – so be it. Much worse: Prayer absent (2 Cor 7:10) the “_____ sorrow” that “_____ repentance,” and the actual changing of one’s attitude with regard to their sins means there will be no forgiveness. Getting forgiveness for sins shouldn’t be equated with letting garbage stack up until it is horrendous and then gallantly “catching it up” when you finally think about it. We can’t just assume that God will automatically forgive us by virtue of the fact that “we always get around to repenting, sooner or later.”
8. **On Helping Our Infirmities** The word *infirmities* is used of both physical and spiritual ills. We are all infirmed (ie: possess deteriorated vitality) in some way at various times in our lives. In 1855 Joseph M. Scriven (1819-1886) wrote the words of **Tell It To Jesus Alone** to comfort his mother, who was across the sea from him in Ireland. We quote one line: *“Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.”* Prayer is powerful. We recommend TPBS Lesson [#16 – #18](#), Prayer, and especially [#297](#), The Therapeutic Nature of Prayer. Just because the Bible says (Ps 54:4) that *“God is my _____”* doesn’t mean we don’t have to do anything.
9. **On Helping** Christians are (1 Cor 3:9) “_____ together _____ God.” Again, both we and God have something to do in the scheme of redemption. Paul has just referred to (Ps 118:6) and now affirms (Heb 13:5-6) that we ought to *“boldly say, The _____ is my _____.”* To **help** means to give assistance or support. God gives us assistance and support but He won’t do it for us.
10. **Don’t Pray...** We’ve heard our share of “gimme” prayers – “Gimme this” and “Gimme that.” In a nutshell, we often intimate that we expect a miracle (ie: something supernatural) and there’s nothing that man can contribute to the composition of a miracle. Ask God for opportunity; pray for (Jas 1:5) _____; ask for His blessings upon your godly efforts as you employ the “tools” He has given you. Jesus said: (Mt 12:34) *“For out of the _____ of the _____ the _____ speaketh.”* (Prov 23:7) *“As he _____ in his _____, so is he.”*
11. **Humble Yourself...** Remind yourself (Ps 100:3) that *“it is he that hath _____ us, and not we ourselves.”* The humble man is unpretentious. The pretentious person makes unjustified and excessive claims but (Jas 4:6; 1 Pet 5:5) *“God _____ the proud, but giveth _____ unto the _____.”* In (Prov 3:34) we read that God *“giveth _____ unto the lowly.”* We, like Jesus (Mt 11:29), must be “_____ and _____ in _____.” Humility engenders obedience.
12. **Pray...** We’ve already mentioned prayer. It is communication with God. All is futile if we don’t communicate. We emphasize again the importance of TPBS [#297](#), The Therapeutic Nature of Prayer. Massachusetts born Mary A. Kidder (1820-1905) wrote beautifully the chorus of **Did You Think To Pray**: *“O how praying rests the weary! Prayer will change the night to day; So when life seems dark and dreary, Don’t forget to pray.”* Never forget that frequent, honest conversations with God are a duty and blessing. (1 Thess 5:17) *“Pray _____ ceasing.”*
13. **Seek God..** What does (2 Chron 7:14) *“seek my face”* mean? The interested soul can find God (Ps 19:1-6) in the natural world, and the Scriptures (Jer 29:13) when *“ye shall _____ me, and _____ me, when ye shall _____ for _____ with _____ your _____.”* To be _____ of God one must (2 Tim 2:15) _____. Knowledge comes from study and (Prov 1:7) *“The _____ of the LORD is the _____ of knowledge: but _____ despise wisdom and _____.”*
14. **Turn From Materialism...** (2 Chron 7:14) says *“turn from their wicked ways”* but we vouchsafe that halfhearted obedience to God puts one on the same side of the fence as those identified as “the wicked.” God won’t overlook *us* shifting *our* “spiritual duties” onto Him because we are just too tired, or too busy playing, or working, to “get around to it.” Our Bible tells us (Col 1:18) of the Savior and instructs *“that in _____ things he might have the preeminence.”* Think about it!