

Having a Repentant Heart before the Lord

Dear Daily Devotional Reader,

Every minister has sinned and missed God, as well as every Christian. You must have a repentant heart so you do not become a castaway. As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:27, **But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**

However, losing one's ministry is preventable. For example, looking back at Gehazi, he did not have a repentant heart or a fear of God. For if he had judged himself, he would not have been judged. As stated in 1 Corinthians 11:31: **For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.**

One of the most outstanding attributes of being born again is that Jesus Christ comes into our lives. When He does, we automatically want to make things right to those we've wronged. Unless an individual does something to sear their conscience, they will always have a guilty conscience if they have done wrong and have not made things right. As soon as Jesus walked into Zaccheus' house, immediately, just because of the presence of the Lord, Zaccheus wanted to make things right to everyone, for anything he may have done wrong: **And Zaccheus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house...** Luke 19:8,9

I can remember one of the first sins that I committed after I got saved. I lied to the man I worked for. I had been witnessing to him about the Lord. One day, he asked if I had gotten a certain job done, and I said, "Yes" when I hadn't. Immediately, my conscience convicted me. All day long, I asked the Lord to forgive me, but I couldn't live with myself until I went and asked that man to forgive me. I went and told him that I lied to him. I was so relieved after I'd done that. I wish I could say that I've never sinned since that day, but I have. Every time I have, I got convicted and had to repent and make things right with God. We've all sinned and have done wrong things.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 1 John 1:10

It's so very important that we make things right so that we can have peace in our heart. That is more valuable than all the wealth in the world. Others may not forgive or forget the wrongs that we have committed, but God will.

I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. Isaiah 43:25

...for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. Jeremiah 31:34

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; Colossians 2:13,14

For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 1 John 3:20

Today some people would rather die than admit that they were wrong. It's not easy to do. The cost of repenting, of making things right with God, and apologizing to people whom we've wronged is to swallow our pride and say, *"I was wrong. I'm sorry. Please forgive me."*

James, inspired by the Holy Ghost, writes in James 5:16, **Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**

With a repentant heart, we can receive forgiveness. As it is written in 1 John 1:9, **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Many well known figures in the Bible sinned. Some were forgiven, while others were not. Neither Gehazi nor Judas had a repentant heart before the Lord, nor did they pursue the way of the Lord. On the other hand, Peter did repent, and he continued pursuing the way of the Lord. **And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.** Luke 22:61,62

Peter must have felt convicted by his denial of Jesus. The scripture tells us he **...wept bitterly.** Peter wasn't perfect when Jesus called him to be a disciple. God doesn't wait until we are perfect to use us. If He did, no one would have been used in the ministry except for Jesus. He meets us right where we are and does the best He can with what He has to work with.

As long as we are willing, and keep our heart pure and perfect, God can always grow us and develop us. It takes time to grow and develop spiritually, just as it takes time to grow and

develop physically and mentally. God will help us to become a **..vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use...** (2 Timothy 2:21). All we have to do is keep pursuing the Lord and going to Him with our every need. He is always there to help us. We are His children; He is our Father, and He loves us and cares watchfully over us.

Mark left the apostle Paul on his first missionary journey: **And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.**
Acts 15:37,38

However, over time, Mark became an individual who was profitable in the work of God. Paul wrote of him in 2 Timothy 4:11: **Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.**

So there is even hope for the individual who, *(like Peter and Mark)* for whatever reason was, quit and gave up in ministry, to be recovered and restored by God and become a vital asset in the body of Christ. Those who humbly repent and who don't want to do anything that will displease the Lord because of the love that they have for Him, almost always end up becoming the best servants of God.

[I look forward to sharing more with you tomorrow.](#)

Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

Your Word of faith pastor,

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