



CHRIST COMMISSION FELLOWSHIP

LOS ANGELES

May 6, 2012

Intimacy with God through Repentance

WORSHIP: Power of Your Love/ Our God by Chris Tomlin/ Here in My Life by Hillsong/ That's Why We Praise Him

WELCOME:

Think about a recent situation that you had apologized for? Did you say "I'm sorry" just for the sake of saying it, or just to pacify the other person? Did you say "I'm sorry" and really felt sorry for what happened? What does being sorry really mean?

WORD:

"And He said, " My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ Then he said to Him, " If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here. ¹⁶ For how then can it be known that I have found favor in Your sight, I and Your people? Is it not by Your going with us, so that we, I and Your people, may be distinguished from all the other people who are upon the face of the earth?" Exodus 33:14-16

- What is REST? Rest refers to being provided for, or being protected from.
- When we are rested in God we have no worries, we are not anxious. This anxiety-free existence will manifest itself in our attitude and appearance allowing other people to see this.
- This becomes attractive to others and will DISTINGUISH us allowing our testimony to shine, allowing us to bear witness.
- Being rested in God is a manifestation of our intimacy with Him, of our constant existence in His presence.
- In rested-ness, we also find True Repentance.
 - We often fall into the pattern of sin – confess – sin – confess.
 - When we are living in this pattern it is possible that we have not found true repentance and therefore are not aligned with God.
- It is possible to be falsely repentant like Pharaoh and the Israelites during the time of Moses, where although they acknowledged their sinfulness they did not have changed lives.
- In the same way, incomplete repentance is also false repentance like the Pharisees and Sadducees (Matthew 3:5-10)
 - When we linger in our sinful ways, we cannot be intimate with God because God is holy and sin is evil. Just like water and oil, they cannot mix.
- The Greek word for Repentance is **Metanoia**, which means to change one's mind; to change one's mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins.
 - When we repent we are aligned with God, we are rested in God and we become distinguished in God.
 - When we do not repent, we are destined to perish. (2 Peter 3:8-9), (Matthew 3:7-10)
 - Jesus and John the Baptist both started their ministries with the same message " Repent! For the kingdom of God is at hand." (Matthew 3:1-30; 4:12-17)

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.” James 4:8-10

- Complete repentance is a three-fold action.
 1. In the understanding. (verse 8b) MIND
 - It means a knowledge of our sin.
 2. In the feelings. (verse 9) EMOTION
 - It means grieving and feeling pain.
 3. In the will. (verse 10) WILL
 - It requires a change of mind and heart.
- When we are sorry in our mind, we have REGRET.
- When we are sorry in our mind and in our hearts, we have REMORSE.
- But the Lord requires us to be REPENTANT, which means that we should be sorry mentally, emotionally and volitionally.
- This is best illustrated by David in Psalm 32. David acknowledged his knowledge of his sin and accepted it (verse 5). In verse 3, he acknowledged his pain and his grief. In verse 1 he expresses a change of heart as he humbly recognizes God’s holiness and mercy.

We need more than just an intellectual and behavioral change, we need a Metamorphosis. Similar to how a caterpillar changes into a butterfly. We need to undergo a process of transformation in order to become more like Jesus and therefore become pleasing to God.

- When we undergo this metamorphosis, a new person is born. We are re-born. . . from sinner to saint.
- This metamorphosis is only possible if we come to Jesus. To allow Him to work in our lives and cleanse us of our sins. To allow Him to purify us as we come into His presence.
- In true repentance, we should be able to bear fruit as a result of our changed lives.

Discussion:

1. I am in what stage --- Regret? Remorse? Or Repentance?
2. Have I really experienced true repentance? What is hindering me from being completely repentant? (eg. pride, ignorance, anxiety, fear, anger, apathy, indifference, etc)
3. Would you rather be a saint or a sinner saved by grace? Why?
4. As a result of my repentance, am I bearing fruit?

WORKS:

Read and meditate on the story of Zaccheus in Luke 19. Jesus has set us apart and has called us to “Come down for I must stay at your house”. What will our response be?

In your journals, answer the following questions: What is my favorite sin? Have I fallen into a sin – confess – sin – confess pattern? What am I going to do about it?

Jesus told Zaccheus “ Today salvation has come to this house. For the Son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” In prayer, ask the Lord to bring to your mind any sin that you may not be aware of, confess and ask for forgiveness because today He is knocking on the door of your house – will you accept His gift of salvation?

Pray with your dgroup and accountability partner that you may be able to keep your commitments in order to become completely repentant and that you may continue to blossom in His presence.