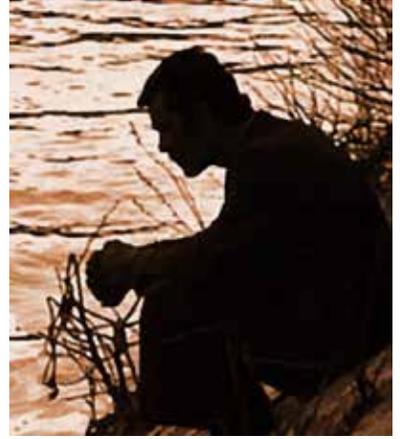


"As many as I Love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."
Revelation 3:19 KJV



When God's Word convinces you of sin, "*be zealous therefore, and repent.*" We usually don't think of zealousness and repentance in the same thought process, but our Lord commands zealous repentance. Repenting is turning our thoughts and actions back to God by obeying His Word: Submitting once again to the Liberty of Truth: Casting off the carnal chains of lust and returning to the freedom of Life more abundant through obedience to Christ, God's Word. We don't usually think of zealous captivity, but without obedience to God's Word that is exactly what you are; a zealous captive of sin! If we are truly zealous concerning Truth, we will find ourselves often repenting. Satan uses our own pride to convince us repentance indicates a weakness or lack of ability on our part, and it does, because Jesus said, "*Without Me ye can do NOTHING!*" Repentance demonstrates love of Truth and Jesus above all else and secures for us the Divine Power of the Holy Spirit of Truth with whom we are "*more than conquerors through Christ.*" Without repentance I'm at Satan's mercy, and he has none. Without repentance, I'm in bondage to sin and death. How could repentance be a bad thing? How could having the Supreme Sovereign's friendship and companionship be a weakness or lack? Satan wants us to think that we can stand alone and that is somehow a preferred status. If you stand ALONE, you'll die ALONE and suffer fiery torment ALONE for eternity! You think there's camaraderie in Hell? Tormented by black flame in outer darkness and not being consumed, and yet still seeking friendship? I hardly think so! If I go against my pride and return to the KING'S favor through repentance, I will live in pleasures forever! I think even a moron could figure that out! "I Did It My Way" is Hell's anthem! Pride destroyed Lucifer who wants to use it to destroy you. If the Doctor told you that you had a terminal tumor, but it was safely operable, would you let it go untreated? I think not. Sin in your life is the same thing, terminal! If the Holy Spirit of Truth convinces you of sin, confess it and be cleansed of it by returning to obedience and Life. Repentance, return to obedience, should happen as often as and as soon as you sin!

Repentance is more preferable,
And more than sin desirable,
It maketh me a conqueror,
And friend to God, my Saviour. ~CGP

Sin should appall and disgust us like muck on new clothes, or boil on our nose. There is a difference between sorry and sorrowful. Sorry is guilty, but sorrowful is grief stricken. A person who likes sin and is caught at it, is sorry, but a person who hates sin and it is pointed out to them, is sorrowful. "*Godly sorrow worketh repentance.*" Are you just guilty or grief stricken about sin? Do you like your sin or abhor it? "*If I regard (like) iniquity (sin) in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.*" Don't make deals with God; just obey Him! The Apostle Paul rebuked the Corinthian Assembly (see 1st Corinthians) for open sin in their midst, but it produced in them Godly sorrow, zealous repentance, and a return to obedience for which he commended them.

"For Godly Sorrow worketh (brings about) repentance to salvation not to be repented of (forsaken): but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a Godly sort (kind), what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter." 2 Corinthians 7:10-11 KJV