

you know, i often lay awake in my bed before i get up and think about the goodness of God and what He might have me to say today. it is kind of my quiet time with Him. but i think it has given me a purpose; a way to serve God when i thought there was none.

there are so many things that run through my mind since there is never a shortage of His grace to consider. only of my mind to comprehend. one of my favorite scriptures (yes, there are so many i call favorite) is from the classic amplified bible. it is in mark 4:24 "The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you—and more [besides] will be given to you who hear."

i seek that virtue and knowledge as i hope you do too. as we dwell on the truth we receive, our eyes allow us to comprehend more. in understanding we are changed. from glory to glory. we are transformed by the renewing of our mind. just as babes move from pureed food, we are also to move to "solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." heb 5:14

all this to finally get to the topic. a dear friend and warrior recently reminded me of how necessary it is to keep a heart of repentance. i can hear her speak even now; repent, repent, repent. that is not only necessary in salvation, but also in renewal. we must all be conscious of when we have taken a misstep and be willing to acknowledge it and step back. after all, repentance means to be sorry and "relinquish" a thing.

in other words, to turn around and go the other way.

when i was in high school, i used to walk pigeon toed. (that's where one foot turns inward.) i don't know how long i had been doing this but wasn't even aware of it until it was pointed out. from that time forward i made a conscious effort to watch my feet and force them walk correctly. after awhile i began walking correctly without having to think about it.

what does this story have to do with repentance? unless you deal with a situation or condition, it will remain. not only remain but perhaps grow even worse. if we do not remain sensitive to the Holy Spirit, we become hardened to His correction. "For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed." matt 13:15 as we allow the "little" sins to have place, before we notice, they have grown. perhaps even to the place where one can't "see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them." (the rest of that verse.)

He wants to heal us all; of all our misguided ways. but we do not want to grow dull of hearing. the enemy would make us deaf if he could. deaf to all the urgings of the Holy Spirit. it is so important to keep a clean slate with God. not that a misstep would condemn us, but it might certainly stunt our growth; prolong a trial or cause us to miss an opportunity. an opportunity to be in His perfect will for us. an opportunity that might go to someone more obedient. He holds us all securely in His hands. none can snatch us

out of it. that doesn't mean we can't choose to jump.

there is no once saved, always saved. "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame." heb 6:4-6

indeed blasphemy does remain the one unpardonable sin. the devil would tell us all that we have committed it. the truth is, it is very hard to commit. it is God alone who will decide. can you no longer tell good from evil? do you take pleasure in bad actions? this alone is not definite proof but it should certainly cause you to be concerned. the darkest soul is not beyond His grasp if they will yet receive His truth. even now there are ex-satanists who proudly proclaim Jesus as Lord.

that leads us back to repentance. keeping one's heart tender to His ways. as the world says, "if you find yourself in a hole, stop digging". fill up that hole with the word of God. if you seek Him you will find Him. God has put in each of us a void; a hunger. a hunger "that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us". act 17:27 repentance is the first step. either in one's new birth or in their renewal. if you have moved further away, it is now time to move back.

i leave you with acts 3:19 “repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” His refreshing is beyond words. it is the water of life. join me in a big gulp of His mercy.

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