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The response of our heart to sin Pt 2 a saved man

This is our second teaching on the topic – the response of our heart to sin. In our previous study we established three points– (i) when the Lord Jesus was on earth He was the light and reprov'd sin, (ii) when Jesus was taken up to heaven His Father sent the Holy Spirit to reprove the world of sin, and (iii) when we preach Christ we shine the light of the glorious gospel that the lost would know of their sin.

In this study we establish an additional three points– (i) there are those of God's children who do not repent when they sin, (ii) there are others who being made sorry do repent, but for a season, and (iii) those whose heart is tender before God and feel the Holy Ghost smiting them for the smallest transgression.

It is from our search of the scripture that we establish our three points–

1. There are those of God's children who do not repent when they sin
“For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and [that] I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults: And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed” (2Cor 12:20 & 21).

2. Those who after being being made sorry do repent, but for a season
“For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though [it were] but for a season” (2 Cor.7: 8).

3. Those whose heart is tender before God and feel the Holy Ghost smiting them for the smallest transgression
“And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt” (1 Sam.24: 5).

Illustration

I am sure we have all had moments (some lasting for hours, others weeks or years) where we repent for a season only to repeat the sin. When we find ourselves in this cycle it is very destructive, and we will need help from our Father to get out!

Question of the scriptures

- i) How do Christian's develop a heart like David?
- ii) Why do we not feel the Holy Ghost prick us for small sins?

Answer from the scriptures

i) Godly repentance is only out-worked when we fear God!
“For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear...In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter” (2Cor 7:11)
And “by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil” (Prov 16:6).

ii We do not feel the Holy Ghost prick us when we harden our hearts and our conscience is seared with a hot iron –1 Tim.4: 2– “Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron”.

Let us be mindful of how our heart responds to sin, may we never cover it up, deny our transgressions, pass on blame to others, but accept, repent and do work meet for repentance, “with godly reverence and fear” (Heb.12: 28). Amen!