

SPIRIT-ENABLED REPENTANCE

Introduction

Rom. 2:4 (NKJV) – ... the goodness of God leads you to repentance ...

John 10:9 (NIV84) – (Jesus) “I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.”

- The Scriptures **REVEAL** God and **READ** you.
- Come to Scripture to be **FORMED** not just **INFORMED**.

Samples of God’s goodness in the life of Jesus:

1. God’s intimate knowledge of me (Luke 13:1-5)

- Jesus won’t always tell us what we WANT to know; He will tell us what we NEED to know.

Luke 13:1-3(4-5) – There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

2 And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners ... because they suffered in this way? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

John 2:25 (NLT) – No one needed to tell (Jesus) about human nature, for he knew what was in each person’s heart.

Rom. 12:8 – If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

2. God’s glorious vision for me (Luke 13:6-9)

Luke 13:6-9 – 6 And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ 8 And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. 9 Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

Proverbs 14:12 – There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death. (See John 3:16-18.)

Luke 13: 3 (5) – (Jesus) “... unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

2 Peter 3:9 – The Lord is ... patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

John 14:6 – “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Mark 2:17 (NLT) – (Jesus) “Healthy people don’t need a doctor – sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”

Galatians 5:22-23 – 22 ...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control...

(See also, Colossians 1:28, Galatians 4:19.)

Tips on getting started with meditation:

- Find a quiet place to be alone with God. Tell Him you want to spend time with Him and learn to cultivate an awareness of His presence.
- Settle your mind and heart through a time of silence. (Start with 2 minutes. Be patient. It takes time to retrain your brain. Choose a short verse of Scripture to repeat when you need to draw your mind back from wandering.)
- Find a Psalm or other Bible passage to read, asking the Lord to illuminate it by His Spirit. Then read it slowly at least twice out loud. Notice what you notice: something is likely to resonate for some reason.
- Take that small part of Scripture, and ask the Lord to awaken you spiritually to 1) what it says about Him and 2) what it says about you (an encouragement or word of correction/need for repentance). Taking notes is advisable.
- Now, chew on what you discover, fleshing out the implications in your mind. You might imagine yourself as an observer of what’s happening or imagining how applying what you’re observing would impact you. Notice what’s happening internally. Turn any awareness of God’s goodness into thanks and praise. Let His insights about you do its work on your heart. Ask Him what He wants for you or from you. Respond appropriately.

Purposeful reflecting...

- See the second bullet point above.

Experience

- What does it mean to you to be reminded that repentance is a positive/Spirit-led response? Is that how you’ve normally thought of it?
- Read Colossians 1:28 and Galatians 4:19. How is Paul’s desire for others like (or unlike) how you understand the goal of discipleship? How does the idea of your being made like Jesus impact you?

Transform

- Review Galatians 5:22-23. Where do you see potential for growth in yourself? Could God be inviting you to pursue that growth? Ask Him to guide you about how to proceed.
- We all need community to help us grow in Christlikeness. What’s your level of commitment to community, specifically in small groups or close spiritual partnerships? Is there a way you need to step that up?

Share

- Ask someone who knows you well for an honest assessment of where they see growth in you or perhaps a need for growth in you.
- If he or she is willing, return the favor.