

Turn from Their Wicked Ways

We have been working our way through - - -2 Chron 7:13 – 14

"When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Let us just point out a few things in way of review.

- Humble
- Pray
- Seek

God wants us to be humble not proud

James 4:6

But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

It seems - - - according to God's Word - - - Pride is harmful and God would rather we all be humble - - - for many, many reasons.

The second one is PRAY

Jesus is teaching his disciples the Lord's Prayer and several verses later in Luke 11:9-10.

"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

The heart of God Almighty is to Give Good Gifts in a relational way.

We as a Body of Believers have been asking God to Revive us - - and we believe that God wants to do that among us.

The third one is SEEK

We just read it - - - and he who seeks finds.

2 Chron says - - "seek my Face"

Colossians says it this way in Col 3:1-2

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Seeking God's Face and not his Hand.

Now we come back to 2 Chron 7:14

if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Turn from their Wicked Ways

The Hebrew word translated TURN is the word SHOOB and it literally means

"To Turn Back" or "To Turn Around" or "To Return"

I want to try to give a sense of the Word by reading a short passage from Ruth where this Hebrew word SHOOB is used many times fairly close together.

Listen for Words like Return - - Go Back - - - Turn Back

Ruth 1:8-16

Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me. May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." Then she kissed them and they wept aloud and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me - even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons - would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD's hand has gone out against me!" At this they wept again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth clung to

her. "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.

The word SHOOB is used 7 times in these few short verses. Did you hear the words jump out at you?

The idea is you are going in this direction and you do an ABOUT FACE and go in the other direction.

However it also helps us to look at the Greek word in the New Testament.

Matt 4:17 says From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

The Greek word translated "Repent" is the word ME-TA-NO-E-O and it literally means "To Change One's mind"

"To Change Your Mind"

We have been studying the Gospel of Mark. The very first time Jesus speaks in the Gospel of Mark he says this

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. Mark 1:15 KJV

Therefore we have in the OT - - - "To Turn Back" or "To Turn Around"

And in the NT we have - - - "To Change one's Mind"

But what are we to "Turn Back" from and what are we to "Change our Mind's" about??

2 Chron says - - - "Turn from your Wicked Ways"

Turn in your Bibles if you will to Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

I want to point out that all through scripture - - "There is a time constraint" to "Turn Back" The door to "Turn Back" is not open forever!!

For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. - 2 Cor 6:2

Rev 2:21 has it this way – "I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling."

Now I want to give you SIX Statements God want to hear directly from your Lips.

And I want you to write these down - - Grab a bulletin or something and jot these down.

They are the PRACTICAL take away that will help us all to continue to move towards revival.

6 Statements God wants to hear from Your Lips

1. I HAVE SINNED

This is the true Heart of Repentance - - I HAVE SINNED

King David said it this way - Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. - -
- Ps 51:4

Can I just say that I make this mistake - - - I will say "I made a big mistake" or "I had very poor judgment" instead of saying as I should - - - I HAVE SINNED

We have to be completely honest with God and His Holiness demands that we not QUIBBLE about our own SIN.

Anything short of I HAVE SINNED is completely counterfeit.

2. I AM SORRY

Number 1 has to be first but next is saying we are Sorry to God Almighty!

SIN needs to completely break our Heart because we know it break the heart of God!!

When Luke and Casey were boys and they would fight. Now you tell your brother your sorry. Half hearted "sorry" Well that does not get it with God.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. - - - Ps 51:17

3. I WAS WRONG

When we are able to truly say to God - - "I WAS WRONG" - - we agree with God about our SIN.

Confession must be FULL - - - Partial Confession does NOT work!!

4. I HAVE NO EXCUSE - - NOR WILL I MAKE ONE

I have trouble with this one too!!! Sometimes I try to blame MY SIN on someone else!

How silly is that!! Please don't Blame your SIN on OTHERS - - - MAN UP!!

I HAVE NO EXCUSE

5. I REALLY WANT TO CHANGE - - BUT I CAN'T DO IT ON MY OWN

So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God - through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin. - - - Rom 7:21 - 25

We Humans cannot change without God's Help - - Nor should we try!!

Turn Around and Change Direction with God's Help!!

6. I NEED YOU TO LIVE YOUR LIFE THROUGH ME

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. - - - Gal 2:20

You see we cannot live the Christian Life using our own strength - - it just doesn't work!

1. I HAVE SINNED
2. I AM SORRY
3. I WAS WRONG

4. I HAVE NO EXCUSE – NOR WILL I MAKE ONE
5. I REALLY WANT TO CHANGE – BUT I CANNOT DO IT ON MY OWN
6. I NEED YOU TO LIVE YOUR LIFE THROUGH ME

We need to say these OUT LOUD with OUR MOUTH to the God of the Universe!!

OUT LOUD is important - - not for God's sake - - but for ours because it solidifies in both in our Hearts and our minds!!

In his book - - - "I Surrender" by Patrick Morley - - he says the following.

How did the building blocks of the gospel become glued together with the cement of self-centeredness? The American gospel has evolved into a gospel of addition without subtraction. It is the belief that we can add Christ to our lives, but not subtract sin. It is a change in belief without a change in behavior. It is a spiritual experience without any cultural impact. It is revival without reformation, without repentance.

Oswald Chambers says it this way in "My Utmost for His Highest"

Repentance does not cause a sense of sin— it causes a sense of inexpressible unworthiness. When I repent, I realize that I am absolutely helpless, and I know that through and through I am not worthy even to carry His sandals. Have I repented like that, or do I have a lingering thought of possibly trying to defend my actions? The reason God cannot come into my life is that I am not at the point of complete repentance.

One Final Thought to Ponder ~ ~ ~ ~

God designed our lives to be lived only in FORWARD

- There is NO REWIND
- There is NO STOP
- There is NO Pause

We can ONLY GO FORWARD!!

- We can learn from the PAST
- We cannot live in the PAST
- Nor can we change the PAST

TRUE GODLY Repentance deals with the PAST and Opens the DOOR for the FUTURE!!

LET'S PRAY !!!