



Turning
Captives
into
Conquerors

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Turning Captives into Conquerors

John 8 v 31-32 “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”.

These verses, from the very lips of our Lord and Saviour, contain a wonderful conditional promise. They contain the **promise** that we can know the truth and be set free! The condition is that we must believe on Jesus and continue in His Word.

We may say that we are already free, but if we carefully consider, we will realise that many of us are often bound, or held **captive**, by habits, culture, fear and many other distractions.



Be Free of Captivity

God wants us to know that we do not have to remain captive. All of us were born captives of sin. Jesus came to turn captives into conquerors and cause them to rise up above the struggles, the fetters and the bondages. He came to enable us to become **children of God**, fulfilling God's best in our lives.

Psalm 126 v 1-2 "When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them".

When we come into a **relationship** with Christ, so many good things begin to happen that we can scarcely believe it. If we truly experience the new birth and claim the **benefits**, we are freed from anxiety, worry and pretence. We are no longer worried about what other people do or not do. We can relax and be ourselves because Jesus Christ has changed us from the inside and we know that all is well.



2 Corinthians 5 v 17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new”.

2 Corinthians 4 v 16 “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day”.

Many born again believers do not experience this truth and **freedom** immediately. Often it takes a period of time before we walk in the benefits that Jesus has accomplished for us. As we allow God to give us revelation from His Word, our faith develops and we are able to receive His promises and gifts to us.

“ *Jesus came to turn captives into conquerors and cause them to rise up above the struggles, the fetters and the bondages.* ”

Romans 10 v 17 “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”. In **Psalms 126**, we see the first thing the Lord does when He comes into our lives.

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He fills our mouths with laughter and our tongue with singing. When He comes into our lives, He gives peace and **assurance** of salvation. He fills us with joy. This is different to happiness.

Happiness is often dependent upon our circumstances. The joy that God gives continues despite our circumstances, and is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (**Galatians 5 v 22-23**). It is a source of strength to us.

Nehemiah 8 v 10 "Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength".

Our circumstances can hold us captive but God wants us to live above our **circumstances** and not under them. I remember when I was just a young teenager, I was very depressed. I didn't know why I was depressed and sad, feeling shut out of everything. I later realised I was under the oppression of the enemy. When I received **salvation** and the Holy Spirit, I had a profound experience.



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God poured out His Spirit and I could not help but praise Him. His joy just kept springing up and I wanted to share the Gospel as never before. My surroundings took on a **freshness**. The sky looked a deeper blue, the grass a brighter green and the birds singing more sweetly. Everything looked better after I was born again.

Jesus came and He took away the captivity, burdens, fear and anxiety. He released me from the Kingdom of Darkness and brought me into the **Kingdom of Light**, the Kingdom of God.

1 Peter 2 v 9 "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light".

1 John 1 v 5 "This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all". God is not a God of deception or darkness.

God is altogether light, and when you let Him fill your life, you will be full of light and full of the knowledge of His will.



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You will become a **conqueror** instead of being a captive! In **Luke Chapter 4** Jesus entered the synagogue, “as his custom was” (**Luke 4 v 16**). Jesus had good habits and customs. He read the following verses from Isaiah.

“

***You will become a conqueror
instead of being a captive!***

”

Luke 4 v 18-19 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord”.

These wonderful verses show how God wants to set the captives free. Jesus came to the poor, the broken-hearted, the captives, the blind and the bruised to show them the way out of their need. This was confirmed in Christ’s ministry, and we read accounts of it happening in the Gospels.



Captives were **set free** by Jesus. In the Acts of the Apostles, captives were also set free through the disciples. God is still setting captives free today.

The Bible says in **Romans 8 v 15** "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father".

We no longer need to be frightened by the things that used to make us afraid. The only fear we should have is a fear of the Lord. This is not fear in terms of being frightened, but it is a Godly **reverence**. The Bible talks about the fear of the Lord as being vital and necessary, but it is often absent today. **Psalms 111 v 10** "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever".

Proverbs 1 v 7 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction".

Proverbs 9 v 10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding".



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Proverbs 3 v 7 “Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil”.

Not only is the fear of the Lord necessary to receive wisdom and knowledge, but it is also linked with promises as seen in many verses including the following:

Proverbs 10 v 27 “The fear of the Lord prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened”. **Proverbs 14 v 27** “He fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death”. **Proverbs 19 v 23** “The fear of the Lord leads to life, And he who has it will abide in satisfaction; He will not be visited with evil”.

We should love, honour, respect and serve God. I believe once we put our lives in the hands of Jesus, He **protects** our going out and our coming in. We need no longer be afraid of what the devil can do to us or our circumstances. Our future is in the hands of our God. We are not depending on ‘whatever will be will be’.

See **Deuteronomy 28 v 1-14**. The blessings spoken of can be ours.



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Redemption is a wonderful **miracle**. The greatest event that ever happened wasn't the fall of the Berlin Wall, the collapse of Communism in Russia or man walking on the Moon. The greatest was when Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, came and walked on this earth and gave His life a ransom for many. He took our sickness and our fears. He became our substitute and took the wages of our sin. See **Romans 6 v 23**.

He shed His blood to cleanse us from the guilt, condemnation, fear and bondage. He liberated humanity from the clutches of satan. Now we can receive redemption through repentance and faith.

Ephesians 2 v 8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast".

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He took our sickness and our fears. He became our substitute and took the wages of our sin.

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Now we no longer need to be captives, but we can live as conquerors. It is the plan of satan to tie us up in knots.



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He loves to get us worried, anxious, and to have our minds on **negative** and frustrating things. Our life on this earth is so short, yet satan tries to wreck our lives with stress, strain, sin, bad relationships, fear and sickness.

All of these can hold us captive, but when Jesus is Lord, we can rest in faith and peace. The Bible says there is joy and peace in believing. See **Romans 15 v 13**.

Romans 14 v 17 "For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit". We don't have to live in the land of strife or captivity all the time.

In **Joshua Chapter 13** we see Joshua as an old man, and even though he had been winning battle after battle, and possessing the land which God had told him to possess, there still remained much more to be possessed.

This is how it is in our walk with God as believers. We possess the gift of **eternal life** when we are born again. Then, we go on with the Lord into the knowledge of His Word, and discover we have dominion over anger, pride, lust and covetousness.



These are some of the snares of the devil. The only way that we as believers can walk in complete **victory** and in peace, is to face the devil head on and put him under our feet.

There will be no **peace** until we deal with his snares. Pride is another snare of satan which must be conquered, if we are to possess the land that God has called us to possess.

Proverbs 29 v 23 says "A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honour".

Proverbs 16 v 18 says "Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall".

Proverbs 11 v 12 "He who is devoid of wisdom despises his neighbour, But a man of understanding holds his peace".

The way to walk in victory is in **Galatians 5 v 16**. "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh". Lust is just as dangerous as the other two snares mentioned. **James 1 v 15** says, "Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death".



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Satan has only one thought in mind for us and that is to ruin and destroy our lives. To take our souls to a lost **eternity** and he uses snares like these to do so.

The last snare to mention that can keep us captive is covetousness. Covetousness will distract, deceive and destroy.

This is the spirit that now works in the world. People are obsessed with getting more and better things at any cost. They often forfeit the time to **fellowship** as a family, to pray or read the Word of God in order to get material gain. Hardly any time is given to enjoy friendship of the ones we love the most. Covetousness is an enemy and that's why it says in **Exodus 20 v 17** "You shall not covet". **Luke 12 v 15** says "Beware of covetousness".

The greatest gain of all is mentioned in **1 Timothy 6 v 6** "Now godliness with contentment is great gain". Today, believers are awakening to the realisation of these snares, and are setting their affections on things above.



Colossians 3 v 1 “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God”. God’s people are rising up and putting satan down under their feet, so that they can walk in peace and be victorious and be conquerors.

Captivity of Sin

All of us have experienced the captivity of sin though we may not realise it. **Romans 5 v 12** “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned”.

Romans 5 v 17-19 “For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Therefore, as through one man’s offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man’s righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.

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For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous".

These verses show that through one man, Adam, all men came under condemnation.

Romans 3 v 23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". The penalty for sin is death.

Romans 6 v 23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord".

Through the obedience of Jesus Christ, those who receive His forgiveness and abundance of grace shall reign. Not just when we get to Heaven but in life now. Sin separates us from God and all the benefits Jesus provided through His death on the cross and glorious **resurrection**. When we are in sin, we are in darkness.

2 Corinthians 1 v 4 reminds us that "Who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God".



2 Timothy 2 v 26 “And that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will”. The only way out of the captivity of sin is through repentance and **accepting** Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

We have already seen that the above scriptures confirm the existence of sin. This is something that we become more aware of as Christians. As we look around daily, it is evident that there is something wrong in the earth, and in the hearts of men.

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The only way out of the captivity of sin is through repentance and accepting Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

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All of this **disharmony** can be traced back to a root of sin. We see sin evidenced in human history with fleshly acts, wars and fighting. James shows us the origins of such acts.

James 4 v 1-4 “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?”

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You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God”.

It is not enough to be led by our conscience alone. Our conscience can be seared if we continue to sin without even feeling conviction.

1 Timothy 4 v 1-2 “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron”.

It is important to consider what we mean by sin. Perhaps the clearest explanation of sin is man going his own way, and disregarding the guidance of His creator. This is the very principle of sin.

Isaiah 53 v 6 “All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all”.



Having seen something more of what sin is, the good news is that all of us can be freed from its hold on us, through repentance and **confession** to God through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

1 John 1 V 9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness".

I am so glad that Jesus came and died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day from the grave. Every other religion may talk about their leaders, but no one else has ever risen from the dead as Saviour and Lord, having accomplished eternal **salvation**.

Jesus paid the price for our fallen humanity and died in the place of all men. There is no longer a case against us once we repent and accept His forgiveness.

Jesus died to give us a **purpose** and a destiny. Now there is to be joy in our families, and they are to be raised as Godly people, who will live victorious lives right here on the earth, in the midst of sin and iniquity. We can shine as lights for Jesus.



2 Corinthians 5 v 21 “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”.

He who knew no sin, became sin for us, so that we would become a person of righteousness. And remember, this is not in our own righteousness, for that is as “filthy rags” (**Isaiah 64 v 6**). It is not received through anything we do, but through putting our faith in what He has already done.

Ephesians 2 v 8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast”. It is wonderful to know that He has given us the gift of His righteousness.

Proverbs 3 v 5-6 says “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths”.

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There is no longer a case against us once we repent and accept His forgiveness.

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If you acknowledge Him on a daily basis, as my wife and I have done since we were married in 1967, it will make a transforming difference to your life. When you pray in faith, it may take time for you to see the answer to your prayers, and the **breakthroughs** you are calling out to God for. Remember God loves you as much as He loves anybody anywhere.

Mark 11 v 24 “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them”.

2 Peter 3 v 9 “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance”. God is no respecter of persons, and therefore every one of us is entitled to come to God in repentance.

Acts 10 v 34 “Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality”.

Romans 2 v 11 “For there is no partiality with God”.



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Ephesians 6 v 9 “And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him”.

God loves every one of us far more than we can ever imagine or conceive. This is implied in **Ephesians 3 v 20**. “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us”.

Ephesians 2 v 19 says “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God”.

This verse shows how we used to be foreign to the things of God. We used to feel unworthy to receive His anointing, peace and His presence. Many people feel unworthy even to approach God, for sin separates us from God. Through the cross we are no longer separated, we are reconciled.

Romans 5 v 10 “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life”.



2 Corinthians 5 v 18 “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation”.

Colossians 1 v 20-21 “And by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled”.

The Bible says in **1 Timothy 2 v 5** that there is only one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.

Jesus said “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture”. **John 10 v 9**.

Acts 4 v 12 says “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”.

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

As we come out of our captivity the **shackles** will fall off, the scales will come off our eyes, and we will receive a new vision. We will realise we were not born to be captives, but we were born to be conquerors. Jesus died on that cross to make us more than conquerors.

Romans 8 v 37 “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us”.

Conquering the Captivity of Sin

Acts 17 v 30 “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent”.

Repentance means a change of heart, mind and of direction. We stop living the way we used to live, and we start to obey God.

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We walk away from our sin and have a new lifestyle and a new thought pattern. It means a U-turn. Repentance is the key to being free of the captivity of sin.

When we repent and believe the Gospel, we are born again of His Spirit and accepted into His Kingdom. A tremendous truth is the fact that we are no longer separated through sin, but now we are, "...heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ".

Romans 8 v 17.

This means we are in fellowship with God and we can talk to Him daily. We can receive His wisdom and divine ability in our daily business, and know His guidance in all our decisions (**Proverbs 3 v 6**).

We need to remind ourselves often that we are no longer captives or slaves to sin and failure, for Jesus became sin. "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him".

2 Corinthians 5 v 21.

Lives, families, communities and nations are transformed by repentance.



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Down through church history true revivals have seen repentance, that has affected communities with **healing** of broken marriages and family relationships. Crime rates have fallen, and there has been other evidence of the fruits of repentance in people's lives.

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Repentance is the key to being free of the captivity of sin.

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2 Chronicles 7 v 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 I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land”.

These well quoted verses promise **transformation** as a result of repentance on the behalf of God's people. Repentance is not just for non-Christians but is for Christians as well. We all need to repent of anything that falls short of God's will, then we can make the difference in our communities, nations and the world.



We see an example of repentance in the life of Jonah.

See **Jonah 3 v 1-10**. This was the second time Jonah was called. It is interesting to note that God doesn't change His calling. The people and the leaders believed God, responded and repented.

Repentance brought about divine attention and this is still the case today. God had pronounced judgment, but beforehand he sent **mercy!** This is His continued plan and purpose. None of us will have any excuse at Christ's return. **Psalm 118 v 29** "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever".

Faith is essential regarding repentance. If we don't **believe**, we will not respond and will not have an impact to bring change. Repentance brings us into God's best. We see this illustrated in the parable of the Prodigal son in **Luke Chapter 15**.

The prodigal son felt condemned, as many of us do, but he decided to turn and go to his father. We see repentance in the life of David, after he sinned with Bathsheba, and was challenged by Nathan. See **2 Samuel 12 & Psalm 51**.



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Our Heavenly Father responds to us when we repent, and He comes with mercy, compassion and grace. The **prodigal** son was given a robe (symbolising the Robe of Righteousness), a ring (symbolising relationship), and shoes (symbolising being part of the family and part of the armour of God).

He had the best lavished on him, just as our Father does to us when we meet His conditions and repent of our ways. There was a celebration as the son came into full provision again.

Luke 15 v 10 "Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents". We see in these examples from Jonah, the prodigal son, 2 Chronicles and David's life, that repentance can change a land, nation, city, family and individuals.

Repentance is the first word of the Gospel.
See **Matthew 3 v 1-8 and chapter 4 v 17**.



The apostles preached repentance, and this was the first message on the Day of Pentecost.

Mark 6 v 12-13 “They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them”.

Acts 2 v 38 “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”. Paul’s first message, after he received a personal revelation of Jesus on the Damascus road, was repentance.

Acts 20 v 21 “Testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ”. He shows in his personal testimony that he was called to bring others to repentance, just as we are.

See **Acts 26 v 16-18**. We can see from these examples the importance that God places on repentance. It is the first step in the believers life. Without true repentance our Christian lives will be unstable. We must understand repentance fully and let it work in us.

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When the term repentance is used people have several ideas about it. It is not just conviction of sin. Conviction precedes repentance, but not all people convicted by the Holy Spirit will respond and repent. It is not worldly sorrow, remorse or regret, as this does not lead to repentance.

2 Corinthians 7 v 10 “For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death”.

It is not sorrow for being caught doing something wrong! Godly sorrow brings repentance to salvation. Many are sorry for what they have done, but never get to the point of repentance with a subsequent change in their lives. It is not **reformation**, turning over a new leaf like a New Year’s resolution, or mental assent.

James 2 v 18-20 “But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?”



Real repentance is a change of mind, heart and direction. It is an act of will that turns the whole man to God. An example of this can be seen in **Matthew 21 v 28-32** when the son who said he would not do his father's will repented, and went and did what he was asked. It is something that should affect our spirit, soul and body. It is a complete turn around and an absolute change of direction. True repentance is brought about by conviction of the Holy Spirit.

John 16 v 8-11 "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged". Several biblical passages answer the question some ask as to why they need to repent. **Ephesians 2 v 1-10** shows that God wants to bless us. We see many examples of God wanting to bless Israel in the Old Testament.

In **Joshua 5 v 13-15** Joshua is informed that God was for Israel, as they were coming close to the great city of Jericho.



“ ***Being quick to obey brings us into the best of God's blessing.*** ”

We know from the biblical account that God gave Israel the victory and Jericho later fell.

Colossians 1 v 21-23 shows that God wants us to be reconciled to Him and no longer alienated as the children of wrath.

We all turned to our own way (**Isaiah 53 v 6**). Jesus Christ came and paid the price for us and bore our iniquity. We need to remember what it cost Jesus to bring us such great salvation.

He sweated blood in the garden of Gethsemane because of the burden of sin laid on Him. Repentance is necessary because we went our own way. Paul shows in his letters the sad state men were, and still are in, without God.

Romans 1 v 29-32 shows that the **goodness** of God leads to repentance. We must watch, lest we fall, and we need to repent of anything that is not God's will. Being quick to obey brings us into the best of God's blessing.

Revelation 21 v 27 "But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life".

Without repentance there can be no forgiveness, and without forgiveness, we still have sin, and it separates us from God.

Whatever overcomes us brings us into bondage or captivity as illustrated in **2 Peter 2 v 18-19** "For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.

While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage".

The best way to draw attention to the cross is to live in the good of its **provision**. We are salt and light, we will attract others to Christ.

Salt naturally makes people thirsty, and this is what we should be doing in our spiritual life, as ambassadors for Christ and living epistles.



2 Corinthians 5 v 20 "Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God".

2 Corinthians 3 v 3 "Clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart".

True repentance is evidenced by fruit.

Matthew 3 v 8 says "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance". What is this fruit that we are to produce which reveals true repentance?

The fruits we are to produce are:

A) Godly Sorrow for Sin

2 Corinthians 7 v 9 "Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing".

B) Repentance Brings us to Confession of Sin

1 John 1 v 6-9 “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness”. As we obey this, we come to an assurance of forgiveness.

C) Forsaking Our Sin

Proverbs 28 v 13 “He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy”.

Isaiah 55 v 6-7 “Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon”.



D) Hatred of Sin

Ezekiel 36 v 31-33 "Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your **iniquities** and your abominations. Not for your sake do I do this," says the Lord God, "let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!"

We must not allow anything to mar our relationship with God.

E) Put Things Right - Making Restitution

Luke 19 v 8-10 "Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I **restore** fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost".

Zacchaeus had heard about Jesus, but never really had an encounter before this. Once he did, he brought forth the fruits of repentance.

It is not just what we say, but **evidence** of repentance that counts. We need to strongly consider if there is anything we need to repent over.



If you would like to receive information about CCN or **support the ministry** please contact us.

You can also visit our website www.ccnorg.com to find teachings of Dr Cecil Stewart OBE, request other free hope builders and find up-to-date information on the ministry and special events.

Other hope builders include:

It's Not Over
Give it Over and Get On
Followers Who Finish
Sights, Sounds and Seasons
The Transforming Power of Thanksgiving
Accelerate
Overcoming Offence
Change and Choice
Healing Environment
Overcoming Anxiety
Settling Uncertainties
Raising Your Hopes
Youth Alert: Identity and Destiny
Divine Awareness
It's Time for Answers
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