

ADAPT OR DIE, REPENT OR PERISH

Humility To Confess, Faith To Change

I. 2 Timothy 2:23-26-In some situations repentance is the only remedy

- A. Is it true that some people are their own worst enemy?
1. **Oppose**-To place one's self in opposition to (anti)
 2. **When you are engaged in wrong behavior and not walking in the light that you have and you won't change you are your biggest problem and you have placed yourself in opposition against yourself**
 - a. When you won't repent (change) you have become your biggest problem, NOT the devil
 - b. Saul (1 Samuel 15), Moses (Deuteronomy 3), Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)-Their biggest problem is not the wrong they didn't, it was not the enemy, their biggest problem was themselves (their refusal to repent); nobody was opposing them more than they were opposing them
 - c. When God gives you light and moves on you to do something and you won't repent and do it, you're not just opposing Him, you are opposing yourself because anything that He would tell you to do is in your best interest to do
 3. **You can't pray that opposition off, you can't resist that opposition off; the only way to overcome self-opposition is to repent and to change**
- B. It's the nature of the flesh to want to do anything, but change
1. That's why we like to hear about the power of prayer, the power of faith, and speaking the Word and if we tap the fullness of those things we'll walk in victory and that certainly is true, but you can do all of those things and if you won't repent and follow the direction of the Lord none of that stuff matters
 2. **Maybe you don't need to pray, maybe you don't need another confession, maybe you need to repent and do what the Lord has told you to do – THE FLESH DOESN'T LIKE THAT**
 3. **Maybe you've perfected talking about God's love and grace so that you don't have to talk about repentance/changing and actually doing what He says; Grace is good and the love of God is awesome, but God still expects you to change when He says change and he expects you to walk in the light you have and do what he tells you to do**
 4. Revelation 9:20-21-The world is coming down around their ears and their biggest problem is not the plagues or the destruction or the economy or the storm; the biggest problem is a refusal to repent
- C. If one would acknowledge the truth & repent they would recover themselves out of the snare of the devil
1. **Recover themselves**-To return to soberness
 - a. When you won't repent, you are opposing yourself, and operating with an unsound mind

2. **Snare**-Trap, noose, whatever brings peril, loss, destruction; an unrepentant heart bring peril, destruction
 - a. **The devil's snare is to produce an unrepentant heart (a heart that won't change)**
 - b. A failure to repent is what brings peril, loss, and destruction
3. **Captive**-Capture, Take Alive, To catch
 - a. You're alive, you're living, but your in the enemy's cage
 - b. His will is coming to pass at your life
4. **In this state repentance is the only remedy**
 - a. God won't make you repent and to be freed you have to repent and that's why the verse uses the phrase to "recover yourself"; God can't recover you, He can't free you if you won't repent
 - b. We love to tell ourselves that prayer is the answer or I need to speak the word more or I need to sow this or do that and sometimes those thing are the answers, but in many situations repentance is the only remedy; **that would be you acknowledging the truth and changing and doing what God told you to do**

II. Repentance requires two things; 1) Humility to confess it 2) Faith To change it

- A. It takes humility to confess sin
 1. Proverbs 6:17- Pride is all about making itself look greater or magnifying itself
 - a. **17-Proud**-To exalt oneself or magnify one's self
 - 1) Arrogance-Giving one's self an undue degree of importance; inflated claims of rank or value
 - 2) Exaltation-To raise with pride; To make undue pretensions (facades) to power, rank, or estimation;
 - 3) Lifting Up, Height, Rising up-(Stiff neck lifts up, bowed neck goes down)
 - b. Pride wants to look good and be great and high and lofty in the minds and opinions of others
 - c. When you've missed it that doesn't make you look good so rather than just acknowledging it and confessing it pride will try to cover it so that it doesn't look bad
 2. Repentance requires the acknowledgment of the truth and acknowledging the truth requires humility-2 Timothy 2:26
 - a. It takes humility to deal with truth and reality because sometimes the truth makes you look bad
 - 1) If the truth makes pride look bad, then pride doesn't want to acknowledge it/confess it
 - b. The truth is if you need to repent, then you have done or are doing something that's not right
 - 1) To repent you have to be willing to humble yourself and acknowledge the truth that what you have done was not right
 - 2) It takes humility to acknowledge that you missed it and didn't walk in the light you had and didn't do what you knew you should do

- c. 1 Kings 21:25-29-He's repenting, but God calls it humbling himself; this truth is making him look bad, but he's acknowledging it and that takes humility
 - 1) To acknowledge the truth that you're wrong you're not being lifted up and exalting and magnifying yourself you're doing the opposite
- 3. Truth and light are the same: Sometimes light/truth shows a reality about us that's not too positive and it takes humility to be in the light-(John 9:5, John 14:6-Jesus was the light and the truth)
 - a. It takes humility to let the light shine and show you reality (b/c reality might make you look bad)
 - 1) Humility will own reality and face it head on - *Yep, that's pretty much me. I did it, it's my fault, and there are no excuses for it. That's what I did, I knew it was wrong when I did it."*
 - 2) **Humility confesses sin (reality), Pride covers it (reality)**
 - b. Humility wants to get it right (if it's wrong); pride wants to be right (pride wants the way it's doing it to be right because to say it's wrong would make it look bad)-John 3:19-20
 - 1) The guy who is doing evil and doesn't want to repent hates the light and doesn't come to the light because the light will show him and everybody else that he's wrong and shine that reality
 - a) The reality is if pride is wrong it doesn't even want to know it's wrong
 - 2) Pride hates the light because in the light it can't pretend to be right and deceive others into believing it's right
 - 3) Humility wants to get it right so it loves the light even though the light might shine on a reality that makes it look bad
 - a) If you're more interested in getting it right than being right you'll love the light
 - b) Humility loves the light because it wants to get it right; Pride loves the night because it wants to be right (So if I stay in the dark I won't see I'm wrong)
 - c) Humility runs to the light and says Lord shine it on me
 - d) Pride blinds you humility brightens you
- 4. Jeremiah 13:1-15-This refusal to repent and heed the correction of the Lord, God calls it pride
 - a. 9-The have a pride problem
 - b. 11-Pride won't hear, Pride won't repent
 - c. 14-This is coming because they wouldn't repent
 - d. They won't humble themselves and repent and acknowledge that they are wrong, but rather in their pride they are going to lie to themselves and to the Lord that what they are doing is not wrong
 - e. Psalm 119:21-The proud don't do what God says; they don't repent when they are wrong because pride thinks it knows better than God
- 5. Humility will acknowledge the truth and repent; Pride will believe lies and not repent

- a. Pride deals in lies and deception, Humility deals in truth and reality
 - 1) Honest and Humility and Repentance all go together
- a) What did you do? Sinned – Why did you do it? Flesh – Who’s fault was it? Mine
- b) It takes humility to answer these questions honestly, when being honest makes you look bad
- b. Lying and pride and covering and not repenting all go together (See Saul 1 Samuel 15)
 - 1) 1 John 2:16-Pride is a pretender and it only likes reality if reality makes it look good; If reality makes pride look bad it will create a false reality-Psalm 119:69, Obadiah 3
 - 2) Rather than acknowledge reality and repent pride wants to cover it, hide it, justify it, explain it so anything to avoid dealing with the reality that makes it look bad
- 6. **The truth is the truth and you can cover stuff and justify stuff and make excuses, but underneath all that there lies the truth that hasn’t changed and there lies the truth that you won’t confront**
 - a. Proverbs 16:18-Pride goes before the destruction because before you were destroyed you had chances to repent, but in pride you covered it, you wouldn’t repent, you wouldn’t change
 - b. **Before destruction there was covering; before perishing there was hiding; light shined and you ran from it and didn’t change before you were destroyed**
- B. It takes faith to change/repent and miss perishing
 - 1. **It’s not enough to just acknowledge it (confess it) you have to forsake it (change)**
 - a. **It takes humility to confess, it takes faith to change it**
 - b. **Some people are willing to confess it and own it, but they don’t have the faith to change it; they have the humility to say it’s wrong and I confess it, but they don’t have the faith to say I can change**
 - 2. You got to believe that by God’s grace and help you can make the change, you can get it right and do what you need to do
 - a. Philippians 4:13-You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you
 - b. Ephesians 6:10-You’re strong in the Lord and in the power of his might
 - c. Luke 10:27-With God all things are possible
 - d. Genesis 18:14-Is anything too hard for the Lord?
 - e. Numbers 11:23-Is the Lord’s hand ever waxed short?
 - f. 1 Corinthians 10:13-If it’s in the ring with you then you can beat it
 - 3. If God is moving on your heart to make a change, then he’s willing to supply all the grace you need to make the change
 - a. When he told you to do it, He authorized you to do it and if He authorized you to do it then he empowered you to do it
 - b. You have to receive the empowering ability of his grace

- c. It's Jesus' grace that you have to work with; You have God's spirit, God's word, God's faith, God's grace, God's love, God's strength, God's power and you can do it
- d. Jude 24, Zechariah 4:6-It's not my might or by power, but he his spirit
- 4. **It's never too late to repent, It's never too hard to change**
 - a. The enemy will try to tell you that you can confess it and acknowledge it, but you will never change