

## Prayer Transformation Ministries Email Newsletter – Teaching for 3/7/07

### Repentance: What's the Point?

What is your response to ongoing, repeated calls for a lifestyle of repentance? If your first thought is, “What’s the point?” then it may be that *you are entirely missing the point* of true, biblical repentance!

Last week we looked at Repentance: *What's the Big Deal?* Repentance is a big deal because sin pervades our whole being and repentance is the pathway to God. Repentance is not a popular topic—and most would like to just say a quick prayer, get it over with, and move on. But deep, heartfelt, ongoing repentance is so much more. It is the means to godly character, and ultimately it ushers in the manifest presence of God. *That's the point!*

In 2 Corinthians 7, Paul gives us insight into the role of godly sorrow and repentance. He states that sorrow over sin leads us to a godly repentance that is according to the will of God (vs. 8-10). This genuine repentance and godly sorrow produces a diligence to make sure that our lives are clean before God and men (vs. 11). There is a marked godliness about a Christian who lives a lifestyle of repentance.

### Humility Attracts God's Presence

To walk in sensitivity to issues of sin, you must carry in your heart the godly character trait of humility. Pride says, “There is nothing wrong with me, everything is just fine.” Pride is exactly what God opposes. Humility, on the other hand, draws the Almighty God like a magnet—or, as George Otis states, “God is drawn to humility like Winnie the Pooh is drawn to a honey pot. He cannot resist it!” God seeks out those who are of broken and contrite heart (Isaiah 66:2). I would rather walk in brokenness and be a “God-magnet” than have God declare that He is opposed to me because of my pride.

This godly sorrow that leads to repentance, brokenness, and humility also leads us naturally into a place where confession is natural and easy. Our pride can keep us from true godly confession of sin—not only before God, but before one another. The enemy fills our minds with fear that somehow confession will bring us harm. But the exact opposite is true. True, genuine, godly confession of sin is a sure pathway to freedom. No longer are we shackled by unspoken barriers that keep us at a distance from God and men. Openness and sincerity are the fruit of a lifestyle of repentance and confession, which brings a new level of joyful and peaceful living.

The greatest point of repentance, however, is that it paves the highway on which God comes to His people. Repentance was the key to opening the door for the Kingdom of God in the ministries of both John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-3) and Jesus (Matthew 4:17). Repentance makes that highway of holiness for the Lord to come to His people. If that is the case, why would we not want to embrace and welcome repentance? A life of sincerity, joy, and fellowship with God and man is a welcoming highway for God's manifest presence in the midst of His people. *That's the point of repentance.*