



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – May 2, 2010

Heart to Heart...

Daniel was in captivity under the powerful Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel told the king that he needed to *"break away from your sins by doing righteousness"* after interpreting a dream (Daniel 4:27). People play a lot of games in their sins. One doesn't "ease" out of sin. One doesn't make a trade-off to get rid of their sins. I once knew of a sister in Christ who was entangled in sin, walked away from the Lord and decided she needed to return. She knew of another who had gone off into sins similar to her and was now worshiping with the saints so she could too! She never repented to the Lord. One must make a clean, complete break by repentance from the heart or you stay in your sins! The Lord and sin have nothing in common so there will be no common ground with the Lord's people.

When one repents, they *"break away"* instantly by *"doing righteousness."* Repentance always leads one to practicing what is right in the eyes of God. To say we repent of our sins and make no changes in your life is not repentance. To confess our sins knowing that God will be faithful and righteous to forgive us and cleanse us and not walk in the Light following His will, is not confession and repentance at all (I John 1:5-10).

Jesus gives us good insight as to what happens when one repents with a sincere faith. When one breaks away from their sin, it leaves a void and empty spot in their heart where sin once dwelt. *"Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order."* (Luke 11:24-25) Sin wants to come back to its home it once occupied. Sincere repentance brings about cleansing and the heart put in order. *"Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first."* (Luke 11:26) Upon repentance, there has to be something put in the void, that empty place that was cleansed. The void must be filled by placing God's ways, His righteousness, in the heart. Failure to do so will lead one to a much worse situation than where they began. One can be cleansed for a short while but if it is left empty, the result will be even more tragic!

We have seen it where people repent only to fall away again. To bring them back to repentance the second time is much more difficult. Sin has grown stronger in the heart and hardness sets in. They repent again, only to return to the world of sin and death. Each time their state of being worsens. After a while, it is impossible to reach them. The Hebrew writer put it this way: *"Take care, brethren, that there not be in anyone of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God."* (Hebrews 3:12) Think about it!!!

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