



Church of Christ

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Heart to Heart...

Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar that he needed to *“break away from your sins by doing righteousness.”* (Dan. 4:27) People play a lot of games with sin. One doesn't ease out of sin. One doesn't make a trade-off to rid their sins. You must make a clean, complete break by repentance or you stay in your sins! It's that simple.

When one repents, they break away instantly by *“doing righteousness.”* There has to be a whole-hearted approach to God. To repent of our sins and do nothing is not repentance. To confess our sins for the blood of Christ to cleanse us (I John 1:9), and not walk with the Lord and His righteousness is no confession at all!

Jesus gives us good insight as to what happens when one repents with a sincere faith. When one breaks away from 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.”** (Luke 11:24) Sins desire leaves the heart, only wanting to return, **“And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order.”** (Luke 11:25) Sincere repentance brings about cleansing. Notice the heart is now swept clean and in order! **“Then it goes and takes along 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) When one repents of their sins, there has to be something put in the void, the place in the heart that's empty. That's call *“righteousness.”* The void must be filled by putting God's ways in the heart. Failure to do so will lead to a much worse situation than where everything began. For many, they never put God's word in that clean house and the end result is tragic! It's clean, for a short while, but because it's left empty, it becomes occupied with sin again.

We've seen it. People repent only to fall away again. To bring them back to repentance the second time is much harder. Sin has grown stronger in their heart and hardness results. They repent again, but only to return to the world of sin and death. Each time, the hardness makes their state of being worse than the time before. That's why for some, you can never reach them again. The Hebrew writer put it this way, **“Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you and evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.”** (Heb. 3:12) We need to be very careful with our lives and heart, realizing that a lot of things could be working, and not for good! Think about it!!!

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