



... Heart to Heart ...

Sin is powerful. I know you have heard me teach that many times over, but it needs to be emphasized. Sin is not something you play around with. It's a master, and a horrible master at that. Jesus knew it when He taught, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin." (John 8:34) Sin brings people into death, a state of separation from God. It promises people to fulfill every desire they want, only to cost them every good thing from God. Sin leads people into hateful attitudes, rather than loving attitudes. It blinds people to their real state of being, while they blame others for the choices they make. You've seen it where people claim it's someone else's fault for the wrong they did. If only that person was more understanding or would have done this or that, they wouldn't have done what they did. Adam and Eve did the same thing in the garden, when Adam blamed God, and then blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent as deceiving her (Gen. 3:12-13). The only problem, God held them all accountable for their own acts of unrighteousness because they were lead into it in their own heart!

Sin is powerful. I've watched people in Christ go back into the clutches of sin and death. The most difficult thing is, when one is delivered from their sins by the blood of Christ, and they go back under the slavery of sin, it is much more difficult to get them out the second time than before they came into Christ (II Pet. 2:20).

Sin is powerful. It moves one to focus on their desires and lusts. Those desires and lusts become their "god" and they can't tell their own desires no. All they do is crave and when that craving isn't satisfied, anger and hate are what comes out. (Anger and hate are part of the world of sin and death. Titus 3:3) I spoke with a woman in Christ, and she was absolutely miserable. I showed her she was trapped in sin and death, but she refused to accept that. Then I put her to the test. I asked her if sin and death aren't your master, get up right now, go to your husband and do what is right toward him. Her eyes filled with tears and she said, "I can't!" She was a slave of sin, she knew it and it had taken her into death. Wholehearted repentance was her only way out! It broke my heart, but she never responded and to this day is so far removed from the Lord. Sin and death cost her dearly. She lost her husband, her children, her home, her reputation and ultimately her soul.

The solution? It is always found in Jesus. He is the ONLY One who overcame sin and death. Only He can break the chains of bondage and save our souls. Just read Rom. 7:14-25 and see Paul's own struggle with sin and the victory he found in Christ. Think about it!!!

Brent