

State of Your Faith 2/8/21

Repentance is the Beginning of Change

Jeremiah 31:19 – “I turned away from God, but then I was sorry. I kicked myself for my stupidity! I was thoroughly ashamed of all I did in my younger days.”

It's important to acknowledge where we are coming from. Our past experiences shape our testimony, and our testimony can help other people going through similar situations.

Maybe you used to dance with the devil...and you liked it. You don't repeat the same action over and over again unless you like it. What was it in your life that kept you from God? What was it that caused you to turn your back on God's plan for your life?

Repentance is the beginning of change. We need to get off the old path and get on the path God has set for us.

Malachi 3:6-7 – “I am the Lord, and I do not change. That is why you descendants of Jacob are not already destroyed. Ever since the days of your ancestors, you have scorned my decrees and failed to obey them. Now return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. But you ask, ‘How can we return when we have never gone away?’”

If God didn't like the sins described in the Bible, why would you think He would accept them today?

David had an adulterous affair yet was still called “a man after God's own heart.” This wasn't because he was perfect. It was because he acknowledged his wrongdoings and made every effort to turn from his mistakes. We have to acknowledge the sins in our life and stop making excuses for the things we have done wrong.

You may have departed from the path of righteousness and followed the path the world has laid out for you. Perhaps you're wondering why the Lord's favor has departed from you, or perhaps the world is tricking you into thinking you're doing something good. Sometimes we don't even

realize we're drowning because the world lets us get a little air once in a while. We might be dying a slow death without even realizing it.

Colossians 3:2 – “Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.”

When you stop worrying about what people think of you and start worrying about what God thinks of you, your whole perspective will change. You can't please everyone.

Psalm 51:9-11 – “Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.”

Colossians 3:10-11 – “Put on your new nature, and **be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him**. In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.”

When you simply read the Bible, you gloss over the words. When you study it, you go deeper, applying your own experiences to the Word. Then the Word will open up a whole new world to you. But you have to leave all your excuses at the door.

It's not good enough to realize you're operating on a path that's not for you. You have to realize it, then actively try to change it. This starts with acknowledging what you're doing wrong, with no excuses.