

The Gift of Repentance: Acts 3:19

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Encouragement:

- Listen for anything that the Lord wants to share at the beginning for the body.

Acts 3:19

In chapter 3:

- A healing takes place by the gate and then draws people to Peter and John.

English Standard Version Chapter 3

11 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. 12 And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? 13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. 14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked

for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 16 And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

17 “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. 19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, 21 whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

Repent:

The Lord wants to address sin and lead us to repentance:

- Within the past couple of years we are seeing in a large scale how the Lord is purifying His bride.
- Things that have been hidden are being exposed and brought to the light. The exposure to this could be in large

due to social media but we know that Jesus is coming back soon because the cleansing is increasing and increasing quickly.

Ephesians 5:26–27 “26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

- God has never been okay with sin, but it feels like now He’s beginning the process so that the Bride will be found holy and without blemish.
- I am excited that Jesus is doing a deep work within His bride because this demonstrates to me that Jesus truly cares about us and wants us to be holy and without blemish.
- I guess it feels appropriate that God would begin His cleansing work from the top down.
- In all of this God is also inviting us into this same process but with the option to turn away from our sinful ways into repentance.

Why do I mention that He is inviting us to turn away from our sinful ways:

- Because some of the exposure into the cleansing work that Christ has been doing has been found out (by means of being kept hidden) was not repented of first. This is not a general statement or assumption over everything that is coming into the light from the body of Christ but to the situations that were no longer able to be kept hidden because it was found out.

Let's see the length into which David went to keep a sin hidden:

2 Sam 11:2-5: Summary

- David rises from his bed in the evening and observes a woman bathing from the palace roof; she strikes him as exceptionally beautiful (2 Sam 11:2–5)
- David inquires about her identity and learns she is Bathsheba, daughter of Eliam and wife of Uriah the Hittite (2 Sam 11:2–5)
- David summons her, sleeps with her while she is in a ritually clean state, and she returns home (2 Sam 11:2–5)
- Bathsheba becomes pregnant and informs David of her condition (2 Sam 11:2–5)

- David felt conviction after he had become aware that Bathsheba was pregnant.
 - In 2 Sam 11:8 David tells Uriah to go home. Uriah does not go home but is found asleep at the door of the kings house.
 - David is not having it and is shocked as to why he didn't go home.
 - David tries a couple more times to go home but Uriah would not go.
 - So to cover up his sin for good he sends Uriah to the front lines of a battle and is killed.
- How often beloved have we tried so hard to keep sin hidden and would go to lengths to make sure no one ever found out.
- When man is trying to hide sin there isn't actually repentance in their heart yet. And fear and shame is probably ruling every decision.
- There comes a point in our lives that as described in Romans 1: 18 and on that God gives us over to our sinful desire. When God in His mercy has warned us over and over about our sin He gives us what we want.

- An interpretation being that the Holy Spirit lifts from us and conviction ceases to stop being present.
- It is a scary place to find ourselves in.

The result of Davids sin: 2 Sam 12

- David was infuriated by Nathan’s parable, believing it described a real crime in his kingdom, and declared the offender deserved to die and must pay fourfold restitution for the stolen sheep
- Nathan’s powerful words “Thou art the man” drove home the application of the parable, and Nathan’s parable had made David see the enormity of his sin
- David’s response—“I have sinned”—David’s heart would not let him make excuses
- David’s own family would be instruments of God’s judgment, with his wives given to his neighbor—fulfilled by his son Absalom
- God would not allow the child born from David’s adultery to live, as a consequence of David’s very public sin

Though David pleaded and fasted before the Lord in

repentance, he would face sin's consequences

Confession of sin:

- The Lord has given the blessing to confess our sins to Him but also to each other.
- In this very space though the enemy wants to completely fill us with shame and fear that would keep us from confessing our sin.
- The enemy uses the tactic of condemnation to keep us silent from entering into freedom.

Condemnation vs Conviction:

Conviction and condemnation are fundamentally opposed in their origin, purpose, and effect—though they might feel similar they are not.

Their sources and purposes differ completely.

- Conviction originates from a loving Father allowing us to feel His pain over the relational separation sin causes in order to draw us back to His heart through repentance.
- When I've experienced conviction, I know deep in my heart that what I did was wrong and I must deal with it

now.

- Conviction also allows me to step into humility. I get to put my pride down and say that I was wrong.
 - Matthew 23:12 “12 And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”
 - Matthew 5:5 “5 Blessed are the meek (humble), For they shall inherit the earth.”
- Condemnation, by contrast, comes from Satan and doesn't suggest temporary relational distance but complete and utter separation from the Father.
- Conviction is the work of the Holy Spirit, showing us that we have sinned and inviting us to confess our sins so we can receive God's forgiveness and help to improve our behavior in the future.
- Condemnation is a guilty feeling that presses us down and says we must pay for what we have done wrong.

The practical differences are stark.

- Conviction says, “There's something wrong with your behavior”; condemnation says, “There's something wrong with you.”

- Knowing this is so good because God is not after tearing down your identity but building and calling you into His image. Not many of us get motivated after being told “what’s wrong with you, why didn’t you understand that?” “You’ll never accomplish that”, “You’ll never be anything better”.
- Conviction is born from the truth; condemnation germinates in lies.
 - Is what you’re hearing stemming from truth or a lie? How do we know this
- Conviction is clean; condemnation is dirty and shameful. Condemnation makes a problem worse, but conviction is intended to lift us out of it.

A simple test distinguishes them.

If you’ve repented for a sin yet still feel heavy, confused, or hopeless over it, then you’re dealing with condemnation. Once the cross has taken the penalty for your sin, there’s no need to exact further punishment upon yourself. Anything that tries to get you to punish yourself for something Jesus has already purchased comes from the father of lies and should be renounced and rejected. The goal is to welcome conviction’s transformative work while firmly rejecting condemnation’s lies.

No Condemnation: Promises of scripture

- Romans 8:1 “1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”
- John 3:17 “17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”
- John 8:10–11 “10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” 11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.””

God calls us to confess our sin to Him but also to each other:

1 John 1:8–10 “8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

- Confessing relinquishes the power of sin over our lives. The power of confession is much bigger than we think.

- Proverbs 28:13 “13 He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”

James 5:16 “16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

- Proverbs 27:17 “17 As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.”
- We were designed to be in accountability with each other and to strengthen each other.

Times of refreshing may come:

- This is the part I’m most excited about because I know that Jesus is longing for us to experience times of refreshing from confessing our sins.

True Freedom:

- God really really desires us to enter into true freedom. I would say that true freedom is when our lives have absolutely nothing hidden.

- When we are walking in Matthew 11:28–30 “28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.””

- Romans 6:14 “14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”

- We are free from sins power.

- We also know that we are constantly being sanctified:

- 2 Corinthians 3:18 “18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

- Philippians 1:6 “6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;”

- The closer we walk with Jesus the more sensitive we will become to what both pleases and breaks His heart.

Beautiful Exchange:

Isaiah 61:3 “3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.””