

LESSON 2: REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

DAY 8

1. Knowing that we are God's creation and that He sent His Son to die for us, how would He have us respond to Him and His love? (John 3:16-21)

P2P: A trait common to man is that, when our deeds are evil, we feel guilt and shame and want to hide from God just as Adam and Eve did. However, God did not send Jesus to condemn us for our sins, *but to save us from all sin*. He wants us to believe in Him, to trust in Him, to put our confidence in Him so that we do not hide ourselves from His presence in shame and fear. He wants us to put our faith in Him, to demonstrate that we know and believe the love He has for us (1 John 4:16).

One of the first steps of faith we take to demonstrate our belief in God's love is to allow our works to be clearly seen in the light. Are you willing to run to the Light and not hide in shame when you find yourself in sin?

Are you willing to expose your deeds before God? Are you willing to open your life to Him, trusting that He will handle you with love and care? Really think this through... this is where intimacy with the Almighty is found.

2. What is life like for those who reject God and do not turn to Him when their works are evil? (Isaiah 59:1-15)

P2P: In what ways do you see these verses in Isaiah being fulfilled in our society today? How about in your own life?

3. What is sin? (1 John 3:4)

P2P: The words *sin*, *transgression*, *iniquity* and *evil deeds* are used to describe actions that go contrary to God's Word, commandments, instruction and law. Ultimately, sin is action which is against God's will, action which is based upon the things in this world.

God loves the people of the world (John 3:16). But He is opposed to the ways of the world, and the way the people of the world live, based upon personal desires, without consideration for God and His perfect ways.

P2P: Read 1 John 2:15-17. As you look at your own heart, in what ways are the lust of your flesh, the lust of your eyes and the pride of your life running contrary to God's way of love?

P2P: One of the most painful realizations we come to in life is seeing that there are things of this world that we love that are contrary to God and His ways. Upon examination, have you found that you love some sinful practices?

MEDITATE Romans 8:7 says, “the carnal mind is enmity [hostile] against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.” How do you see this applying in your life?

PRAY Thank God for sending Jesus to this earth to be our Savior! Give God praise for revealing the sin in your life and for His willingness to forgive you. Confess any areas of your life where you are still holding onto the ways of the world which are contrary to God.

DAY 9

4. What is the struggle that takes place within you? Which forces and laws are in conflict with each other? (Romans 7:14-8:6)

P2P: Have you stopped to consider that there is a law of sin in your carnal mind that will bring you into sin if left unchecked? It is very humbling to know that we have within us the capability to do all manner of sin.

5. What should your attitude be toward the sin in yourself? What role does the Holy Spirit play in this process? (Romans 8:1-6; Galatians 5:16-17)

6. Read 1 John 1:5-2:2 to answer the following questions.
 - a. What does God require of you to receive forgiveness of sins?

 - b. Are you willing to confess to God all your sins, the fact that you are a sinner, and that there is a law of sin in you?

 - c. Are you taking time to consider your life and your actions so that you can come before God and confess your sins? In what ways might you be saying to God, “I have no sin”?

7. What does God ask us to do with our sins? (Proverbs 28:13)

8. Use a dictionary to define *forsake*.

MEDITATE Have you considered that God’s instruction to you is to not only confess your sins, but also to forsake them? Is this your approach to sin when you find it in your life?

PRAY

Spend time thanking God for the opportunity to be delivered from your sin, and death, by Jesus Christ our Lord. Ask God for His power and strength to walk in the Spirit at all times. Continue to confess and forsake your sins so that you may have life in Him. Praise God for His mercy and forgiveness.

DAY 10

9. Once we have been forgiven of our sins by God's grace, is it acceptable for us to continue living in our sins? (Romans 6:1-2, 11-23)

10. What happens if we don't repent and we continue to live in sin – openly, willfully and habitually – after receiving salvation through Jesus? (Hebrews 10:26-29; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21)

P2P: Forsaking your sins, or turning away from them, is critical to understanding the word *repentance* in the Bible. The word *repentance* means to turn away or to turn around, forsaking one set of behaviors (sin) for a new set of behaviors (righteousness).

The salvation we receive through Jesus Christ does not give us license to sin. Because of Jesus' death for our sins, we are compelled to die to sin so that we are no longer slaves to it. All sin leads to death, but it is life in God, apart from sin, that leads to eternal life.

11. What does it mean to die to sin in your own life? (Romans 6:11-15)

P2P: How do you present yourself as an instrument of righteousness to God?

12. What should our attitude be in confessing our sins and forsaking them (repenting)? (2 Corinthians 7:8-12)

P2P: We *clear* ourselves, not by justifying ourselves or by hiding our sins, but by following the instruction God gives us to repent, confess our sins and forsake them.

MEDITATE When you see sin in yourself, what are ways you can demonstrate a *zeal* and *vehement desire* to clear yourself? Do you have a passion in life to rid yourself of sin and anything that keeps you enslaved to it?

PRAY

Give God glory for freeing you from sin and making you His servant unto righteousness. Thank God for His gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Pray that the Holy Spirit will convict you of any remaining sins in your life, that you may be free to worship God in spirit and truth.

DAY 11

13. What steps can you take to arm yourself with the same mind of Christ, to cease from sin? How does this relate to Paul's instruction in Romans 6 to die to sin? (1 Peter 4:1-4)

14. What must we do to become a disciple of Jesus? (Luke 9:23-24)

P2P: What does Jesus mean when He says “whoever loses his life for My sake will save it”? What steps can you take to make this a daily reality?

15. What does God ask you to do with your body and mind? (Romans 12:1-2)

MEDITATE Why do you think God instructs us to present our bodies as living sacrifices? In what ways is your mind being transformed?

PRAY Praise and thank God for allowing the mind of Jesus Christ to be available to us so we can arm and protect ourselves. Give Him glory for the high calling of being Jesus' disciple. Ask God to deepen your personal commitment to be a living sacrifice to serve others as you have opportunity.

DAY 12

16. What process is revealed about how we transform our minds? (Colossians 3:1-17; Ephesians 4:17-5:21)

MEDITATE Contemplate the ugly nature of the *old man* and the holiness of the *new man* as revealed in Colossians and Ephesians. What are some of the motivations we should have in putting to death our members and putting on the tender mercies of God?

PRAY

Spend time thanking God for revealing to us the *old man* and the destructive outcomes of a life of sin. Praise God for His Son, Jesus Christ, who gave you access to be holy and beloved.

DAY 13

17. What does God tell us to do with all of our thoughts? (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)

P2P: Do you truly desire to bring every thought into captivity to Jesus? Do you desire to let go of all things in this world that you still love and to bring everything into captivity to Jesus?

Are there any ideas or patterns of living you are embracing of which you need to repent? Probe all areas of your life and ask God to help you see if any parts remain where you still need to repent and surrender to Him.

18. How does God say we can be assured of *not* fulfilling the lust of the flesh? (Galatians 5:16-17)

P2P: It is by God's grace that we are saved through faith (Ephesians 2:8). It is a work done by God, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is motivated by His great love for us. Having saved us, God does not want us to continue in our sins, in the very things that brought about death in our lives. He wants us to flee slavery to sin that we may live in the freedom of His perfect ways. This begins with a heart of repentance, whereby we value the will of God over our own personal desires and over the ways of this world. To repent means to forsake our old ways and to turn to God's ways. It is dying to the self, denying the self and learning to walk in the Spirit.

PRAY

Spend time praising God for showing you that He alone is God and He alone has the power to subdue every thought. Seek God's direction in how to surrender yourself completely to Him and bring every thought into captivity to Jesus. Ask for God's blessing in knowing how to do this day by day, thought by thought. Beseech Him and do not relent.

DAY 14**MEDITATE & PRAY**

Spend time further reflecting upon and praying about the parts of Lesson 2 that really inspired you. Praise God that you are able to repent of your dead works in order to serve Him.