

How to Turn To God – 03/29/20

TEXT –Amos 4:1-12 vs.12 *Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.*

INTRO – Testimony of a young married man:

I'm excited, yet extremely ashamed to be at this point in my life. I was raised in a Christian home, grew up in church, and went to a private Christian school. Through all the exposure and book knowledge I obtained, I failed to apply it to form my personal relationship with Christ. I feel that the Lord is tugging at me the past year, as I am a healthy 27 year old, happily married, and have a healthy baby girl, house, 2 cars, dogs, aquarium, and yet I am not happy. I feel as if I am missing something.

I know I need to pray and turn to the scriptures. But I fear that I went through the motions for so long in my life that I have become desensitized to it all, and that scares me. I'm ashamed to ask God for help when needed, because I piddled away the upbringing he provided me. My wife has stated several times during our marriage that she longs to be part of a church family, and I know it's my job as a husband to provide that for her and my daughter.

How does a backslider get back on track? How does someone growing up in church generate enthusiasm? How does someone who has fallen away get right with God? How does a mediocre Christian generate new fervor?

Rev 2:4-5 *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

I. It Begins With Contrition

Luke 15 **The prodigal son came to his senses and recognized his sin**
Nineveh showed contrition **Jonah 3:5-9** *So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.*

A. Recognize your sin

Psa 139:23-24 *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

1. A vision of yourself

Psa 39:1-4 ... vs 4 **LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.**

My heart was hot within me - My mind became more and more excited; my feelings more and more intense. The attempt to suppress my emotions only more and more enkindled them.

While I was musing the fire burned - literally, "in my meditation the fire burned." That is, while I was dwelling on the subject; while I was agitating it in my mind; while I thought about it - the flame was enkindled, and my thoughts found utterance. He was unable longer to suppress his feelings, and he gave vent to them in words.

Jer 20:9 *Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.*

Psa 51:1-13 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness:

2. A vision of God

Isa 6:1-8 *In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.*

Mat 17:1-2 *And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, 2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.*

Moses saw His glory

Exo 34:5-7 *And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.*

Exo 34:35 *And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.*

B. Remorse over sin (It requires time)

You can't sweep sin under the rug - To ignore, deny, or conceal from public view or knowledge something that is embarrassing, unappealing, or damaging to one's reputation.

2 Co 7:10 *For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.*

No more blame! No more excuses!

Psa 51:17 *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

Neh 1:4 *And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,*

Neh 2:1 *And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king - four months*

II. It is Initiated Through Confession and Repentance

John the Baptist - Mat 3:1-3 *In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.*

Dan 9:19-20 *O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name. 20 And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God;*

1 Jn 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Repentance requires a turning and a change of the mind and direction

Repentance - Deep sorrow, compunction, or contrition for a past sin, wrongdoing, or error

Psa 6:6 *I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears.*

Luke 18:13-14 *And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*

III. It is Completed by the Healing Hand of God

Deu 30:6-20 vs.10 *If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.*

2 Ch 7:14 *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

Psa 51:13 *Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*

CONCL- Mar 12:30 *And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.*