

THE



“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)

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I WAS WRONG

“I was wrong.” This is one of the hardest things to say. To admit that you did something that was not right for one reason or another is difficult for us. Maybe it is because of pride, maybe it is because of embarrassment, maybe it is because you really think you are right even though evidence suggests otherwise. We have to be able to admit to ourselves and to others when we mess up, even if the reaction to it is not pleasant. If we cannot admit when we do something wrong, we are deceiving ourselves as much as we deceive everyone else.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful

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and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 Jn. 1:8-10)

How many times have you done something that turned out to not have the result that was intended? Many times when we do something that is wrong it is not intentional. The problem comes as we try to cover it up when we see that something that we did was wrong. Sometimes even the cover-up is innocent, but in the end we are not being truthful which is a sin as well. Covering up one sin creates another. *“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” (Pro. 28:13).*

So let’s examine a few reasons why we would not want to admit that we were wrong. The most obvious reason is pride. Not wanting to admit that we were not right about something is not easy and makes us look bad and feel bad. There is a big problem with that though. Again, covering one sin creates another. What does the Bible say about that? It says that evil comes from within and that pride is evil.

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man. (Mark 7:21-23)

It is listed in the same context as theft, deceit, murder, and many other things that we consider bad.

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. (1 Pet. 5:5)

It is obvious that God does not like pride, so much so that He resists it. He does not want anything to do with it and we should not either. We cannot be too proud to admit when we do something wrong.

... and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. (Isa. 13:11)

Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. (Ecc. 7:8)

Another possible reason for not admitting we were wrong about something could be because we are embarrassed about being wrong. Yet again, we are creating a sin by not admitting one. We are being deceitful and prideful in a different way.

We could also be avoiding telling someone when we do something wrong because we are afraid of how they will react to it. We are worrying about something that we cannot control. If the person that we are telling truly believes in Christ then they should react in a way that is Christ-like. If they do not, then the way that they react could be a sin. Either way, we cannot control how they react and we only can directly affect our salvation, not the salvation of the other person. Maybe we will not get the reaction that we want, but there is a chance that the other person could be affected positively because of your willingness to admit that you were wrong. It is important that we always tell the truth, even if it hurts a little.

He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit. (Pro. 12:17)

We also must be careful that we do not train ourselves to cover our missteps. Failure to admit that we have done something wrong could just become a normal, everyday thing.

And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity. (Jer. 9:5)

It is important to know when we are wrong, and it is just as important to admit (confess) it. Not just to ourselves, but to anyone that it has affected. It is a major part of our salvation.

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And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. (Acts 19:18)

And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. (Mat. 3:6)

If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me...Then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land. (Lev. 26:40-42)

When the prodigal son realized that he had been wrong what did he do? He knew that he had to admit that he was wrong and tell his father that he knew he had messed up. He wanted his father to know that he was sorry and that he would live among the servants to help make up for it.

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. (Luke 15:18-19)

Was he too proud to admit that he was wrong? Was he worried about how his father would react? Maybe, but he also knew that it was the right thing to do. So how did his father react?

And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fattest calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. (Luke 15:21-24)

The father was thrilled that the son was able to admit that he was wrong. This parallels how God feels when we can admit

that we are wrong, either when we sin against Him or against our fellow man. It is ok to admit when we are wrong. In fact, it is the right thing to do.

A. D.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Why did Jephthah flee to the land of Tob?
2. On which day of the creation did God create trees and plants?
3. In the New Jerusalem described in Revelation, what are the twelve gates made from?
4. What did James and John want to do to the unwelcoming Samaritan village?
5. After seeing the destruction of Jericho and Ai, the inhabitants of which city pretended to be travelers from a far off land to make a covenant of peace with the Israelites?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH...

And remember last month's questions?

1. What did God count Abram's faith to him as?
RIGHTEOUSNESS (Gen. 15:6)
2. How much of Elijah's spirit did Elisha receive?
DOUBLE PORTION (2 Kings 2:9)
3. On which day of the year could the High Priest enter the Most Holy Place, the inner most part of the temple where the ark of the covenant was kept?
DAY OF ATONEMENT (Lev. 16)
4. To which tribe did the apostle Paul belong?
BENJAMIN (Rom. 11:1)
5. Who carried the cross for Christ?
SIMON OF CYRENE (Mat. 27:32)

NOTICE: The Fellowship Conference scheduled for July 9-10, 2020 has been cancelled.

PRAY EVERYWHERE

The apostle Paul gave the following instruction to men. *“I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting”* (1 Tim. 2:8). While it is an exhortation to men, I see no reason it should not apply to women as well. Perhaps men need this more.

“I will therefore that men pray everywhere.” It was the custom during the time of Jesus for people to go to the temple or the synagogue to pray. Perhaps you wait until you go to a church building to pray. People sometimes go to a church building to pray because they think they are closer to God there. But God is everywhere.

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. (Psa. 139:7-12)

Anywhere you go in the world, you are close to God. *“He be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being;”* (Acts 17:27b-28a).

There are many locations where you can pray. Jesus went upon a mountain to pray (Mat. 14:23a) and into the wilderness (Luke 5:16). He prayed in the garden of Gethsemane (Mat. 26:36-46). Peter prayed on the rooftop of the house (Acts 10:9-16). Jesus encouraged you to go into your room and shut your door.

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. (Mat. 6:6)

You can pray anytime you are going to eat; Jesus gave you the example of praying and giving thanks before eating when he fed the multitudes and when he instituted the Lords' Supper. 1 Corinthians 14 addresses prayer in the church assembly. I like to pray to God when I am in my bed before I go to sleep or before I arise in the morning. When you travel may be a good time to pray, whether that is in a boat, an airplane, a bus, a train, a motorcycle or a car. I don't like to stop at red traffic lights because they delay me in getting to my destination; my wife constantly reminds me that when I am stopped at a traffic light is an excellent time to pray. The point is that wherever you are and whenever you have the opportunity, pray. Pray everywhere. *"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil"* (1 Pet. 3:12).

"Lifting up holy hands." I am reminded of a young child with his father. The child reaches up with his hands to indicate that he wants to be lifted and held. You too can lift up your hands to God your Father as an indication that you desire His mercy and grace or that you worship and praise Him. But your hands should be holy hands that you raise. They should not be hands stained with sins you are holding onto. It was common in the time of Jesus for people to stand praying (Mat. 6:5). But it is also appropriate to bow or kneel when you pray; the apostle Paul did that as recorded in Ephesians 3:14 *"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."* In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus fell on His face when He prayed.

And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.
(Mat. 26:39)

The position you assume when you pray is not dictated; I believe that the position you take should be based upon what your heart feels. If you are seeking mercy for your sin or feeling humble before your great Heavenly Father, perhaps you

wish to bow or kneel. If you are extremely troubled in spirit as Jesus was in the garden, perhaps you want to fall on your face before God. You can pray as you lie on your bed at night. When you are in the midst of a task, you can pray as you work. I believe that the physical position you take when you pray is not as important as the condition of your heart. God knows your heart.

“Without wrath.” When you pray, there should not be any vindictive feeling or lack of forgiveness in your heart. Jesus prayed in Matthew 6:12: *“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”*

“Without doubting.” Pray in faith.

Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. (Jas. 5:14-18)

How long should you pray? Jesus likely prayed many hours when He went off by Himself to pray. But prayers can also be short; the tax collector prayed *“God be merciful to me a sinner”* (Luke 18:13). The length of prayer is however long you take to communicate with God what is on your heart.

My encouragement to you is that you pray everywhere, at all times, with all kinds of prayers. *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”* (Heb. 4:16).

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