

14 January 2018

## Essential ingredients for Christian growth Pt.3 when we sin – repent.

This is our third study on our topic – Essential ingredients for Christian growth. In our previous teaching we established the need to pray with our mouth, our thoughts, with cries and singing. In this study we will cover the need to exhibit godly sorrow that worketh repentance when we sin.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. Repentance is an essential ingredient for Christian growth.

“And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed” (2Cor.12: 21).

### 2. Godly sorrow worketh repentance that bears fruit meet for repentance.

“Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance” (Matt.3: 8), see also Acts 26: 20 – c.f. 2Cor.7: 10  
“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of”.

When a sinner has godly sorrow for their transgressions the sorrow is so convicting that they do not repent of the same sin again, and hence godly sorry is necessary for Christian growth. Whereas the sorrow of the world works death because the sinner continues to repeat the sin.

### 3. Repentance involves turning away from our transgressions.

“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions” (Ez.18: 30).

### 4. Repentance involves turning to God.

“But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judæa, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God” (Acts 26: 20).

Applying the teaching to our life today.

Of those living on the streets in Auckland there are young adults that have, at an early age lost everything and so turned to the streets. Some are addicted to glue and walk around with a bottle tucked up under their jumper, and half their body shakes as they walk. For those that continue in their habit they die younger than the average age.

Question to think about.

What is the motivator for godly sorrow that “worketh repentance...not to be repented of?”

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

The single greatest motivator for godly sorrow is the fear of the Lord – by which “men depart from inquiry” (Prov.16: 6). Therefore when we sin, and desire to depart from it, turn from our transgression and so come before our God with godly sorrow, we experience a fear of the Lord. And this is what Paul explains took place following the godly sorrow in 2Cor.7. Verse 11 says – “what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge!”.

The longer we stay in our sin, the more we make excuses for it, the harder it is to turn away from. For those that choose to receive and believe the gospel, and so are saved, we have the Holy Spirit for a help. But if we do not repent from sin or our repentance is similar to that of the world where nothing changes following sorrow, then our Christian growth is stunted.

Let us remember that the longer we leave our godly sorrow (which leads us not to repent again) the harder the battle to depart and **not** turn back to yesterday’s vomit. Hence one of the main ingredients for Christian growth is – when we sin we come before our God and exhibit godly sorrow that “worketh repentance...not to be repented of”. Amen!!