

WEEK 8 (March 29-April 4) TRANSFORMATION, CONFESSION & REPENTANCE-

Confession is to acknowledge and admit, repentance is to turn from 1 direction to another, a 180.

OPTIONAL READING: Romans Chapters 1-4

Unless you have made a complete surrender and are doing his will it will avail you nothing if you've reformed a thousand times and have your name on fifty church records. - Billy Sunday

Day 1 Read the following scripture:

Matthew 16:13-17 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, ^[a]Elijah; but still others, ^[b]Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He *said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are ^[c]the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon ^[d]Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

We must realize that God is God and we are not. This can only be revealed to us by our Father in heaven. Everyone around us can only guess or speculate about spiritual matters but there is only one real answer and that comes from God.

Genesis 3:1-7 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from ^[a]any tree of the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" ⁴The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves ^[b]loin coverings.

Adam & Eve had a desire to be like God. We also want to be like God when we want acceptance based on our talent, looks or success. But acceptance can only truly be received in God. We can only be accepted because of what Christ has done, not anything we have done.

Things to consider: are you trying to be like God using your abilities?

Prayer: think of all the reasons God is God and you are not.

Day 2 Read the following scripture:

Luke 15:11-32 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹¹And He said, "A man had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his ^[a]wealth between them. ¹³And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. ¹⁴Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. ¹⁵So he went and ^[b]hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the ^[c]podds that the swine were eating, and no one was giving *anything* to him. ¹⁷But when he came to ^[d]his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and ^[e]in your sight; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'" ²⁰So he got up and came to ^[f]his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion *for him*, and ran and ^[g]embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; ²³and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵"Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he summoned one of the servants and *began* inquiring what these things could be. ²⁷And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and *began* pleading with him. ²⁹But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never ^[h]neglected a command of yours; and *yet* you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; ³⁰but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your ^[i]wealth with prostitutes, you killed the

fattened calf for him.’ ³¹And he said to him, ‘Son, you ³²have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and *has begun* to live, and *was* lost and has been found.’”

The older brother was trying to justify himself by his works of being obedient, but unlike the father had no love or compassion for his younger brother. The younger brother realized that he couldn’t get everything right and confessed his need for His father. He had no hope and was powerless to save himself. He came from a posture of welcoming his father into his weakness instead of denying it. This posture opens us to transformation.

Things to consider: do you realize and live like you need God?

Prayer: humbly approach God realizing you cannot live without Him because you cannot.

Day 3 Read the following scripture:

Jeremiah 3:11-13 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹¹And the LORD said to me, "Faithless Israel has proved herself more righteous than treacherous Judah. ¹²Go and proclaim these words toward the north and say, 'Return, faithless Israel,' declares the LORD; 'I will not look upon you in anger. For I am gracious,' declares the LORD; 'I will not be angry forever. ¹³'Only acknowledge your iniquity, That you have transgressed against the LORD your God And have scattered your favors to the strangers under every green tree, And you have not obeyed My voice,' declares the LORD.

Ezekiel 14:6 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁶"Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Repent and turn away from your idols and turn your faces away from all your abominations.

The prophets of the Old Testament have a theme of confession & repentance or to repent & confess. We enter the good news of life in God's kingdom by turning away and turning to God, it's being open to God. This change is not about willpower only because it cannot change the deep parts of our hearts. We need a power outside ourselves to do that-God. We must confess weakness instead of failure.

Things to consider: are you a failure or simply weak and need help from above?

Prayer: admit your weakness and need for God. Ask Him to help you overcome the sins that keep you discouraged.

Day 4 Read the following scripture:

Romans 2:4 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

We don't have to worry about repenting of sin since we can trust in God's kindness, tolerance and patience to hear and forgive us. Hallelujah!

Ephesians 5:11-14 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹¹Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even ^[a]expose them; ¹²for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. ¹³But all things become visible when they are ^[b]exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. ¹⁴For this reason ^[c]it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you."

James 5:16 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁶Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective ^[a]prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

Paul tells us to bring into light what was in darkness. James tells us to confess our sins to one another so we can be healed. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said "your sin wants to be alone with you". If it's in the dark and stays there, sin can control you. When we talk about something it lessens its grip on us, so we can help others by listening to them. We need not worry about having the answer to every problem. The simple act of sharing it sometimes is all that is needed.

Things to consider: do you confess/repent of sin by sharing them with others as God directs? Do you encourage others to do the same with you?

Prayer: share your burdens with God & others.