



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – September 13, 2009

Heart to Heart...

Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar that he needed to *"break away from your sins by doing righteousness."* (Daniel 4:27) People play a lot of games with sin. Brethren, one doesn't ease out of their sins! One doesn't make a trade-off to rid their sins. You must make a complete, instant break by repentance or else you will stay in your sins!

When one repents, they break away instantly by *"doing righteousness."* That's the proof of repentance. There has to be a whole-hearted approach to God, leaving our sins behind. It's up to us to repent! It's up to Jesus to cleanse and forgive!

Jesus gives us good insight into what happens when one repents with a sincere heart of faith. When one breaks from sin, there is this empty void in their heart where sin once dwelt. *"Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.'"*(Luke 11:24) Sin wants to return to the heart it exited from. *"And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order."*(Luke 11:25) Repentance is a cleansing. Notice the heart is swept clean and in order! *"Then it goes and takes along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man has become worse than the first."*(Luke 11:26) When one repents of their sins, there has to be something placed in the void. It's called God's word and righteousness. The void must be filled by putting God's ways in the heart. Failure to do so will lead one to a much worse situation than they originally had. For many, they turn but never do anything further so their clean house begins to take on evil and sin again. It now becomes much harder for them to turn again.

We have all seen it; people repent only to fall away again. To bring them back to repentance the second time is much more difficult. Sin has grown stronger and their heart becomes more calloused and hard. After a while, they cannot be touched by God. The Hebrew writer tells us this way: *"Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God."* (Hebrews 3:12) Think about it!!!

Brent