

Deepening The Walk

Faith Repents

(If you have questions, please feel free to contact Kelly Dixon by email kelly@ladiesforJesus.com)

*“Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall.
Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit.”
Ezekiel 18:30-31*

Repent O sinner!! Throughout the Old Testament you will see that the Lord sent His prophets on many occasions to tell the Israelite to repent of their sins if they were to draw closer to Him. The above text from Ezekiel shows us that the call was to rid themselves of the offenses they had committed and to obtain a new heart and a new spirit. Repentance is not just about asking for forgiveness of our sins, but much more. Repentance takes us further into turning away from our evil ways and adopting a new heart and spirit that the Lord desires. Therefore, to repent of our sins we must realize that we cannot overcome the sins of our lives in our own strength. As Christians, we must pull from the Holy Spirit within us to overcome. By putting this submission into practice, our faith in God is strengthened. Let's take a moment to look at how repentance is at the very core of our faith.

The Flesh and It's Fruit:

In the flesh, we do things we regret and as we try to make up for those regrets in the flesh, we fail. This is because we sometimes get the impression that we are responsible to live by godly values in our own strength. However, this is never the way God intended it to be. Let's look at what fruit the flesh produces.

According to Galatians 5:19-21, what is the typical fruit of the flesh? _____

Circle the ones that you feel the most convicted of at this very moment.

Therefore, since the fruit of the flesh is not righteous fruit, then overcoming of sin in our lives cannot be done in the flesh. We must submit to the Holy Spirit.

According to Romans 5:17, how do we obtain the gift of righteousness? _____

When we try to be holy in our own strength, we might find partial success. However, the by-products of such effort can include pride, selfishness, exhaustion, and judgmental attitudes.

When have you realized you've tried to attain righteousness on your own? _____

What were the results of your efforts to be holy? _____

The Holy Spirit and His Fruit:

In the flesh we desire control, to do things ourselves. However, when it comes to righteousness—whether for salvation or for living—we must allow God to do the work. He has equipped us at the point of salvation to be able to allow Him to do the work. Let's look at how He has equipped us and what benefits come from our submission.

According to Ephesians 1:12-14, what were Christians given as a seal to mark them as a guarantee of God's redemption? _____

According to Galatians 5:22-23, what is the fruit of the Spirit?

Take a look at Galatians 5:20 and Galatians 3:3. What do these Scriptures tell us about our faith and living for God?

Final Reflections: To experience success over specific sins in our lives, we must start by declaring victory over them each morning. Think through the pressures you are likely to feel and identify how those pressures can tempt you to sin. Item by item, thank God for the victory over sin. In doing so, you activate your faith and avoid pursuing righteousness in your own power. Remember, Christ died not only to pay your sin-debt, but also to enable your success. By daily submitting to the Holy Spirit, you can become a believer who faithfully lives according to biblical principles. Through this biblical living you will overcome the sin in your life and bear the fruit of the Spirit.

- Kelly Dixon

Your Turn to Reflect: Think of the sins in your life as a giant that you must fight. Read over the story of David and Goliath beginning with Goliath's challenge to the Israelites all the way through David's victory over Goliath. (1 Samuel 17). Write down what you observe about the following:

- David's Perspective (1 Samuel 17:26, 45-47)
- David's previous experience that gave him confidence in God. (1 Samuel 17:37)
- David's role throughout the story.
- God's role throughout the story.

Looking over each of these. How can you face the giants (sins) in your life by having the right perspective; reflecting upon your experience with the Lord; acknowledging your role and acknowledging God's role?