

If My People

A Better Offer

August 17 & 20, 2017

(2 Chronicles 7:14) "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

(Hebrews 6:1 NASB) Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God.

A Change Of Perspective

(James 4:4-5 MSG) You're cheating on God. If all you want is your own way, flirting with the world every chance you get, you end up enemies of God and his way. And do you suppose God doesn't care? The proverb has it that "he's a fiercely jealous lover." And what he gives in love is far better than anything else you'll find.

- ✓ Secret/Repetitive sin will always prohibit closeness to God.
- ✓ Repentance will not happen until we truly believe that God is offering something better.
- ✓ Repentance is an opportunity to get closer to God.

A Better Offer

(Acts 3:19 NASB) Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

(Mark 12:30) "And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength."

1. "Heart" - Commit to God 100%.

(Matthew 16:24-25 NLT) Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it."

2. "Soul" - Be intentional with relationships.

(2 Corinthians 6:14-17) Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols?

For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." Therefore "come out from them and be separate", says the Lord. "Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

(Proverbs 27:17) As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

3. "Mind" - Identify and remove damaging influences.

(Psalm 139:23-24 NLT) Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

4. "Strength" - Work hard to get closer to God.

(2 Chronicles 16:9) The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

- Belong to a local church family.

(Ephesians 2:19) "You are a member of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian."

- Develop healthy spiritual habits.

(Colossians 3:9-10 GN) You have put off the old self with its habits, and have put on the new self ... which God is continually renewing in his own image, to bring you to a full knowledge of himself.

- Live an others focused life.

(1 Peter 4:10) Each one should use whatever gift he's received to serve others...