

Day Twenty-One

"Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. "For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity." But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

Repentance in Prayer

There are at least three parts to forgiveness. The first might be said this way; the recognition that we have sinned. David recognized his sin when confronted by Nathan the prophet. ***Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." -2 Samuel 12:13a***

The next part would be to ask God for forgiveness.
Be gracious to me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Thy compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned, And done what is evil in Thy sight, So that Thou art justified when Thou dost speak, And blameless when Thou dost judge. -Psalms 51:1-4

The next part is a turning from that act and/or making up what we have offended. It might be an apology to those offended or changing the lifestyle we have led.

In the case of salvation in Acts 2, it was not enough to have been sorry, Peter tells them of repentance and the obedience of the Gospel in baptism. Their sin was against God and the only remedy was obedience to the Gospel. Notice they are not told to pray for forgiveness. They are told to Repent and be baptized, then their sins will be forgiven. ***Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. -Acts 2:38***

In the case of Simon the Sorcerer we have one who was obedient to the Gospel. ***And even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip; and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed. -Acts 8:13.*** But, he was

tempted by the power displayed by Peter in the laying on of hands. His heart was filled with envy to have such power and that envy corrupted him. The remedy? Repent and pray to God for forgiveness.

The apostle John tells us about confession for sins. ***If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. -1 John 1:9***

We are told in several places in the New Testament of Christ's place as an intercessor for our sins. ***Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. -Hebrews 7:25***

We covered in Day Three the fact that we must go to the Father through Jesus Christ. So now, our forgiveness of sins must go through the one who intercedes for us.

- ***always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; -Ephesians 5:20***
- ***Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. - Colossians 3:17***

We know if we are in a covenant relationship with God through His Son in baptism, then all that is needed when sin occurs is repentance and prayer to God for forgiveness. If our sins have offended others, then we must seek their forgiveness as well. ***Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. -Luke 19:8-9.***

Remember, if we would have God's forgiveness, we must be willing to forgive others. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. -Ephesians 4:32. bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. -Colossians 3:13

Prayerful Thoughts: Father, forgive us as we forgive others.