



Grief Over Sin

By Johnny Caruso on April 30, 2021

TODAY'S READING: 2 Corinthians 7

When someone accuses me of being wrong or tells me the truth about a character flaw, it hurts. I can react in one of two ways, with godly sorrow or worldly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:10). I feel hurt, but the question is, "Is it godly sorrow, or is it worldly sorrow?" Godly sorrow is the pain I experience when I realize something about myself that has been hidden, usually when pressure has been applied. When something wrong about me surfaces in my life, I get mad and/or defensive at first.

Have you ever had that happen to you? You were going about your life, thinking you were doing okay, when all of a sudden someone came along and exposed something unfavorable about you. Even as that person said the words, there was a stab in your heart that said, "That's right, isn't it?" You may be defensive, you may argue or you may fight back, but deep inside you know that it is true. It hurts, but if it is godly hurt, it leads to repentance. It makes you change. You alter your behavior.

I remember when I was a young believer I had a very poor self-image and I was dependent upon the way people thought about me. If they did not say nice things and treat me well, I would get upset. I had my moment of truth one day when I was talking to one of the pastors in our church, Jake Self. In the conversation he said something that hit me in the heart. He said, "I've learned that sensitivity is nothing but selfishness." I did not want to admit it, but I knew he was right. I knew what I really wanted was to be the center of attention and have everybody make a big deal about me.

The next time somebody said something that bothered me, I decided to act on the what Pastor Jake said and thought, "That's not his fault. He didn't intend to say something offensive." If what they said was true (and most the time it is) I would deal with it. That does not mean it still did not hurt, but I began to feel a sense of freedom because I knew God was dealing with an area of my life that needed change. I was freed. I will never forget the sense of freedom when I acknowledged the truth about myself that somebody had spoken to me. Godly sorrow acknowledges the truth and changes its behavior, and that in turn leads to a sense of freedom and deliverance.

PRAYER: Lord, help me know when you are dealing with me about something that needs to be taken care of in my life and rejoice that you are not finished with me yet.

TOMORROW'S READING: Weekend is for catch-up and review.

MONDAY'S READING: 2 Corinthians 8

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