



True Forgiveness

By Terry Kountz on May 11, 2021

TODAY'S READING: Mark 1

I was scrolling through Twitter the other day and a tweet caught my attention. It said, "If you are asking someone for forgiveness without the intent of not doing whatever you did to offend again, you are just asking for no consequences. Not forgiveness."

Intent matters. There is a difference between wanting to repent of sin and actually doing it. In Mark 1:4, John proclaims "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." In Mark 1:15, Jesus says, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Confession is admitting our sin; repentance is turning from sin. Confession is part of repentance, but changed behavior shows our true intent. When we ask Jesus into our lives, we receive the Holy Spirit, who helps us change and repent of our sin. The Holy Spirit guides us by prompting us when our relationship with God or other people needs correction. The Holy Spirit will always give us the guidance and ability we need to take our next step. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can say no to temptation and turn from our sin.

Is there anything you have been talking about doing and you need to take action? Is there a sin you are constantly confessing but never beating? What step do you need to take today to move from wanting to change to making a change?

PRAYER: Lord, help me identify sin in my life and turn completely from it. Help me be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings about sin. Help me forgive others as You have forgiven me.

TOMORROW'S READING: Mark 2

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