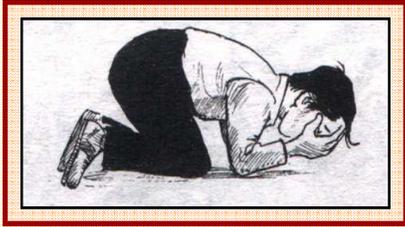


# Godly Sorrow

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In Paul's second epistle to the Corinthian believers, he revealed unto them two kinds of sorrow: **godly sorrow**, and **the sorrow of the world**. "**For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death**" (2 COR. 7:10).

Before becoming a Christian, "**godly sorrow**," in every instance, precedes repentance, just as "**repentance**" precedes salvation. There can be no repentance without a "**godly sorrow**" for sins committed. Only **believing** the Word of God produces "**godly sorrow**."

The Word of God declares that mankind is **guilty** of "evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, lying, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, pride, and foolishness," of which all that do them "...**shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone**" (REV. 21:8).

Do you remember a time when you had a "**broken heart**" before God because of **your** sins? God **commands** it, and without **repenting** to God with "**godly sorrow**" for your sins, you **WILL** perish.

The **self-righteous** religious leaders asked Jesus' disciples, "...**Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and LEARN what that meaneth, I will have MERCY, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance**" (MATTHEW 9:11-13).

When someone asks for "**mercy**," they usually **plead** for it. Have you ever **pleaded** for God's mercy? If you did, it was because you **believed** that **without it**, you would go to **HELL** where **ALL unbelievers** go.

The sacrifices of God are not "**good works**," but "...**a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart**" (PSALM 51:17). Not as Cain, who offered the fruit of his **own** labor, but to be in obedience to what God

requires, which is a **repentant heart** that is filled with "**godly sorrow**" for being a sinner.

Read about others who **sorrowed**:

**The Publican:** "**And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner**" (LUKE 18:13).

**The Jews on the day of Pentecost:** "**Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do**" (ACTS 2:37-41)?

**The Jailer:** "**Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house**" (ACTS 16:29-31).

**The People at the Baptism of John:** "**Then went out to him [JOHN] Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, and were baptized of him in Jordan, CONFESSING THEIR SINS.**"

**But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees** come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, **WHO HATH WARNED YOU to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for REPENTANCE**" (MATTHEW 3:5-8).

...and least of all, **ME:** While on my way to work, and searching my car radio for some good music, I heard these words: "**But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, AND ALL LIARS, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death**" (REV. 21:8). In the parking lot, I bowed my head on my steering wheel and prayed, "**God, I'm sorry. Please save me.**" And by faith, He did!

**What about you?** You've heard the "**warning**" in these words. Will you be as the people who came to John's baptism, **confessing their sins**? Or will you be as the religious "**self-righteous**" leaders who refused to **heed** God's warning? "**I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins**" (JOHN 8:24).

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