
Words of Truth

Your Past Sins Are Not Insurmountable

By: Brian A. Yeager

Can you overcome your past? Can I overcome my past? Many, who proclaim to be the children of God today, have a past wherein we were the children of the devil. This is not unique to me or to you (I Corinthians 6:9-11, Ephesians 2:1-3, Colossians 1:21, Titus 3:3, and I Peter 4:1-5). Whose child you are is decided by what you do (I John 3:1-10). Many of us have done things that certainly put and kept us in Satan's family rather than God's family. For us who have a true conscience and sincere desire to please God, those things we have done in the past are hard to forget. If this is something you combat, you're not alone (I Corinthians 15:8-10).

When an honest person realizes the errors of his or her ways and desires to truly repent, that honest person hates himself or herself (Job 42:1-6). We also get to a point of sorrow. That sorrow leads us to repentance (II Corinthians 7:9-10). That being said, if we allow the sorrow to continue in us long term that sorrow can swallow us up (II Corinthians 2:1-10).

To get beyond our feelings concerning our past sins, we need to remember what the death of Jesus was all about. Consider the inspired Apostle Paul's words: *"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting"* (I Timothy 1:12-16).

What we are going to study, and have already began to uncover, is that you can get beyond your sinful past. We can, with forward thinking, press on (Philippians 3:4-21). Jesus did not die for us to have our sins washed away so that we would allow those past sins to permanently stain our souls (Hebrews 9:11-14, I Peter 1:18-19, and Revelation 1:5-6). We are able to repent and be converted (Acts 3:19). That means we are capable of going from being in the kingdom of Satan to being in the kingdom of our Lord (Acts 26:18-20 and Colossians 1:12-14). Let's think about what Jesus did to empower us to be capable of overcoming our sinful pasts.

Consider What Jesus Came Into This World To Do

Under the Law of Moses, sins were remembered annually (Leviticus 16:1-34). Jesus' death brought about the end of the remembrance of sins (Hebrews 10:1-22). Jesus came into this world to take away sins (John 1:29). Don't forget that. Don't hold on to the guilt of sin. Jesus sacrificed

Himself so that God would remember our sins no more (Hebrews 8:1-13). Why are you holding onto things that God is willing to forget?

Sometimes the guilt of sin has us thinking we are unworthy of forgiveness. Ask yourself, did Jesus come to die for people that were already perfect? If you think so, consider this context: *“And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me. And he left all, rose up, and followed him. And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them. But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners? And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:27-32).*

I did not come to Jesus because I was already righteous. I came to Jesus to become righteous. How about you? Are you like the Pharisee that Jesus spoke of that was not justified because of His proud, self-righteous attitude (Luke 18:9-14)? If you recognize the work of Christ in your conversion (II Corinthians 5:21), you should have the same mindset towards your conversion as the rest of us do. You should be very thankful that you’ve been made a new person in Christ Jesus. Think about that. The old sinful person is – DEAD.

Think About What It Means To Have Newness Of Life

When properly taught and converted to Christ, you are immersed in water and rise to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:1-6). You are spiritually reborn (John 3:1-5). You are a new creature as the old things are passed away and all things are become new (II Corinthians 5:17). Now that, by the grace of God you have been saved, you are expected by the Lord to walk in good works (Ephesians 2:1-10). You should walk, talk, think, and act like a new person (Ephesians 4:17-32).

You’re not a sinner anymore. You have nothing to feel guilty about. You are now a child of the living God (Galatians 3:26-29). Consider what that means for a moment. Think on this particular Scripture: *“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together”* (Romans 8:17). As a joint-heir with Christ, a child of God, how could you possibly think of yourself as a sinner?

Don’t ruin the new life you have been given in Christ by not letting go of the memory of the old life. If you’ve been properly converted, you have been made just in Christ Jesus and should be looking forward to eternal life (Titus 3:7) rather than backward on your past sins.

Conclusion

We have seen that we can do more than get over our past sins. As new creatures in Christ entirely, we have to humbly reinvent ourselves (Romans 12:1-3). Part of that work belongs to Jesus (Colossians 1:21-22). However, part of the work of you becoming a new person belongs to you (Colossians 3:1-17). Don’t allow the memories of who you were keep you from living as the person you have become!