
Words of Truth

If You Begin Looking Favorably Upon Your Sinful Past

By: Brian A. Yeager

Have you ever heard a supposed believer talk about his or her sinful past in a favorable way? I can recall numerous discussions with supposed believers who ultimately ended up falling away (if they were ever really converted to begin with) wherein such occurred. One discussion I recall was with a supposed Christian who talked about his past drug usage. As the discussion progressed I told him that it seemed to me as though he thought of "being high" in a favorable way. In fact, the direction the discussion had taken was this supposed brother actually boasting about his past drug usage and he gloried in the sinful things he did while "being high".

Before our conversion into Christ, we had to repent of our sins (Acts 3:19). That means that the actions we formerly took in the world were to be set behind us (II Timothy 2:19). When properly converted, one has turned away from sinful actions and has done works that show that real change has occurred (Acts 26:18-20). Grace teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lust, not to revel in them (Titus 2:11-14).

If you begin looking favorably upon your sinful past you need to question your conversion. You need to ask yourself why you don't abhor the sinful person you once were (Job 42:1-6, Ezekiel 20:43, and Romans 12:9), while you lived according to the rules of this world (Ephesians 2:2-3). When you were converted, did you really become someone new?

Consider What The Word Of God Shows Us About Becoming New People In Christ

Once converted (Matthew 18:3) and having been born into Christ (John 3:1-5, Romans 6:1-6, and Galatians 3:26-29), we [faithful saints] became new creatures (II Corinthians 5:17). If you read the references I cited, you know becoming new creatures means that the old things are passed away. This was not a magical process that occurred when your sins were washed away in water baptism. Once again, let me remind you that your conversion included repentance that precedes baptism (Acts 2:38). That is when you did the changing that is required to be a true disciple of Christ. The Lord's part was to have your sins washed away (Revelation 1:5). Your part was to change how you thought and acted.

To understand our part in the changes of our thoughts and actions, consider what Paul penned concerning these very things: *"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members*

which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (Colossians 3:1-17).

Whether it be the words above, or other similar contexts (i.e. Ephesians 4:17-29), we see that Christians are expected to be people who have changed. You should not be the “old you”. You should be a new person. You should be a different person. People that knew the old you should be able to see the changes in the new you (I Peter 4:1-5). You should not be seeking to go back to who you used to be, but rather pressing forward in growth to who you have become. If you find yourself missing your sinful past, what does that tell you?

If You Miss Being Sinful

Individuals, such as Demas (II Timothy 4:10), miss the world they should have left behind. Some, who were never really converted, end up turning back to the world (I John 2:18-19). You cannot love the Lord and being worldly at the same time (Matthew 6:24 and I John 2:15-17). If carnal thinking hasn't been purged in a person, they are SURELY going to fall away at some point (Luke 8:1-15). The fact is, a carnally minded person CANNOT please God (Romans 8:5-8). So, whether a person will sit in a seat on Sunday and have their heart towards the world or that person walks away physically from all things spiritual, he or she is NOT really a person that has been converted to Christ. If you miss being sinful, being worldly; what does that mean of you?

Conclusion

It is very difficult to be saved and continue the course unto eternal life (I Peter 4:17-19). Few are capable of the task of being faithful followers of Jesus Christ (Luke 13:23-24). Don't complicate an already difficult task by looking back at the world you left behind with a desire to have those things again. Consider these inspired words as our conclusion in this study: *“What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:21-23).*