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ONE NATION UNDER GOD Devotional

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Psalm 33:12



Revive My Heart

And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, "If you are returning to the Lord with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your heart to the Lord and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines." So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and they served the Lord only.

1 Samuel 7:3-4

Reflections

Periodically it is necessary for every believer to enter seasons of repentance. Repentance is not only restricted to when our relationship with the Lord began but it is a spiritual discipline that should be part of our spiritual life. Asking the Lord to revive our heart is really the journey of repentance. Our world is full of distractions causing our hearts and focus to drift. Seasons of repentance are key to remove ourselves from the

Challenge

The spiritual discipline of repentance refocuses my heart and changes the direction of my destiny.

For Discussion

distractions and refocus our heart's attention on the Lord. Samuel gives the two phases of repentance in the verse above. To revive my heart the first phase is to return to the Lord. Meaning that we recognize the fervency of our heart has drifted and we are making a commitment to place the Lord back in His rightful place on the throne of our hearts. In the tides of our culture all of our hearts drift and get distracted and the solution is always the same source as when we first believed. Returning to the Lord is not admitting we have left His grace but recognizing my heart's focus is not where it should be. The second phase of repentance is then to turn away from the distraction. In Israel's case they consistently struggled with pagan worship and that might be hard to identify or apply in our hearts. However, there might be sin, paradigms, attitudes, unforgiveness, and other things that we need to leave behind. Repentance can often be framed as simply saying, "I am sorry." Truthfully, we can say "sorry" with our words and never change our actions. Turning away means that I make a change in the position of my heart that in turn changes my actions. Notice, for Israel repentance was not complete until they "put away" the distractions. The full cycle of repentance repositions my heart to fulfill God's desire in our lives. At the completion of the cycle of repentance our hearts are revived and our focus is clear.

Prayer

Lord, forgive us for losing our focus on you and your desires for our lives. We return our hope, trust, and confidence back to you. Revive our hearts as we search after you and place you back on the throne of our hearts. Where has my heart lost focus on the Lord?

What do I need to "put away"?

Need picture of you

Tim Petty, Pastor Crossing Place

mycrossingplace.com

Change our attitudes, paradigms, and pursuits that have taken us off course from you. Hear our prayer and revive our first love for you and help us influence others for you. Amen

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