



The Christian Solution  
for Addictions:  
Jesus!

## "Ten Attitudes of Victorious Living"

Lessons Developed by Pastor Rick McClung



### ATTITUDE 2 - Repentance

Watch Video: <http://www.tmewcf.org/video.html>

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

I believe that Jesus can and will create  
in me a new way of life.

**Repentance** is the regret and reluctance that arises in a person when he has done something that he ought not to have done. When Judas saw that Christ was condemned, it is said of him that he repented of what he had done (**Matthew 27:3**). He was extremely afflicted in his mind about his betrayal and wished it had not been done. But this repentance arises from a fear of punishment—condemnation for sin—and is not accompanied with the grieving of the sin itself. The same happens when a person suffers for his offences. He reflects upon his actions with sorrow, but still has a great love for the sin as he had before the offence was committed. He may be sorry for what he did because it has caused his punishment, and yet not be grieved that he has offended God.

**Biblical Repentance** is from the saving grace wrought in a person by the Spirit of God, whereby a sinner is made aware of his sin, is grieved and humble before God on account of it. He is not grieved over the punishment to which the sin has made him accountable—he grieves because he has dishonored and offended God. This grief arises from a growing love for God, and is accompanied with a hatred to sin and a fixed resolution to forsake sin—followed by an expectation of favor and forgiveness through the merits of Christ. This is Gospel repentance!

**Hosea 5:15 — "I will go and return to My place,  
till they acknowledge their offence, and seek My face:  
in their affliction they will seek Me early."**

Hosea was the first of all the writing prophets. He was in the group of prophets described as the Minor Prophets—not because their writings were of any less authority or usefulness, but because their writings were shorter in length than the others. We have reason to think that these prophets preached as much as others but simply wrote less.

It is said by the Jews that Hosea prophesied nearly 90 years. With a broken heart, he prophesied the exile of Israel and their restoration when a then chastened people would again acknowledge the select claims of the Lord.

**Hosea 3:5 — Afterward shall the children of Israel return,  
and seek the LORD their God, and David their king;  
and shall fear the LORD and His goodness in the latter days.**

Hosea also saw the hand of God in his marriage which from a human point of view was marked by tragedy. With high hopes, Hosea married Gomer knowing that she was a harlot and a temple prostitute, only to learn of her tendency toward adultery. Separation followed and chapter 2:2 speaks of their divorce. Still Hosea's love persisted and subsequently he remarried her. All of this parallels God's dealings with Israel. After vowing faithfulness to the Lord, Israel went lusting after others gods of Canaan until God brought about a temporary rejection.

There are similarities in our lives as well with regard to this story. It is certain that there are some here who have been closer to God than you are today because of your wandering away from God. It is also certain that there are some here who have experienced the heavy hand of the Lord in the past when you have wandered from Him. You are continuing to learn from the rebellion of the past in order that you might not repeat it now or in the future.

Whatever the case, we would all agree that we are as the old hymn says, "prone to wander". **Hosea 5:15** gives us a vivid picture of our rebellion from God's perspective and His position during such a time.

**Hosea 5:15 - "I will go and return to My place,  
till they acknowledge their offence,  
and seek My face:  
in their affliction they will seek Me early."**

**1. A time when God waits.**

**"I will go and return (turn back) to my place..."**

No one can predict the day or the time when God does what He is describing, but we do know by the authority of His word He will do this... **"He will go and return to His place."** He will leave us to ourselves until He sees and knows our correct response. When God comes out of His place He does so to punish sinners and it appears that when **"He returns to His place,"** He awaits to be gracious and merciful in response to our submission.

**Isaiah 26:21 — "For, behold, the LORD cometh  
out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth  
for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood,  
and shall no more cover her slain."**

NOTES

[It is a very dangerous place when we can see our sickness and pain in the time of trouble, but do not see the sin that caused of it. If we refuse to acknowledge our sin, we are left to ourselves in order that God may reach His sovereign objective. Do not misunderstand — God will never leave us in this state.]

**2. A time when we come clean.**

**"I will go and return (turn back) to My place till they acknowledge their offence (wrong doing, trespass)..."**

We can run as long as we want or we can run as long as we can, but there will be a time for everyone to stop running. The time that we stop running will either be determined by us or by God. Stopping for the Christian is not only stopping what we do, but most importantly, stopping how we are and who we are. Where does it start?

**ACKNOWLEDGE** — admit, accept, recognize, concede — to admit or accept that something exists, is true, or is real.

**Psalms 51:3,4b — "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me... <sup>4b</sup>Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight."**

**Joshua 7:20 — And Achan answered Joshua, and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done."**

**1 Samuel 15:24 — And Saul said unto Samuel, "I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice."**

**2 Samuel 12:13 — And David said unto Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, "The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die."**

**2 Samuel 24:10 — And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.**

**Psalm 41:4 — I said, "LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against Thee."**

#### 4 ~ ATTITUDE 2 ~ Repentance

NOTES

There will never be a beginning, or a new beginning, until we first come to the place where we are honest with God and admit that we have sinned against Him. That can be — and always will be — a beautiful beginning.

It does not always mean that everything will go away instantly with regard to some of the fallout that our rebellion may have caused, but it will be the time when we are back in right standing with the Lord. He is then willing to work in our lives in order that we might begin and continue to move forward.

#### 3. A time when we get active.

**"I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek (to search out by any method, specifically by worship and prayer) My face" ...**

The Christian needs to be careful of seeking God only in the experiences of life. When we are sensitive to the activity of God in our lives, there is no doubt that we will see Him in our daily experiences. However, the primary way for us to seek God is in His word, through worship and through prayer.

Seeking Him in His word will help us to see Him correctly in our daily lives. The absence of the knowledge of God can lead to ignorance concerning the activity of God.

**Psalms 27:8 - When thou saidst, "Seek ye My face:"  
my heart said unto thee, "Thy face, LORD, will I seek."**

**What have you learned about God this past week?  
This past month?**

#### 4. A time when we give in.

**"I will go and return to My place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek My face: in their affliction (a tight place, trouble, anguish, distress) they will seek Me early."**

**2 Chronicles 15:4 - "But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found of them."**

**Psalms 9:9 - "The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge (secure place) in times of trouble."**

**Psalms 37:39 - "But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: He is their strength in the time of trouble."**

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**Psalm 46:1 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.**

**They will seek Me Early** - Seek Him before the trouble starts, because we do not always know when that will be. Can there be a better time to seek the Lord than early? Many of us have been guilty of waiting much longer than we should have. There is not a bad time to call upon the Lord, but there are (we might say) better times.

An early time might be the time when I am being tempted by the sin prior to giving into the sin that will produce trouble for me.

We must do all that we can to avoid making God our last option, and always keep Him in the place of our first option.

One thing God does and three things we do.

- A time when God waits.
- A time when we come clean.
- A time when we get active.
- A time when we give in.

**Does He have your attention?  
Have you turned to Him?**

