



Relationship w/Jesus

ARTICLE

Regrets

intentional

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1917 Standard Home & School Dictionary:

grief, soreness or pain of mind at something done or undone; pain of conscience for some fault; remorse; penitence, -- to be sorry for; to grieve at; to lament; to bewail; to mourn for.

1962 Webster's Home & School Dictionary:

mental sorrow or concern for anything, as for past conduct or negligence; remorse; to remember with sorrow; bewail the loss or want of.

In a Christian's life, regrets seem to mount up higher than mistakes. Why is it that we are tricked into regrets, especially in our later years? More time to think about it perhaps?

Regrets seem to be daunting and pushy. Regrets are weighty and cumbersome. They don't produce any advantage in life. They are only a means in which the enemy will attack and keep the righteous subdued under a camouflaged bondage.

Does your thoughts begin with: "I wish I would have said this; I wish I wouldn't have said that; I should have done this; I really shouldn't have done that?" Mine do.

What's funny is that we are made up from multiple choices every day. A day doesn't exist in which you never make a choice. Deciding on whether you should or should not make a choice is a choice. Choices have consequences. Here lie the regrets. They evolve through the choices we make.

When I am at the grocery store and I need to be in a line for the checkout. There is a decision that needs to be made, and I go through a process: Do I go to the first line I come to? Do I find the line with the least amount of people. Do I find the best checkout clerk? Do I pick the favorable checkout lane number? And when in line, do I move out of that line for a line that seems to have fewer people? Do I have the time to wait with the slow line?

Yeah, I usually am in a line that is slow. But, if I change lanes, I will definitely be in a line that is slower. Yep, that's my life. So I usually do self-checkout. I look for that green light and I am at my leisure. Why? Because choosing self-checkout was my choice. No regrets.



Well, there is much more to regrets than going to the grocery store. Big regrets are resulted from big choices gone wrong. Purchasing a car or a house could lead to big regrets. Unfavorable marriage or unwanted divorce could lead to big regrets. Hurting someone's feelings should be a big regret, if it isn't already.

Smaller regrets sometimes can be mended, especially those involving a simple apology.

Regrets: Saying something stupid(this one is mine). Sometimes I say something stupid and then I regret that I even spoke.

What really gets me is when I say something stupid and hurt someone's feelings. When I know that has happened, instantly there's a compelling within me and I must apologize immediately, if not sooner.

Saying, "I'm Sorry" isn't that hard for me to do. I own up to it. I own my wrongs; when I know I am in the wrong. As soon as I've made the mistake, I am apologizing to those who need to hear it. However, If I come to the realization later that I may have offended someone, I do apologize when I can get the chance. Because I do feel bad; and that feeling doesn't go away until I make amends.

The regrets that have plagued me lately are those that I drudged up from the deep past. Now, I know I cannot change the past. I know just by thinking about these regrets they will not heal-over themselves.

In Matthew 6:27 it says,

"Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?"

This scripture can be interpreted to instruct the reader not to worry, or not to regret. It plainly says; you cannot add one inch to your height just by thinking about it. It's impossible. So why waste your time? Why use up your precious time with it? It also causes frustration because of the impossibility of the whole matter. You cannot change it. Regrets are just worries in reverse.

What would the enemy of a Christian want for them to dwell their time on? Regrets. What should we be doing with the past? Remember the blessings of God and His instruction and stop regretting. Don't let them mess with you.

Most regrets I have are about the things that I couldn't have done anything about anyway. I couldn't stop gossip and rumors. I couldn't stop the bullies and abusers. Neither could King



David, and he also feared for his life.

In Psalm 64: 1-3:

"(To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.) Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy. ²Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity: ³Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words:"

We are all in the people business. If you don't like people, then you probably won't make a good Christian. We need to stay on the side of mercy and grace, just like our heavenly Father does for us.

Hebrews 4:16

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Furthermore; If a brother is at fault, go to him in love. And don't cast him away as a backslider; just because a brother doesn't show up to the family meal, doesn't mean he is no longer your brother. For you are not the almighty Judge; God is. In this scripture we are supposed to note the man who is not obedient, not gossip about them. Do not share their misfortune with anyone. Ignore all the rumors and character assignments. Do not rejoice when life is treating them hard. Be compassionate and kind.

2 Thessalonians 3:13-15

13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. 14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. 15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

Years ago a brother in the Lord made a huge mistake that made the news. One of his own relatives talked to me about him, but instead of joining in the conversation, I spoke that it was a sad day, that this person was my brother in the Lord and I am very sorry for him.

When I got home my husband laughed at this brother's calamity. I didn't join in with my husband, I refused to entertain his notions. I was very sorrowful at the fall of a brother and I asked my husband to keep his thoughts to himself. (I didn't regret my choices during this time, I would hope that this relative and my husband did.)

No, I didn't say that this brother did was right in the eyes of the Lord, but I did note him.



The wise in the church noted this brother long before his latest fall. We need to pray for one another and not hope that they will fall, and not hold his mistake against him. (Gossip) I'm sure he regretted his decisions.

Proverbs 16:18

"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

God is for us, He fights for us. God is not waiting for us to fail, but for us to arise after that we've fallen. We must repent every day. Sometimes we don't even realize what mess we leave in our wake. (Regrets) God's mercies are new every day. If God shows us mercy shouldn't we also show mercy to our fellowman?

Lamentations 3:22-23

*"22 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.
23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."*

Because God's grace is free, we show godly grace for our neighbors.

Romans 3:24

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:"

Don't regret. Take on God's mercies every day. Be wise, make good choices, have mercy and grace for yourself, become victorious. Choose to be kind and not mean. Choose to give than to be stingy. Choose to reach out and lend a helping hand. Choose to love your church building and take care of it. Choose to love the church body and assume the best and not the worse. Don't be willing to take an accusation against a person's character.

Love our fellow brethren. Choose Jesus and the Fruit of the Spirit; you will not regret it.

