

From Sin to Spirit – Part 1

Hebrews 4:1 Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.

Hebrews 4:2 For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.

Romans 8:1 (Revised/Corrected Translation)
Therefore there is now no punishment (discipline) for those who are in Christ Jesus who walk not according to *the* flesh but according to *the* (Holy) Spirit. (The long version)

Punishment. Using the long version of Romans 8:1 we are faced with the issue of divine discipline for the believer. The word used for punishment is not the word for judgment but the word that identifies the result of judgment, the sentence that is carried out. Punishment/Discipline.

We must immediately separate the punishment of sin that Jesus bore on the cross from the divine discipline on the believer in time.

Jesus suffered spiritual death as punishment for our sins. Several passages in the New Testament relate Jesus' sacrifice to the Levitical

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sacrifices through the use of the word propitiation and other words. The emphasis is not on the punishment aspect of the cross but on the results.

1 John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

John says the same thing as Paul using a different vocabulary and from a different perspective. Avoid sin.

1 John 2:2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world.*

1 Peter 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

1 Peter 2:22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;

1 Peter 2:23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

1 Peter 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to

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sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Peter is saying the same thing as Paul and John. Avoid sin.

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

The “so that” has been underlined to identify purpose in Jesus’ suffering on the cross. “So that you may not sin,” “so that we might die to sin,” “so that we might become of the righteousness of God.” So that is “hina” in Greek. That one word is a pointer. Don’t miss it. Jesus died on the cross, not just for justification but as a pathway forward “so that” we might glorify God and have an abundant life in the process.

But, there is suffering for the believer that remains out of fellowship.

Hebrews 12:4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;

Hebrews 12:5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, “MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;

Hebrews 12:6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”

Hebrews 12:7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline?

Hebrews 12:8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

Hebrews 12:9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

Hebrews 12:10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He *disciplines us for our good*, so that we may share His holiness.

Share His holiness. He is talking about fellowship with God. Holiness is a separation from and and a separation to. In this case, we are separated to God away from the world. We have fellowship with God.

Hebrews 12:11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

The writer of Hebrews quotes from the Old Testament, Proverbs, bringing over principles to the New Testament. Divine discipline is universal throughout history. It can be imposed on the believer in

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different ways. It is meant to cause the believer to return to faith. In the New Testament, this is faith dependence on the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 66:18 If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear;

But, as taught last week, we are not to sin, avoid sin. We have a mandate to not sin but to walk in the light. Sin separates us from the fellowship of God.

Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?

Romans 6:2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

So then, how are we to make the transition from sinning to walking by faith. The easy answer is faith. Let us look at an example from the Old Testament, David to see how he expressed that faith in his return.

2 Samuel 12:1 Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and said, “There were two men in one city, the one rich and the other poor.

2 Samuel 12:2 “The rich man had a great many flocks and herds.

2 Samuel 12:3 “But the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb Which he bought and nourished; And it grew up together with him and his children. It would eat of his bread

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and drink of his cup and lie in his bosom, And was like a daughter to him.

2 Samuel 12:4 “Now a traveler came to the rich man, And he was unwilling to take from his own flock or his own herd, To prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him; Rather he took the poor man’s ewe lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.”

In case you missed the violence in this verse, the rich man slaughtered the ewe lamb, skinned it and cooked it. Let me put this in a context you might better understand. What if you had a beloved dog. Now a rich man came and took that dog and butchered it and ate it. Ouch! That hurts.

2 Samuel 12:5 Then David’s anger burned greatly against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, surely the man who has done this deserves to die.

David has just past judgment on himself.

2 Samuel 12:6 He must make restitution for the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and had no compassion.”

2 Samuel 12:7 Nathan then said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel, ‘It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul.

2 Samuel 12:8 I also gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your care,

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and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah;
and if *that had been* too little, I would have
added to you many more things like these!

2 Samuel 12:9 Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon.

Any and all sins we engage in are a violation of the word of God. In many translations, “the LORD” is a translation of the name of God, “Yahweh” or in older translations, “Jehovah.”

2 Samuel 12:10 Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’

2 Samuel 12:11 Thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes and give *them* to your companion, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight.

2 Samuel 12:12 Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun.’”

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God emphasized to David through Nathan that He the Lord gave everything to David.

2 Samuel 12:13 Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.

While David was on the road to the sin unto death, he returned to God by acknowledging his sin. Then Nathan said he would not experience the sin unto death. But that did not remove suffering as a result of his sins. As a Christian, if you rob a bank, you should suffer the human legal punishment as a result. Even if you acknowledge your guilt.

2 Samuel 12:14 However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die.”

2 Samuel 12:15 So Nathan went to his house.

Despite all the blessings God bestowed upon David, he sinned by “despising the Word of the Lord.” All the sins he did were the result of violating God’s commandments in the Scriptures, especially the Torah.

The key sentence in this narrative that applies to our lesson is “I have sinned against the Lord.” David acknowledged his sin. He didn’t name the sin. He just acknowledged it. We have some commands in the New Testament that are similar.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 11, some of the Corinthians were participating in the communion while out of fellowship. They had not made the transition from sinning to “faith-ing.”

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1 Corinthians 11:27 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 11:28 But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

You may have been in status quo sin, out of fellowship, and need to recognize that.

1 Corinthians 11:29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly.

1 Corinthians 11:30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep (i.e. died).

1 Corinthians 11:31 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged.

1 Corinthians 11:32 But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

David, in the 2 Samuel narrative had judged himself via the story Nathan had told him. We hear his judgment, “That man should die.” So David was very near the sin unto death.

2 Samuel 12:5 Then David’s anger burned greatly against the man, and he said to

Nathan, “As the LORD lives, surely the man who has done this deserves to die.

As soon as Nathan said, “You are the man” David realized his situation. He was out of fellowship. He had despised the Word of the Lord.

2 Samuel 12:9 Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon.

This is similar to the accusation against Saul.

1 Samuel 15:24 Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned; I have indeed transgressed the command of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and listened to their voice.

1 Samuel 15:25 Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me, that I may worship the Lord.”

1 Samuel 15:26 But Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.”

Saul acknowledged his sin to Samuel verbally. His communication to God was broken because of his hostility towards the Word of God. Saul does not acknowledge his sin to God. Samuel identifies this when he

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said, “...you have rejected the word of the Lord.” You may have seen a TV show in which someone wants an apology from a second person. The second person then abruptly says, “I apologize. Can we move on now.” He didn’t really apologize from the heart. It was just some words to get the other guy off his back.

**Psalm 32:5 I acknowledged my sin to You,
And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, “I will
confess my transgressions to the LORD”;
And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah.**

Acknowledged my sin. The verb means to know in the Qal stem. However this is in the Hiphil stem which is causative. I made known my sin. In other words, I acknowledged my sin.

This brings up the logic of acknowledging sin. Take a situation in church, during the communion service. The Corinthians were told they were to examine themselves so they did not eat and drink the communion in an unworthy manner. You examine yourself to ensure you are not in a mental attitude sin. What happens when you discover that you are like Paul and coveting something someone else has. That is a sin. You identify it in faith. You rely on passages like 1 Corinthians 11 to change your thinking. From thought that is sinful to thought that is captured for Christ.

**2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the
flesh, we do not war according to the flesh,**

**2 Corinthians 10:4 for the weapons of our
warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely
powerful for the destruction of fortresses.**

2 Corinthians 10:5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

2 Corinthians 10:6 and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

If you are aware of sin, you have already identified it. If you stay in that sin, you are still in status quo sin. If you agree with God that the sin is wrong, you must return to faith dependence on the Holy Spirit. You can do this through promises.

Psalm 37:3 Trust in the LORD and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.

Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.

Psalm 37:6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light And your judgment as the noonday.

Let us listen to the conclusion of L. S. Chafer's book, *He That Is Spiritual*.

<https://lewisperrychafer.org/Spirituality.pdf>

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The following quote is from the website identifying the book as in the public domain.

“The purpose of this web site is to ensure that of all of Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer's material that is in the public domain is available and easily found free of charge.”

Here is what I consider the heart of his message:

“We are dealing always with our Father. Too often the walk in the Spirit is thought to be a mechanical thing. We are not dealing with a machine: we are dealing with the most loving and tender-hearted Father in all the universe. The deepest secret of our walk is just to *know Him*, and so to believe in His Father-heart that we can cry out our failures on His loving breast, if need be, or speak plainly to Him in thanksgiving for every victory. When we know the consolation and relief of such communion we shall have less occasion to trouble anyone else. It is ours to tell Him just what we feel, just how bad we are at heart, and even our darkest unbelief. To do this only opens our hearts in Him for His blessed light and strength.”

“Separation from close-up communion is the first thing that we should fear, and the "first aid" in every spiritual accident is the simple act of telling Him everything. Having made our confession, we should reckon our forgiveness and restoration fully accomplished and immediately take our place in His fellowship and grace.”