

From Sin to Spirit – Part 5

This week we will cover some additional items in the transition from sin to spirituality. This lesson contains extended quotes from L. S. Chafer's book *He That is Spiritual*. It is in the public domain¹. At the end I will summarize some points for this lesson.

Fourth, Chastisement is the Father's Correction and Training of his Sinning Child (Hebrews 12:3-15)

“The central passage in the Bible on chastisement is found in Hebrews 12:3-15 and should be included as one of the major passages upon the cure of the effect of sin in a Christian's life. By this Scripture we understand that chastisement is the Father's correction of every child; for He has said, "whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth," and, in chastisement, "God dealeth with you as with sons." Such correction as is accomplished by chastisement has in view "that we might be partakers of his holiness." Chastisement is more than correction and punishment. The meaning of the word includes training and development. It therefore may be administered by the Father for the teaching, refining and training of the child.”

“Light is given us in God's revelation as to what general form His chastisement may take. It is reasonable to conclude that the Father deals individually with His children and that His ways are manifold.”

“In 1 Corinthians 11:30 we read concerning the judgments of the Father because of sin in His children: "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep." Weakness, sickliness and even death may then be included within those means which the Father may employ with His unyielding child.”

¹ <https://lewissperrychafer.org/Spirituality.pdf>,

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“It must not be concluded that all weakness, sickness and death among believers is a chastisement from God. The passage teaches that chastisement may take these particular forms.”

“In John 15:1-17 there is teaching concerning the importance of abiding in Christ. This is but another term meaning the life of true spirituality. In this Scripture some of the results of not abiding in Christ are disclosed. The branch that does not bear fruit is lifted up out of its place. It does not cease to be a branch; but is evidently taken from this relationship to be "with the Lord." This statement corresponds with the statement that "many sleep." Failure to abide in Christ results, also, in loss of effectiveness in prayer, loss of power in fruitbearing and service, and loss of joy and fellowship in the Lord.”

“The very weight of the hand of God may be exceedingly heavy. David describes his experience when he "kept silence," or refused to acknowledge his sin: "When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and my iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. For this shall everyone that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found" (Psalm 32:3-6).”

“The weight of the hand of God is like an unceasing ache of the soul. It is none other than a grieved Spirit; but His loving hand may be still heavier in correction if we fail to say as did David: "I acknowledge my sin unto thee."²”

We must be ever mindful that someone else’s suffering may be for blessing and not the result of sin. Don’t judge like Job’s friends.

² <https://lewissperrychafer.org/Spirituality.pdf>, Chafer’s books that are posted on this website are in the public domain.

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Fifth, An Example of Christian Repentance (2 Corinthians 7:8-11)

“In 2 Corinthians 7:8-11 an example of true sorrow for sin on the part of a Christian is recorded. The Apostle, in his first letter to the Corinthians, has been used of the Spirit to convince them of sin, and in this fifth major passage we are given an account of their sorrow for sin and the effect of this sorrow in their lives. Much light is here given on the transforming effect of repentance and confession in a Christian's life. The passage follows:”

““For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same Epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season. Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worth repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worth death. For behold the selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed with a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge!””

“Such is the transforming power and abiding effect of true repentance and confession in the life of a believer.³”

A note: 1 Corinthians was not the first letter that Paul wrote to the Corinthians.

**1 Corinthians 5:9 I wrote you in my letter not
to associate with immoral people;**

Since this is in 1 Corinthians, the letter he is referring to was written some time before 1 Corinthians.

³ <https://lewissperrychafer.org/Spirituality.pdf>

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Sixth, The Repentance, Confession and Restoration of an Old Testament Saint (Psalm 51:1-19)

“As recorded in Psalm 51, David is the outstanding example of true repentance and confession on the part of an Old Testament saint. In the Scriptures his sin is laid bare and with it his broken and contrite heart. He was saved (howbeit under the Old Testament relationships); for he prayed, "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation." He did not pray, restore unto me my salvation. He knew that his salvation, which depended only on the faithfulness of God, had not failed. He was pleading for a return of the joy which had been lost through sin. He had lost his testimony as well. Anticipating his restoration he said, "Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee."”

“Being saved, even though of the Old Testament order, David's way back to God was by the way of confession. There are portions of this major passage which, although true of an Old Testament saint, could not be rightly applied to a Christian in this new dispensation of Grace. We need never pray, "And take not thy Holy Spirit from me"; for He has come to abide. So, also, we need not plead for forgiveness and restoration. Since the Blood has been shed on the Cross, the blessings of forgiveness and cleansing are instantly bestowed through the faithfulness and justice of God upon the believer who makes a full confession.⁴”

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.

David does not name his sin. He simply acknowledges his sin by saying “I have sinned against the Lord.”

⁴ <https://lewissperrychafer.org/Spirituality.pdf>

Psalm 51:1 For the choir director. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

These comments are part of the psalm in the Hebrew. They give us the author (David), and the situation or context from which the psalm was written.

Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.

Psalm 51:2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin.

Sin makes us “dirty,” “unclean.” God can make us clean.

Psalm 51:3 For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me.

Psalm 51:4 Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.

Sin is properly against God. If you sin against a person, it is because you violated God’s righteous standard.

Something to consider. Some think they have committed a sin so bad that they are afraid to admit it to God. Be ever ready to admit our sins to God and seek his “loving kindness” and mercy. God is a loving Father and wants us to be in fellowship with Him always. Suffering in this situation is meant to get our attention so that we seek God’s mercy.

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Psalm 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

Psalm 51:6 Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.

Psalm 51:7 Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Psalm 51:8 Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice.

Have you ever committed a sin that embarrassed you and shamed you? All the while you are contemplating that sin there is no joy in your life.

What if as a teenager you were allowed to drive the family car. Then one night you scrapped the side of the car. Did you own up to the accident to your father or did you wait until your father came looking for you? Similar kind of dynamics here. Own up to your sins to God the Father before He comes to you with discipline.

Psalm 51:9 Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities.

Psalm 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalm 51:11 Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

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In the Old Testament, the ministry of the Holy Spirit could be removed from someone that had it.

Psalm 51:12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit.

Psalm 51:13 *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.

This psalm is teaching us. David is reaching out from nearly 1,000 years ago to teach us a lesson he learned the hard way. He is saying, don't repeat my mistake.

Psalm 51:14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; *Then* my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness.

Here is the goal: God's righteousness. Today, the Christian can produce righteousness through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 51:15 O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Your praise.

Psalm 51:16 For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering.

David was very knowledgeable about the meaning of the Levitical sacrifices. He understood the rituals were representations of the Messiah's work. They were visual teaching mechanisms to mirror the spiritual realities.

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Psalm 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Psalm 51:18 By Your favor do good to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem.

Psalm 51:19 Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, In burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then young bulls will be offered on Your altar.

1 John 1:9 summarizes what God does to the believer who acknowledges sin.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Listen to Job. He was not committing a sin. But, he expressed his humility towards God.

Job 40:3 Then Job answered the LORD and said,

Job 40:4 “Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to You? I lay my hand on my mouth.

Job 40:5 “Once I have spoken, and I will not answer; Even twice, and I will add nothing more.”

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Job 42:1 Then Job answered the LORD and said,

**Job 42:2 “I know that You can do all things,
And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.**

Job 42:3 ‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.”

Job 42:4 ‘Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me.’

Job 42:5 “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You;

Job 42:6 Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes.”

Humility towards God can be a difficult lesson to learn. Humility is grace orientation. God can paint us into a corner such that the only real exit is trusting Him. That is how we grow. We must just trust Him and His promises in His Word.

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These lessons have focused on topics related to dealing with sin in the Christian's life. Let us summarize.

1. What is sin?

Sin is a violation of God's standard, righteousness. When defining the word "sin" we found that it can mean "missing the mark" as not achieving God's standard. In extremes, we refer to sin as "evil." This is anti-God activity. We encounter this in the book of Judges.

Judges 1:11 Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals,

Judges 1:12 and they forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods from *among* the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; thus they provoked the LORD to anger.

According to David, his sin was against God. Yes, we injure others when we sin. But, the primary violation is against God.

Psalm 51:4 Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.

We also know that God's righteousness is absolute. You either have it or you do not. God lives in a binary digital world. God is righteousness. This is expressed very succinctly by the apostle John.

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He uses “light” as an expression of God’s perfection to include His righteousness.

1 John 5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

The book of Romans constantly refers to the righteousness of God.

2. How do I know if I sinned?

What constitutes sin and how do I know what thoughts and behaviors are sinful? The Bible provides various lists. So we learn from the Bible what violates God’s righteousness.

Proverbs 6:16 There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

**Proverbs 6:17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
And hands that shed innocent blood,**

**Proverbs 6:18 A heart that devises wicked plans,
Feet that run rapidly to evil,**

**Proverbs 6:19 A false witness *who* utters lies,
And one who spreads strife among brothers.**

Galatians 5:19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

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Galatians 5:20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

Galatians 5:21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,

1 Corinthians 6:10 nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

Romans 14:22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

Romans 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating is not from faith*; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

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There several other Bible passages that indicate specific sins.

We also know that even behaviors that are OK in themselves but which cause other believers to fall into sin can be bad as well. 1 Corinthians chapter 8.

3. Acknowledge sin

We read L. S. Chafer on the acknowledgment of sin.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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.

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.

Psalm 51:3 For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me.

Psalm 51:4 Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.

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4. Failure to Acknowledge sin.

For those who refuse to acknowledge their sins to God, there is discipline.

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; (Quote from Proverbs 3)

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

For those who refuse to pay attention to God’s discipline, there is the sin unto death. This is not the loss of salvation. It is a loss of potential rewards.

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Psalm 32:3 When I kept silent *about my sin*, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long.

Psalm 32:4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah.

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.