

Positioning Ourselves in the Grace of God

Shalom Everyone,

Our God is able to destroy all the devices of the enemy, to cancel all the strategies planned for our defeat, and miraculously turn things meant for evil into great good, if we will position ourselves by faith to receive His amazing deliverance. Another way of putting this is to say that we must cease from heading away from His grace, and choose to turn around toward the source of all life. This is the Biblical meaning of repentance, turn around, or a change of mind. The word for **repent** in Hebrew is *shuv*, and what a wonderful and powerful word it is. The truth of the matter is that it is an element of the grace of God, without which we would be trapped in an errant and sinful course without remedy, but because our loving God was not willing to leave us in the condition our choices had placed us, **He made a way for us to turn from sin and disobedience back to him.** We generally just read through the scriptures recounting the beginning of the nation of Israel without much thought. We remember that Jacob became Israel, that he had twelve sons who fathered the twelve tribes of Israel and became a great nation. This, of course, is true, but when we read and consider, allowing the Holy Spirit to teach us, this is a story of a family which, although they had received a divine call unlike any other people on earth, was full of discord, rebelliousness, deceit, cheating, treachery, hatred and suffering. Sin had taken a terrible toll in the lives of the twelve sons of Israel. It is not what most think of when the term, **chosen people of God**, are mentioned, but the truth is, that these twelve men, and their fathers before them, had been involved in all kinds of sordid behavior. **This was a real family with real problems brought on by bad choices that lasted for many years, but even with the severity of their problems, when they repented, or turned, God brought about supernatural restoration.**

Now, **repentance** to some means that one has had a **change of mind**, and to others it represents that one has made a **change in direction**, but I believe that the truth of repentance is found in **God's grace which works in us to bring about the desire to change and turn from wrong thinking and acting unto a mind and will of obedience.** This can only be accomplished in the spirit realm as a person, forgiven by the grace and mercy of God is given a new heart and nature. This is very important to realize, for even the act of repentance cannot be carried out in the flesh as a work for which we can take credit. Remember, our righteousness is a gift from God, through Jesus the Messiah. It is never based on works of righteousness that we have done

Judah is a powerful example of one who made bad decisions, including his role in selling Joseph into slavery. His self-centered, jealous nature opened the door for Satan to steal, kill, and destroy that which pertained to him. Two of his sons died during the time Judah was estranged from God, and in his weakness, he fathered a child with his own daughter-in-law. Even in today's lawless setting, Judah's actions would be thought deplorable. It seems that he had sunk about as low as a man could go. His feelings of guilt and hopelessness must have been nearly unbearable. Surely he must have felt that there was no way back, no way to be reconciled to his family while he was burdened with the lies and guilt he carried, but a famine that struck the world around him forced him to become a central figure in what would be God's plan of deliverance.

Pay close attention to the events that transpired as Judah, and his accomplice brothers, are thrust into a situation, through famine, that brought them once again before **Joseph, God's appointed minister of His grace and mercy**. Notice how God works in the background to bring about His plans and purposes in them. Imagine how the devil would have accused Judah, telling him that everything that was happening was his fault, trying to get him to give up. But, notice how Judah, who had only looked out for himself, **because of a change of heart, through the grace of God, changes his direction to stand before Joseph and offer himself a ransom for his, brother, Benjamin**. God's great mercy and grace changed, not only Judah, but motivated his brothers to repent, as well, and **through their repentance, restored what had been stolen**, and established a heart in them to stand as the chosen people of God. He brought forth the Messiah through them and fulfilled their call to be a blessing to the whole earth.

Of course, this plan is still in operation and will progress until all things are put under the feet of Messiah Yeshua, and that is the point. His plan is for the whole world, but it starts at a personal and family level for each of us, and just as the Father was working in the family of Israel, **He is also at work in our lives and families to restore what has been broken**. Most of us will never experience the level of dysfunction that was loosed on the house of Jacob, but all of us have been subjected to pain and suffering as a result of broken family relationships, whether with spouses, parents, siblings, or children. It is possible to lose hope in the midst of long-lasting turmoil and forget that YHWH has proclaimed His blessing in the earth to resupply what has been lost and broken to, and through, those who trust His love. His will to deliver and heal is still in operation with all the power that was manifest in Yeshua when He was raised from the dead. **No evil plan that has ever been devised against us will succeed if we continue to trust in God's goodness**. Even as the plans of evil against Joseph were turned and used by God to bring about the deliverance of many, in like manner, all of the terrible and hurtful events and circumstances in our lives will be turned around to bring about healing and restoration if we continue to believe and speak the Word of God.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

2 Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Truly, He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think through His power that works in us (Ephesians 3:20). **Never give up. God will take hold together with you, as you trust Him. He will heal the broken relationships with our children, spouses, parents and in your whole family as we, His new creation in Messiah Yeshua, come to a change, or renewal of mind unto a change of direction to a walk of faith.**

All of God's Teaching and Instruction (Torah) is valuable, for it is inspired by God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness. (See 2Timothy 3:16) Certainly, when God's Word is taught, and acted upon, supernatural results should be expected. We are beginning a teaching series on the Authority of the Believer on Thursday, January 12 at 6:30pm. I believe that Scriptural revelation of the authority God has given to His body will absolutely change the way that we pray and function in the earth. We are not to be victims of the plans of the enemy, but rather, more than conquerors through Yeshua who loves us. You will have to take a stand to make certain you don't miss out on any of this timely, and greatly neglected truth. Remind others to get involved in this life-giving Word teaching.

Turned toward His grace,
Terry