

Life's Healing Choices: 2 of 8
"The Hope Choice"
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
October 16, 2022

The Reality Choice: I Realize I'm not God. I admit I'm powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing.

The Hope Choice: I earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and He has the power to help me recover.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

Matthew 5:4 (NIV) Remember Verse

Two Choices With Grief & Pain:

- Turn to God for His Power to help me
- Turn to stuff to numb the pain

To Get Help, I Must:

1. Stop Living In Denial

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and *prayed about himself*. 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' **Luke 18:9-12 (NIV)**

- **Is your sorrow specific or vague? Does it lead to change?**

"For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience **leads us away from sin and results in salvation**. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death." **2 Corinthians 7:10 (NLT)**

"He who **conceals** his sins does not prosper, but whoever **confesses** and **renounces** them finds mercy." **Proverbs 28:13 (NIV)**

2. Seek The Truth About God

"And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God **exists** and that He **rewards** those who **sincerely seek Him**." **Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)**

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything, because He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man He made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would **seek Him** and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us."
Acts 17:24-27 (NIV)

"In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands **all people** everywhere to **repent**. For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by **raising Him from the dead.**" **Acts 17:30-31 (NIV)**

"For the **grace** of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say **"No"** to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live **self-controlled**, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ." **Titus 2:11-13 (NIV)**

3. Believe God Has The Power To Help Me

"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have **mercy** on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home **justified** before God. For everyone who **exalts** himself will be humbled, and he who **humbles** himself will be exalted."
Luke 18:13-14 (NIV)

"Come **close** to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your **hands**, you sinners; purify your **hearts**, for your loyalty is **divided** between God and the world. Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. **Humble** yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up in honor." **James 4:8-10 (NLT2)**

➤ Am I turning to stuff or to God for help?

My next right step, I will:

- Refuse to excuse my sin and seek God
- Choose hope by turning to God for comfort and healing
- Accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior

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[This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss]

Open in Prayer.

Icebreaker: What do you pray about most often?

The Hope Choice: I earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and He has the power to help me recover.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

Matthew 5:4 (NIV) Remember Verse

We Have Two Choices With Grief & Pain:

- Turn to God for His power to help us
- Turn to stuff to numb the pain

To Get Help, I Must:

1. Stop Living In Denial

Read Luke 18:9-12

What is the point of this parable?

Do you ever compare your sins with someone worse than you?

Why is this a wrong way to look at your sin?

Read 2 Corinthians 7:10

What are the two kinds of sorrow?

Where is your sorrow leading you?

Read Proverbs 28:13

What are the two things required to find mercy?

Why are both important?

2. Seek The Truth About God

Read Hebrews 11:6

What two elements are described in faith?

Which of these does your faith need to grow in?

Read Acts 17:24-27, 30-31

What do you learn about how God placed you here on earth?

What is God's desire for you?

Read Titus 2:11-13

What do you learn about God's grace?

How should you respond to God's grace?

3. Believe God Has The Power And Desire To Help Me

Read Luke 18:13-14

How does the tax collector respond to God?

Between the religious leader and the tax collector, which one do you relate to the most?

What is Jesus trying to teach us through this parable?

Read James 4:8-10

How should we come to God when we have sinned?

What hope do you find in this passage?

Read The Hope Choice

I earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to God, and He has the power to help me recover.

Are you in agreement with the Hope Choice? Why or why not?

Write out your response to The Hope Choice.