

☞ Times of Refreshing

Last week:

An Incredible Comeback... Samson's Conquests, Compromises, and Comeback.
The Comeback is in dying to self.

☞ Acts 3:19

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

☞ Repent

Repent, then,

☞ Repent = **change your way of thinking**

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 13:9

clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

— Dale Carnegie... *"It isn't what you have or who you are or where you are or what you are doing that makes you happy or unhappy. It is what you think about it."*

☞ Stop your Stinkin' Thinkin'

Basically, stinkin' thinkin' is opposite of what God thinks and very self-focused. Here are a few examples.

You say: "It's impossible"

God says: All things are possible (Luke 18:27)

You say: "I can't go on"

God says: My grace is sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

You say: "I can't do it"

God says: You can do all things through Christ (Philippians 4:13)

You say: "It's not worth it"

God says: It will be worth it (Roman 8:2)

You say: "I'm afraid"

God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7)

You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated"

God says: Cast all your cares on ME (1 Peter 5:7)

You say: "I'm not smart enough"

God says: I give you wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:30)

You say: "I feel all alone"

God says: I will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)

Here are a few more that are popular today...

- Having lots of possessions is the key to happiness;
- Climbing to the top of the corporate ladder makes for a successful life;
- Satisfy whatever urges you feel;
- You should be entertained;
- Right and wrong is in the eye of the beholder.

Stinkin' thinkin' is opposite of what God thinks. At its heart, stinkin' thinkin' is selfish. It's all about me! Things like this...

- What do I get out of this?
- How can I get ahead and rise to the top?
- I don't like the way so and so does such and such.
- Give me something and then maybe I'll help you out.
- Gotta look out for number one!

Now, as Christians, we usually know that we shouldn't be thinking like this. However, the Bible gives other signs to indicate that you might have stinkin' thinkin'.

According to 1 Corinthians 3, jealousy and quarreling are indicators along with division and taking sides. According to Romans 1, an ungrateful attitude and a lukewarm heart for God reveal stinkin' thinkin'. Ephesians 4 talks about lying, anger, bitterness, slander, malice, and unforgiveness. In fact, it actually says falsehood, which indicates more than just telling lies. 2 Peter 3 talks about scoffers and those who are overly skeptical. It also mentions struggling with holiness. These are all signs of stinkin' thinkin'. Hear these again...

- Jealousy, quarreling, division
- Ungrateful, lukewarm, angry, bitter

- Slanderous, malicious, unforgiving
- Falsehood, extreme skepticism
- Struggling with holiness

Ephesians 4:23

☞ be **made new in the attitude** of your minds

It's the attitude that determines the altitude.

— Roy T. Bennett... *“Attitude is a choice. Happiness is a choice. Optimism is a choice. Kindness is a choice. Giving is a choice. Respect is a choice. Whatever choice you make makes you. Choose wisely.”*

Philippians 2:5-9a

☞ Your attitude should be **the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6** Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, **7** but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him...

☞ **Return**

and turn to God

2 Chronicles 7:14

if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Sometimes when we've been caught up in sin, we feel ashamed and turn away from God, thinking he is angry with us. But we need to repent, change our way of thinking, and **turn**

☞ **toward God**. Remember the Prodigal Son! Remember the Prodigal's Father!

☞ **Revelation 2:4-5**

You have forsaken your first love. **5** Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and **do the things you did at first**.

Those of you who know what it is to be in love... what was it like when you first fell in love? ...They were always on your mind; you were doing things you knew they would enjoy; listening to their voice; looking at their face; spending as much time as possible together...

Psalms 42:1-4

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? 3 My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" 4 These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng.

☞ Read your Bible; pray; be faithful to church; worship; look for God in daily life.

When you repent and return to God, you will...

☞ Be Restored

so that your sins may be wiped out

Sin is a barrier between us and God.

Isaiah 59:2

your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you,

God wants to remove that barrier even more than we do.

Isaiah 1:18

"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

Isaiah 43:25

"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

This is an act of God when we change our thinking and turn toward him.

☞ 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Psalms 23:1-3

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he restores my soul.

Once restored there is refreshing...

☞ **Be Refreshed**

that times of refreshing may come from (presence of) the Lord,

Think about working hard and being thirsty; or hungry; or hot... what refreshes?

☞ Refreshing = **relief; recovery; rest; revival**

Some here need some relief; others need some rest. I believe we all need some revival.

☞ **True refreshing comes from God, not people, places or possessions, but rather from God's presence.**

Refreshing renewal comes by simply being in the presence of God. Psalms 21:6 says there is joy in his presence. There's power in his presence. In him all things are made new. So, this entire subject of renewal boils down to coming back to God! We need to repent and change our thinking so that we aren't afraid to return to God, doing the things we did when we first fell in love with Jesus. When we do this there will be restoration with the barrier of sin broken; and there will be times of refreshing.

It seems that Spring has finally arrived! It's refreshing, isn't it? April showers bring May flowers. We can be refreshed by the Lord. He pours out his Spirit and brings new life.

☞ ***When we repent and change how we think,
We start the process to stop all the stink;
And when we return to the Lord that we love,
He lovingly reaches from Heaven above;
Restoring, forgiving; he makes us complete,
Refreshed in His presence, revival is sweet.***

--Phil Waldo

The King is Among us