

Wow! Jesus Loves You!

Long ago the Lord said to Israel: "I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love, I have drawn you to myself." Jeremiah 31:3 (NLT)

WOW!

I encourage each of you to stay right here. Don't go any farther until you've received God's refreshment. Repent of being afraid to receive. God has never turned away a repentant sinner; He won't reject or abandon you.

If necessary, repent of having a hard heart. Repent of refusing to believe. Repent of not listening to His Word.

The sin of pride can be a huge obstacle to receiving from God. Repent of your pride and admit your need.

His comfort is always available to us, but many of us refuse this comfort because we think we don't deserve it. God, pouring out His love upon us, has nothing to do with us earning it! He pours out His love because He wants to. He knows we need it!

Now rest. **Let** Jesus wipe away all your sins. **Let** His times of restoration and refreshment come flooding into your soul.

I want you to "get" this totally WOW aspect of Christianity!

Because He loves you, God chooses to forgive you. Because God loves you, He chooses to restore you and to refresh you. You see, when we repent, we're forgiven. When we're forgiven, we're set free from the burdens and guilt of our sin and shame.

Romans 8:1 says, "... there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Christ did not come to condemn the world but to save it.

Let me share with you an incident from my past that helped me "get" it. I'd sinned, probably something with my pride and/or talking too much. I felt guilty over it. I was tired, probably from worrying about what a mess I'd made. So, I lay down to take a nap and told the Lord, "OK, do with me what You need to do. Spank me, lecture me, whatever. I deserve it." Well, I fell sound asleep. When I woke up, a still, small voice spoke to my heart and said, "I love you; you're forgiven." I lay there, thinking about what had just happened. I thought, *I deserved a whipping and God just forgave me, and then He loved me, gave me peace of mind, and it was over.*

WOW! May each of you have WOW moments like this!



Quotes

I have been sent out to tell others about the life He has promised through faith in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 1:1 (NLT)

Corrie Ten Boom

March 14

"Our sins can be shown to us in two very different ways.

In the first place, Satan accuses the saints day and night. Again and again he tells us our sins, until we become quite desperate. He says, 'Now you can see how you really are. That which you have done is completely according to your character, and that will never change.'

If, however, the Holy Spirit shows us our sins, He does it in the full light of the finished work at the cross. He says to us, 'For this sin Jesus died. He bore the punishment.'

He is alive, and it is His will that you become more than a conqueror. Repent and turn away from your sin in His strength. His blood cleanses. He gives us the victory. He sends the answer, and the Holy Spirit enables us to close our ears to the accuser."

***And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb,
and by the word of their testimony...Revelation 12:11***

"Thank you, Lord, for the power of Your blood. Thank You for giving Your life for us. Thank You that You are Victor forever."

The above quotes are from her last devotional, [This Day Is The Lord's](#) (Old Tappan, NJ: Flemming H Revell Company)

Bible Study

And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.
Acts 17:11 (NLT)

MORE ON REPENTANCE

Look up these additional verses on repentance. Please write them out. Consider memorizing some. Personalize them.

1. **Acts 5:31, Page 978**

JESUS CAN GIVE YOU REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

2. **Acts 11:18, Page 986**

GOD HAS GRANTED YOU REPENTANCE UNTO LIFE.

3. **Acts 17:30, Page 993**

GOD COMMANDS ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE TO REPENT.

4. **Acts 20:21, Page 996**

YOU MUST TURN TO GOD IN REPENTANCE AND HAVE FAITH.

5. **Romans 2:4, Page 1,007**

*Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience,
not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?*

6. **2 Corinthians 7:9-10, Page 1,039**

GODLY SORROW BRINGS REPENTANCE THAT LEADS TO SALVATION.

7. **2 Peter 3:9, Page 1,099**

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness.
Instead He is patient with you,
not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

8. **Revelation 2:20-25, Page 1,110**

The church was tolerating sexual sins. Jezebel was a wicked Old Testament queen, (**1 Kings 16:31 and 2 Kings 9:22, 30.**) God commands the people to repent. He also promises horrible consequences to those who don't. This is New Testament theology. Sexual immorality is sin—sin that God will punish.

9. **Revelation 3:19, Page 1,111**

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.

Teaching

Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.
2 Timothy 4:2 (NLT)

REPENTANCE FEELS GOOD

It feels good to repent. How about swimming? Just getting our toes wet at the side of the pool isn't the same. Jumping in over our heads, being totally drenched, is what refreshes us. Repentance is the same. Only when we go all the way, being totally honest with God, do we walk away refreshed and revitalized. Repentance is awesome; it frees us from all the dirty, ugly things sin does to us. Repentance opens our eyes to new attitudes.



Repentance is not just a one-time thing. Because we all sin every day—no matter how hard we try not to—repentance is a perpetual topic in our conversations with the Lord. The first time we repent and turn to God is so huge. At that time, we become Christians. At that time the promises of the Bible become ours.

Even after we accept Christ and want not to sin, we still do. And God knows we do. He just wants us to humble ourselves, swallow our self-righteous pride and admit our sin. He wants us to stop rationalizing away our sins and admit them to Him and come clean. Repentance is a daily process. After we sin and repent, God forgives and restores. We start another day and, sure enough, some sin creeps in. We repent... God forgives and restores. He never gets tired of forgiving us. He knows we won't be perfect until we enter heaven. When we repent, we're just admitting we know we aren't perfect, and God is the only one who can help us. Repentance isn't a demeaning act; it's just us acknowledging that God is God and we are not. Repentance causes humility to grow as we realize that we are who we are and achieve what we achieve because of God. Repentance helps us keep our focus on Jesus Christ.

God wants a relationship with us. He wants to call each of us friend. When we really love someone, we won't do anything to intentionally harm that relationship. In our friendship with God, sin harms the relationship. Repentance is the tool to restore it.

God is our Heavenly Father. He has the right to tell us what to do. His motive in all His commands is to give each of His children the best. Sin hurts us; always. There are no exceptions. Sin hinders God's work in our lives, but every time we repent, the God of love is working everything out for our good. **(Romans 8:28)**

Repentance is good for us. It feels so good to be clean. When we repent, God refreshes, revitalizes, and restores us with lavish blessings beyond description. The gift of repentance and the mercy and grace of God's forgiveness are too awesome for words.

Romans 8:1-2 says it this way:

***"Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us
no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud.***

A new power is in operation.

***The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind,
has magnificently cleared the air,
freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny
at the hands of sin and death"***
(The Message)



If you've ever been refreshed by a plunge into a pool or the ocean, you know how good it feels. God's forgiveness is better—feels greater and lasts longer. The refreshment of a nice swim is temporal; God's forgiveness is eternal.