



CHAPTER 9
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FLOURISHING IN THE MIDST OF OPPOSITION

"You're not very good at being a human being."



Penitence leads to repentance,
salvation and freedom from shame.



2 Corinthians 7:8 – 12

“Even if I caused you *sorrow* by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that *my letter hurt you*, but only for a little while—yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because *your sorrow led you to repentance*. For you became *sorrowful as God intended* and *so were not harmed in any way by us*. *Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret*, but *worldly sorrow brings death...*

See what this **godly sorrow** *has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done.* At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong or of the injured party, but rather that *before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are.*”



5 Parts to Experiencing Penitence



**1. Deep penitence arises
from grappling with
the word of God.**



Grappling with the word:

8:1-8	Everyone hears
8:13-14	Leaders study law
8:18	Read to everyone at festival
9:3	Read from the book of Law 1/4 day
9:6-31	Retelling the Word's story

**2. Penitence expresses
repentance in decisive
and symbolic honesty.**



Decisive & Symbolic Honesty:

Fasting

Sackcloth

Earth on heads

Separated by faith

Standing posture 1/2 day

Formal confession

Lengthy confession and worship



Restraint has little virtue
in repentance.



3. Acknowledge the good kindness and severity of God.

"God is very right, not barely right in what he does." – 2015



God's kindness

God is the first to be generous.

God is merciful after repeated sin.

God's severity was deserved
and necessary.

Worship isn't just *warranted*,
it is *needed*.



4. Profess our own treachery



Matthew 9:11 – 13 NIV82

When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' [Hosea 6:6] For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

(Also Mark 2:17, Luke 5:32)



A complete confession

Vs 17 – Refused to obey, were not mindful of the wonders you performed, stiffened their neck

Vs 18 – Made idols, committed great blasphemies,

Vs 26 – Rebelled against you, cast you behind their backs, killed your warning prophets

Vs 28 – After they had rest they did evil against you

Vs 29 – Acted presumptuously, sinned against your rules that bring life, turned a stubborn shoulder, stiffened their necks, would not obey (even after you forgave again and again).

The good confession

- 1. Confess without saving face or holding back.**
- 2. Let go of pride's defensiveness.**
- 3. Justification on condition of incrimination.**
- 4. Trust in Christ's atonement as your rescue from shame.**

5. Appeal to God's mercy



Nehemiah 9:32, 33, 36

vs. 32 “let not all the hardship seemed little to you that has come upon us”

vs. 33 you have been righteous in all that is come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly.”

vs. 36 “behold, we are slaves this day; and the land that you gave our fathers to enjoy its fruits and its good gifts, behold, we are slaves.”





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