

For I Will Declare Mine Iniquity

by Octavius Winslow

A broken heart for sin is a constant and habitual attitude that leads to a life of lowliness, contrition, and self-renunciation, and is the key to returning to the Father's heart and home.

Scripture: Psalm 38:18, Psalm 51:17, Isaiah 57:15, Matthew 5:4, Luke 15:20-24, Romans 5:8, 2 Corinthians 7:10, Hebrews 4:16, James 4:10, 1 John 1:7

Topics: "Repentance", "Grace and Restoration"

Description

Octavius Winslow emphasizes the necessity of maintaining a broken heart for sin throughout the Christian journey, illustrating that godly sorrow is not a one-time experience but a continual state of humility and contrition. He encourages believers to recognize the pervasive nature of sin and the importance of returning to the atoning blood of Jesus for cleansing and restoration. Winslow reassures backsliding Christians that through sincere repentance and a longing for communion with God, they can find acceptance and joy in His presence once again. The sermon highlights the transformative power of acknowledging one's iniquities and the grace available through Christ's sacrifice.

Transcript

For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin. Psalm 38:18

The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

SEEK, cherish, and cultivate constantly and habitually a broken heart for sin. Do not think that it is a work which, once done, is to be done no more. Deem it not a primary stage in your spiritual journey, which, once reached, never again occurs in your celestial progress. Oh no! As in the natural life we enter the world weeping, and leave it weeping, so in the spiritual life--we begin it in tears of godly sorrow for sin, and we terminate it in tears of godly sorrow for sin--passing away to that blessed state of sinlessness, where God will wipe away all tears from our eyes. The indwelling of all evil--the polluting nature of the world along which we journey--our constant exposure to temptations of every kind--the many occasions on which we yield to those temptations, the perpetual developments of sin unseen, unknown, even unsuspected by others--the defilement which attaches itself to all that we put our hands to, even the most spiritual and holy and heavenly, the consciousness of what a holy God must every moment see in us--all, all these considerations should lead us to cherish that spirit of lowliness and contrition, self-abhorrence and self-renunciation, inward mortification and outward humility of deportment, which belong to and which truly prove the existence of the life of God in our souls.

And what, too, prompts a constant traveling to the atoning blood?--what endears the Savior who shed that blood?--what is it that makes His flesh food indeed, and His blood drink indeed?--what is it that keeps the conscience tender and clean?--what enables the believer to walk with God as a dear child? Oh, it is the sacred contrition of the lowly spirit, springing from a view of the cross of Jesus, and through the cross leading to the heart of God. Backsliding Christian! do you feel within your heart the kindlings of godly sorrow? Are you mourning over your wandering, loathing the sin that drew you from Christ, that grieved the Spirit, and wounded your own peace? Are you longing to feed again in the green pastures of the flock, and by the side of the Shepherd of the flock, assured once more that you are a true sheep, belonging to the one fold, known by, and precious to, the heart of Him who laid down His life for the sheep? Then approach the altar of Calvary, and upon it lay the sacrifice of a broken and a contrite heart, and your God will accept it. The door of your return stands open--the pierced heart of Jesus. The golden scepter that bids you approach is extended--the outstretched hand of a pacified Father. The banquet is ready, and the minstrels are tuning their harps to celebrate the return from your wanderings to your Father's heart and home, with the gladness of feasting, and with the voice of thanksgiving and of melody.

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