

What Happens When God Gives You A Mental Turnaround?

6th & 7th Step - Lesson 5

Repentance (in Biblical Greek): A changed perspective, a turnaround in the way you think

Step 6: Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character

Step 7: Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings

*I asked God for strength, that I might achieve;
I was made weak, that I might learn to humbly obey.
I asked God for health, that I might do greater things;
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
I asked God for riches, that I might be happy;
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
I asked God for power, that I might have the praise of men;
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for things, that I might enjoy life;
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for
But everything I had hoped for.
I am, among all men, most richly blessed. – Anonymous*

"May all your expectations be frustrated; may all your plans be thwarted; may all of your desires be withered into nothingness, that you may experience the powerlessness and poverty of a child and sing and dance in the love of God the Father, the Son, and the Spirit." -- A blessing prayed over Henri Nouwen by a friend

Expect surprises when you let God be in charge of your thinking. Expect the unexpected.

Did you assume that the changes that God most wanted to make in your life were stuff like no more smoking, no more swearing, start training to be a minister, etc? Did you find that God had some other changes he wanted to make in you that he thought were more important?

Some examples of the kind of thinking that God turns around when he gives repentance:

- "I can sin so badly that God can't and won't forgive me. Maybe I already have."
- "Life is all bad, the world is in the dumper, I'm right to be gloomy and negative."
- "God is always disappointed in me."
- "It's my duty to straighten out all these fools."
- "What I do isn't very important, because I'm not very important."

What else? What new thoughts are replacing the crazy old thoughts?