

## REPENTANCE LEADING TO RECONCILIATION

**Repentance = Turning with sorrow from a past course or action**

### **Repentance and Reconciliation!**

When God opens the door, walk through it because it may never happen again.  
Recognize God's grace and mercy even though your mind refuses to accept.  
Accept the pain of the change required of you as simply necessary in God's order.  
Be grateful for the mercy of the Lord.  
Know that God is the Lord, creator of everything, and the final authority.  
Some things can appear both good and bad at the same time.  
Some things that are bad can appear good for a time.  
God laws often appear to interfere with the will of man.  
Why is it that we think that God's will interferes with man?  
How is it that a man's will is changed to follow God and yet he misses God's purposes?  
God's grace and mercy is longsuffering, willing to wait for the person who is seeking.  
God does not give up.  
God's gifts can be received even while man is in rebellion.  
Learning and actions do not necessarily go together.  
In spite of our most stubborn-minded actions, God can steer to safety.  
Many events are steered with the mind (intelligence) and not with the heart (wisdom).  
Intrinsically good and bad appear so intertwined as to be a choice.  
The drama of events often hits back in life.  
There are reasons for leading with the heart and learning with the mind.  
There are better reasons for learning with the heart and leading with the mind set on God.  
There are purposes in God's gifts and restraints.  
Blest is the person who can sort out the good from the bad.  
Even more blest is the one who chooses the good instead of the bad.  
Grace and mercy is when God steps in with His arms open wide.  
Receiving is our part.  
It is hard to receive.  
Repentance and reconciliation!

### **That Which Is Eating You Alive!**

When *bitterness* is eating at you,  
Remember that bitterness is a *thing*.  
Things are not actions.  
Resentment is something hidden deep within you.  
It waits for the moment of action.  
Resenting is an action.  
Counseling would never reveal this.  
Our intellect would argue the point.  
Arguing is not a good thing.  
God wants change.  
God wants a different action!

## **Not An Arguable Point**

I learned something after years of struggling with myself.  
There is a difference in my life now.  
It came when I repented and received God's reconciliation.  
It did not come as a lightening bolt of freedom from the sky.  
The corrective words of a Godly man demanded repentance.  
There was no other response available except repentance.  
God gave reconciliation.  
By faith I accepted with meekness and contriteness.  
This repentance was real, but more importantly the reconciliation was truly mine.  
It is not an arguable point.  
God wants repentance!

## **Our God**

He presents us face to face with truth.  
He reveals all sinfulness.  
He blesses without prejudice to our nature.  
He knows someday we will see His fullness of truth.  
He waits until we are ready to know.  
He cries over our loss.  
He woos us with patience.  
He readies our hearts to hear His truths.  
He then says, "Come".  
He, with firm correction, changes the course of our life forever.

## **The Mystery of Forgiveness and Reconciliation**

While I was sitting and listening to a choral presentation, I was coloring in the front cover of the program that was printed with just black ink on stark white paper. Someone came over to me and asked me a question. Interestingly enough, the question had nothing to do with the conviction that struck me at that moment. You see, I had damaged, destroyed, and changed something that was not mine to do. And, of course, there is no way to undo what I had done. It would never be the black and white program cover again.

Isn't this like our lives and sin? The awareness of the irreparable damage done was profound. It sent me on a dictionary search for words that are used to describe how a person makes 'good' after he has done something that is wrong. We have all kinds of words and phrases, including 'making amends,' but they never actually undo what we have done. Sin, once done, still exists in its effects, even when we turn away from it 180 degrees and pay a consequence. That makes the mystery of God's forgiveness and reconciliation even more mysterious, doesn't it?

- Penny Hession -