

March 24, 2008

TURN A CORNER!

Is spiritual renewal an illusion?

Can God's people really start fresh with Him and walk a new course from then on? Here are a few words from our book You Don't Have to Quit:

You have failed in the past, and so have we. Do you feel disqualified? Do you feel as if you're already a "throwaway," that you "blew it" and you can't undo your mistakes? Does your record seem too blotted? Were your injuries too damaging, your mistakes too irreversible?

Friend, *your problem is no longer those past sins; your problem is how you're presently handling those past sins.*

You have two choices.

1. You may choose chronic regret that leaves you defeated for the rest of your life. It could be an attempt at a do-it-yourself atonement; if you believe God doesn't easily forgive, then a way you can do something to help the process is by the penance of perpetual regret. That's a terrible misunderstanding of God. And it will do nothing but leave you unnecessarily shipwrecked.

2. Or you can choose "godly sorrow" over those past sins:

"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret" (2 Cor. 7:10).

The father of the prodigal son put on a big party to honor his boy's return. Now, the son wouldn't have made his father happier by sitting in a corner during the party mourning over his past. He honored his father by taking his word for it that all was really forgiven.

Regret over the sins of the past will haunt you until you truly believe how thoroughly God blots out your sins. Then you'll turn a corner! He loves you so much! He's waiting.