

May 26, 2008

TURN A CORNER!

If you never took baths or showers, it would not only be unhealthy, it would be downright antisocial! If you never confessed your sins, you'd gradually, unknowingly, get just as offensive – and you'd be in deep need of spiritual renewal.

Jeremiah longed for renewal for his people:

“Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old” (Lam. 5:2).

And he understood why Israel was in such a mess:

“Who can speak and have it happen
if the Lord has not decreed it?
Is it not from the mouth of the most High
that both calamities and good things come?
Why should any living man complain
when punished for his sins?” (Lam. 3:37-39)

I know well what it is to disobey the Lord and pay for it. At that point should I complain? No, it's only time to *take responsibility for my sins and repent:*

“Let us examine our ways and test them,
and let us return to the Lord.
Let us lift up our hearts and our hands
to God in heaven, and say,
‘We have sinned and rebelled....’” (Lam. 3:40-42)

It may be embarrassing, even traumatic, but it's so necessary to confess our sins quickly and often, if we want to live in health and experience God's constant renewal!

If you have stagnated spiritually, have a time of honestly confessing your sins to the Lord. Be specific; be repentant.

If a relationship has soured, examine yourself, not the other; take the humble stance, confess and ask to be forgiven.

In each case you'll break through to God's renewal. You'll turn a corner.