

Dark Cloud Of Shame

How to Stop the Rain

GraspingGod.com's Bible Study Lesson

Proverbs 11:2 - *When pride comes, then comes shame, but with humility comes wisdom.*

Conscience: def: early 13c., from O.Fr. conscience, from L. *conscientia* "knowledge within oneself, a moral sense," prp. of *conscire* "be mutually aware," **from com-** "**with**" + **scire** "**to know**."

- 1.the inner sense of what is right or wrong in one's conduct or motives, impelling one toward right action: *to follow the dictates of conscience.*
- 2.the complex of ethical and moral principles that controls or inhibits the actions or thoughts of an individual.
- 3.an inhibiting sense of what is prudent: *I'd eat another piece of pie but my conscience would bother me.*

Nelson's Bible Dictionary: def: a person's inner awareness of conforming to the will of God or departing from it, resulting in either a sense of approval or condemnation.

Guilt: def. *gylt* "crime, sin, fault, fine," of unknown origin.

- 1.The fact or state of having committed an offense, crime, violation, or wrong, especially against moral or penal law; culpability: *He admitted his guilt.*
- 2.a feeling of responsibility or remorse for some offense, crime, wrong, etc., whether real or imagined.
- 3.conduct involving the commission of such crimes, wrongs, etc.: *to live a life of guilt.*

Nelson's Bible Dictionary: def: bearing responsibility for an offense or wrongdoing; remorseful awareness of having done something wrong.

Shame: def: *sceamu, sceomu* "feeling of guilt or disgrace," also, ashamed.

- 1.the painful feeling arising from the consciousness of something dishonorable, improper, ridiculous, etc. done by oneself or another: *She was overcome with shame.*
- 2.susceptibility to this feeling: *to be without shame.*
- 3.disgrace; ignominy: *His actions brought shame upon his parents.*

Nelson's Bible Dictionary: def: a negative emotion caused by an awareness of wrongdoing, hurt ego, or guilt. In the Bible, the feeling of shame is normally caused by public exposure of one's

guilt (ex. Genesis 2:25; 3:10). But, does not necessarily come from sin (Psalm 25:2-3; Proverbs 19:26; Romans 1:16).

Hebrews 12:2 - *looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Case Study: King David

King David had good qualities, so much so, that it was said “he was a man after God’s own heart.”

However, David also had glaring pride at times, which became sin.

All of us have weaknesses, *i.e.* chinks in our armor. If you’re one of God’s elect, he will expose them.

David, in full-blown pride, took a census of Israel’s mighty army. His conscience bothered him without aid from another:

2 Samuel 24:10 - David's heart struck him after he had numbered the people. David said to the Lord, "I have sinned greatly in that which I have done. But now, Lord, put away, I beg you, the iniquity of your servant; for I have done very foolishly."

70,000 Israelites died because of this proud act of David.

What was David’s sin? Not trusting in God, but in military might.

David, again in full-blown pride, lusted and coveted after Urriah the Hittite’s wife, Bathsheba. Adultery ensued, a baby conceived, and murder wrought. David broke the two greatest commands; plus, he directly broke the following commands: 6th Murder; 7th Adultery; 8th Stealing; and the 10th Coveting.

2 Samuel 11:1 - 12:23. Story of David and Bathsheba. David had to be shown this sin by Nathan the Prophet before realizing what he had done against both man and God. Urriah and other soldiers died because of this act, as did the baby son.

These were tremendous sins against God. David’s conscience was seared with grief, guilt, and shame.

Conscience and Shame

David tells us that sinners who ignore God will experience a shadow, or cloud of shame, that darkens their faces (Psalm 34:5).

Daniel tells us that the Hebrews’ faces are covered with shame because of their disloyalty and sin against God (Daniel 9:7-11).

Jesus tells us that those who practice evil operate in darkness, and flee from the light (John 3:20-21).

Jesus also says that those with an evil eye fill their bodies with darkness, and when they believe their darkness to be light, it becomes deep, deep darkness (Matthew 6:22-23).

Paul tells us that people who violate their consciences experience a shipwrecked faith from the waves of the raging storm (1 Timothy 1:19).

Full circle back to David, who says that sinners who refuse to repent drown in the floodwaters of judgment (Psalm 32:6).

When a person considers sinning against his or her conscience a storm system develops. A storm front moves in from the heavens as the worst is anticipated. The temptation presents itself to the person. The sin commences. The conscience is violated, and shattered by guilt and darkness. The sin continues. Faith dissolves away into unbelief, doubt, and depression as the storm rages against the person's soul.

David tells us that when he refused to confess his sin to God, his body wasted away. He said the physical pain from the sin left him in agony throughout the day.

For I have eaten ashes like bread, and mixed my drink with tears, and my days are like a long shadow. I have withered like grass. Psalm 102:9,11.

His conscience was seared, and it affected his body. Finally, he tells us the reason for the anguish.

God's Discipline

Day and night God's heavy hand of discipline was upon David. The chastening left him with no physical strength. He became mentally depressed, physically exasperated, and spiritually bankrupt.

The pain of the immediate punishment was terrible on David. But, the pain and torment of God's spiritual discipline worsened. David couldn't escape it, he couldn't hide from it. God's discipline followed him everywhere. David's mind, body, and soul were being chastened by God.

David sinned against his conscience. He sinned "together with knowledge."

He knew better, but chose evil. His pride caused him to trust in himself and his army, and his evil heart caused him to covet, commit adultery, steal, and murder.

When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Psalm 32:3-4.

David finally realized the gravity of his sin. He was paying the dues of his sin. What now?!

Lust, Sin, and Temptation

James lays out the progression of sin: 1) lust, 2) temptation, 3) sinful activity, 4) death.

But each one is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed. Then the lust, when it has conceived, bears sin; and the sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation, nor turning shadow. James 1:14-17

Sin hardens your heart, confuses your mind, and ruins your spiritual life. God does not tempt; you've been deceived.

Does this mean ALL sins ruin your spiritual life, and lead to death?

Sins Leading to Death

The Ten Commandments. Exodus 20:1-17.

There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers. Proverbs 6:16-19.

He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the Lord. Proverbs 17:15.

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21.

For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. Romans 1:26-27.

Shameless: def: lacking any sense of shame; insensible to disgrace; hardened, unashamed, brazen.

If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them. Leviticus 20:13.

A woman shall not wear a man's garment, nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God. Deuteronomy 22:5.

Unequal weights and unequal measures are both alike an abomination to the Lord. Proverbs 20:10.

Those of crooked heart are an abomination to the Lord. Proverbs 11:20.

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord. Proverbs 15:8.

Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord. Proverbs 16:5.

Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations— I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. Isaiah 1:13.

If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination. Proverbs 28:9.

But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death. Revelation 21:8.

Don't panic. So, you messed up, maybe messed up badly. As long as you didn't commit the unpardonable sin, and you're still breathing, God may accept your apologies, under his conditions.

The LORD upholds all who fall, and raises up all those who are bowed down. Psalm 145:14

Repentance

Repentance: def. A change of mind; a godly sorrow for sin; an act of turning around and going in the opposite direction; finally, a turning away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and a turning back to God. ~ Nelson's Bible Dictionary.

True repentance is a privilege leading to a fundamental change in a person's relationship with God:

1. The lost can come to know God through salvific repentance for being a sinner, and through saving faith in Christ alone: Repentance Unto Life (Acts 11:18; 20:21; 26:17-18).
2. Devoted Christians, walking with Christ, repent daily by apologizing for their specific sins (Acts 8:9-24).
3. Christians living in grievous sin, saddening the Spirit, repent specifically for their major sin (Psalm 51).

God allows repentance because he is loving, patient, good, kind, and generous. (Romans 2:4).

Repentance is a Second Chance for a sinner who has sinned against his conscience, grieved the Spirit, and felt the wrath and condemnation of God's discipline.

God's discipline is good, because he wants no one to perish - physically, spiritually, or eternally (1 Timothy 2:3; Hebrews 12:5-13).

How To Repent

Boasting in your spirituality will alarm Satan to your pride, and it's only a matter of time before you'll be threshed like wheat.

Therefore let him who thinks he stands be careful that he does not fall. No temptation has taken you except what is common to man. God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above what you are able, but will with the temptation also make the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. 1 Corinthians 10:12-14

Stop sinning immediately. Cut it off (Matthew 5:27-30).

The ONLY thing God wants from you is obedience. Your prayers won't be heard until you stop sinning and pray a prayer of repentance (James 1:5-8). Double-minded people are an abomination.

Intercessory prayers for the church: Ezra 9:6ff. *"O my God, I am utterly ashamed; I blush to lift up my face to you. For our sins are piled higher than our heads, and our guilt has reached to the heavens..."*

Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief, in falling away from the living God; but exhort one another day by day, so long as it is called "today;" lest anyone of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our confidence firm to the end: while it is said, "Today if you will hear his voice, do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion." Hebrews 3:12-15

Keep our eyes on the prize. Stay strong. Fight lust and worldly temptations; and love the brothers and sisters in Christ. Seek personal holiness and don't judge others. Be a good neighbor to all people in need.

You're one heartbeat away from Judgment Day. One final breath and you will slip into the spiritual powers of this world, with no more "free will," no more choices, no more second chances.

Death is coming. Judgment is coming. The end is coming.

Do this, knowing the time, that it is already time for you to awaken out of sleep, for salvation is now nearer to us than when we first believed. The night is far gone, and the day is near. Let us therefore throw off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day; not in reveling and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and lustful acts, and not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, for its lusts. Romans 13:11-14 .

Author: Brad Johnson: Copyright: Grasping God Ministries, All Rights Reserved, 2013.

Do not publish for resale in any form. Rights granted to photocopy for small group Bible study.