

Do you get it?

(True or False)

1. My greatest need is more moral discipline to do what I know is right.
2. The mark of a Christian leader is the degree to which they have obeyed the behavioral standards of the faith.
3. What God is looking for is overcomers who live lives of victory over sin.
4. The best indicator of future behavior is past behavior.

Pain can lead to insight into our world, our soul, and our true home.

Luke 15:11-31
Repentance

Peace

Action

Commitment

Insight

Pain

Independence

The dynamics of repentance #2 Seeing the Light

“¹⁷ But when **he came to his senses**, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger!’”

What does it mean to come to our senses?

Insight

Pain

Independence

Luke 15:17

“came to his senses”

Literally -

“coming to himself”

Modern English equivalent -

“getting it together”

Romans 12:2 (Ephesians 4:23)

“renewing of your mind”

Spiritual change starts on the inside, in the mind’s perception of reality.

Matthew 6

“²² The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.”

Constructive Introspection is necessary for spiritual health.

1 Corinthians 2:15

“but he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man.”

1 Corinthians 11

“²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly.”

A.W. Tozer's

"Rules for Self Discovery"

- ✓ What we want most
- ✓ What we think about most
- ✓ How we use our money
- ✓ What we do with our leisure time
- ✓ The company we enjoy
- ✓ Who and what we admire
- ✓ What we laugh at

Three hot spots



Soul Audit

Repentance calls you to:

Know yourself

(get in touch with your heart)

Accept yourself

(apply grace to yourself)

Forget yourself

(remove defensive strategies)

Give yourself

(minister grace to others)

Others can see parts of us in ways we may not.

Romans 12:5

"so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."



Who are you?

Known by self

Hidden from self

Known to others

Public self

Blind self

Hidden from others

Secret self

Hidden self

Who are you?

Known by self

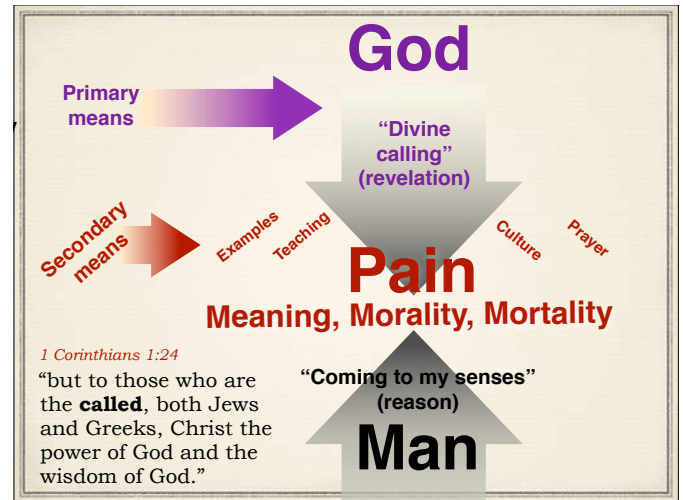
Hidden from self

Known to others

Public self

Hidden from others

How does God's Spirit bring us to our senses?



The dynamics of repentance #2 Seeing the Light

“17 But when he came to his senses, he said, ‘**How many of my father’s hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger!**’”

A crisis of pain
(Meaning, Morality, and Mortality)

call for
reflection and reason.

The Prodigal comes to his senses by:

1. Seeing the darkness of the “distant land.”
2. Seeing the neediness of his own life.
3. Seeing the light of his true home.

He did not:

1. Refuse to face himself or his family.
2. Make excuses for his condition.
3. Demand a second chance.
4. Minimize his failure.
5. Play the victim card.

G.K. Chesterton



“Men do not differ much about what things they call evils; they differ enormously about what evils they will call excusable.”

The “beatitudes” *Matthew 5:3-12*

- “Blessed are the **poor in spirit**” – They are aware of their dark side and its deadly effects.
- “Blessed are those who **mourn**” – They are in pain for their condition.
- “Blessed are the **meek**” – They are stripped of their pride.
- “Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**” – They are desperate for a righteousness that they cannot achieve in the flesh.
- “Blessed are the **merciful**” – They realize that others need grace as they themselves do.
- “Blessed are the **pure in heart**” – They are not double minded seeking to have it both ways.
- “Blessed are the **peacemakers**” – They bring people together.
- “Blessed are the **persecuted**” – They suffer for righteousness.

Be careful of pain meds.

When you kill the pain you also may kill the appetite for change.



As long as you can successfully avoid or medicate pain you probably will not repent!

Repentance

God takes a risk whenever He blesses you lest you use the blessing to kill the pain of foolish choices!

Anger can be revealing.

Anger is a trailhead to a path that leads deep into your soul's most cherished values.

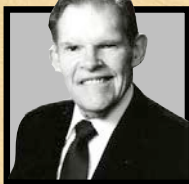


Your image may not be the real you.

You can spend a great deal of time critiquing the ideal image of yourself and not your true self.



Haddon Robinson



"Give us wretched sinners and not just ordinary ones. It is the wretched sinners that get better because they know they must."

Counseling yourself is important.

After carefully listening to yourself, you must talk to yourself.

Next Week

