

Must Have Gift from God's Consuming Fire

Message Magazine's Online Devotional for Monday, July 10, 2017

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This is devotional thought number 18 in our devotional series, "Essentials of Faith." Our subject is: Repentance and Confession.

Here's the question for consideration: What makes it possible for me to repent?

"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" (Romans 2:4).

God is wonderful, kind, tolerant, merciful, and patient, but He will in no wise clear the guilty.

Since God is absolutely holy, while He is full of mercy, He cannot act like we never sinned if we don't repent. If sinful humanity comes into direct contact with the effulgent presence of God, it must consequently combust.

This is not a function of God being punitive. It is the reality that our God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29). In order to save us from immediate death in His presence, He gives us the gift of repentance.

That's it: God gives us the gift of repentance so we can live in His presence.