

Distress that drives us to God does that. It turns us around. It gets us back in the way of salvation. We never regret that kind of pain. But those who let distress drive them away from God are full of regrets, end up on a deathbed of regrets. And now, isn't it wonderful all the ways in which this distress has goaded you closer to God? You're more alive, more concerned, more sensitive, more reverent, more human, more passionate, more responsible. Looked at from any angle, you've come out of this with purity of heart.
2 Corinthians 7:10-11 (MSG)

Turned You Around

What turned you around? What changed the entire course of your life? You were headed one way, then you came to a complete stop, turned around, and started walking in the opposite direction. What happened to you? You happened to me. You turned my life around. You helped me to see the error of my ways. You helped me to realize that I was living and walking on a path that led away from you. You helped me to see that I was living a sinful life that was not pleasing to you. I was in deep distress. I was in great pain. I did not know it then, but I know it now. I was in distress and great pain because of the emptiness of my life. There was a hole in my life that only you could fill. Sin was separating me from you. That brought Godly sorrow into my life. I felt Godly sorrow over my sins. I felt Godly sorrow about you not being in my life, at the very center, of all my thoughts and words and actions. You however, got my attention. **Yes, I did.** All my pain and emptiness drew me to you. I had a choice to make. Would I keep walking on the path that led away from you? Or would turn I around and turn my life over to you? It would be foolish, in a sense, to say that I chose you. You chose me, there is no doubt about that. But I was not only seeking comfort for my distress or relief of my pain. Somehow, as dense as I was, you helped me to know that I wanted and needed you. I wanted the new life of salvation that you were ready, willing, and able to give me as a free gift. All that was needed was for me to confess and turn from my sins and begin to love and follow and serve you. That is where Godly sorrow led me. Godly sorrow turned my life around and started me on a new course of loving, following, and serving you. I will never regret feeling Godly sorrow. Godly sorrow helped me, and will continue to help me, to live in an intimate relationship with you. Godly sorrow will give passion to my prayers. Godly sorrow will cause me to continually rely on you. Why is that someone might ask? I am still a sinner. I still need forgiveness. I still need you to help me to keep on loving, following, and serving you with all that is within me. So, keep on using Godly sorrow to purify my life. Use Godly sorrow to bring hope and peace into my life and fill my heart with joy. Use Godly sorrow to draw me closer and closer to you until the day I come to see you face to face. **That I will do. That you can count on.** Thank you, Lord.

Lord, thank you for using Godly sorrow to turn my life around so I could begin to love and follow and serve you. Thank you that Godly sorrow has drawn me into an intimate and passionate relationship with you. I will never regret your using Godly sorrow in my life. Amen

The Virtuous Life

Leaves No Regret

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.

NIV 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

The Virtuous Life

There's No Regret

For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death. Just see what this godly sorrow produced in you! Such earnestness, such concern to clear yourselves, such indignation, such alarm, such longing to see me, such zeal, and such a readiness to punish wrong. You showed that you have done everything necessary to make things right.

NLT 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

The Virtuous Life

No Regret

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves guiltless in the matter.

NRSV 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

The Virtuous Life

Never Brings Regret

For godly grief *and* the pain God is permitted to direct, produce a repentance that leads *and* contributes to salvation *and* deliverance from evil, and it never brings regret; but worldly grief (the hopeless sorrow that is characteristic of the pagan world) is deadly [breeding and ending in death]. For [you can look back now and] observe what this same godly sorrow has done for you *and* has produced in you: what eagerness *and* earnest care to explain *and* clear yourselves [of all complicity in the condoning of incest], what indignation [at the sin], what alarm, what yearning, what zeal [to do justice to all concerned], what readiness to mete out punishment [to the offender]! At every point you have proved yourselves cleared *and* guiltless in the matter.

AMP 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

The Virtuous Life

Without Regret

For the sorrow that is according to *the will of* God produces a repentance without regret, *leading* to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.

NASB 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

The Virtuous Life

Without Regret

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.

ESV 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

The Virtuous Life

Not To Be Regretted

For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, *what* clearing of yourselves, *what* indignation, *what* fear, *what* vehement desire, *what* zeal, *what* vindication! In all *things* you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

NKJV 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

The Virtuous Life

We Never Regret

Distress that drives us to God does that. It turns us around. It gets us back in the way of salvation. We never regret that kind of pain. But those who let distress drive them away from God are full of regrets, end up on a deathbed of regrets. And now, isn't it wonderful all the ways in which this distress has goaded you closer to God? You're more alive, more concerned, more sensitive, more reverent, more human, more passionate, more responsible. Looked at from any angle, you've come out of this with purity of heart.

MSG 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

The Virtuous Life

Never Regret

For God sometimes uses sorrow in our lives to help us turn away from sin and seek eternal life. We should never regret his sending it. But the sorrow of the man who is not a Christian is not the sorrow of true repentance and does not prevent eternal death. Just see how much good this grief from the Lord did for you! You no longer shrugged your shoulders but became earnest and sincere and very anxious to get rid of the sin that I wrote you about. You became frightened about what had happened and longed for me to come and help. You went right to work on the problem and cleared it up [punishing the man who sinned]. You have done everything you could to make it right.

TLB 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

The Virtuous Life

Cannot Be Sorry

The kind of sorrow God wants makes people change their hearts and lives. This leads to salvation, and you cannot be sorry for that. But the kind of sorrow the world has brings death. See what this sorrow—the sorrow God wanted you to have—has done to you: It has made you very serious. It made you want to prove you were not wrong. It made you angry and afraid. It made you want to see me. It made you care. It made you want the right thing to be done. You proved you were innocent in the problem.

NCV 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

We Never Regret

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

The Virtuous Life – 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

In Context: Read 2 Corinthians 7

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, thank you for using Godly sorrow to turn my life around so I could begin to love and follow and serve you. Thank you that Godly sorrow has drawn me into an intimate and passionate relationship with you. I will never regret your using Godly sorrow in my life. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How has Godly sorrow turned your life around so that you could love, follow, and serve God?

How has Godly sorrow made you more intimate with God and more passionate in your prayers?

How has Godly sorrow been changing your heart, transforming your mind, and guiding your life?

How has Godly sorrow caused praise, thanksgiving, and worship to God to overflow your life?

How has Godly sorrow helped you to live the salvation life that Christ has secured for you?

Why will you never regret the work that Godly sorrow has done and will do in your life?

How has Godly sorrow made your witness bolder and brighter in the darkness of this world?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Allow Godly sorrow to turn your life around and draw you ever closer to God as you love, follow and serve Him.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that you will never regret the work that Godly sorrow will do in your heart, and mind, and life.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how Godly sorrow has and still is doing a great work in you.

Close With Prayer:

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May Godly sorrow turn your life around and cause you to passionately love, follow and serve the Lord.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will allow Godly sorrow to turn my life around and make me more passionate about living my life for you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how will you use Godly sorrow to turn my life around and make me more passionate in following you?
