



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Lookup and Live!

Scripture: Numbers 21:4-9

After complaining against God and Moses, the Israelites were bitten by “fiery serpents.” The solution was not physical medicine but a divine instruction to look toward the bronze image. **We have to look to God for deliverance from the consequences of sin (the “venom”) rather than relying on oneself.**

“And Moses prayed for the people” (Numbers 21:7). It was many instances that Moses prayed for God’s people (Israel (Exodus 32:32; Deuteronomy 9:26); Miriam (Numbers 12:13). Samuel for Israel (1 Samuel 7:5); A man of God for Jeroboam (1 Kings 13:6); David for Israel (1 Chronicles 21:17); Hezekiah for the people (2 Chronicles 30:18); and other instances (Job 42:10; Ps. 106:23; and Ephesians 1:16). **People of God that’s the reason why we should continually whole one another up in prayer because we are able to fall into sin.**

In 2 Kings 18:4, the bronze serpent had been made to cure the Israelites of the bite of poisonous snakes (Numbers 21:4-9). It demonstrated God’s presence and power and reminded the people of His mercy and forgiveness. **But it had become an object of worship instead of a reminder of whom to worship, so Hezekiah was forced to destroy it.** We must be careful that aids to our worship don’t become objects of worship themselves. Most objects are not made to be idols—they become idols by the way people use them.

Why would sins affect children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren? This is no arbitrary punishment. Children still suffer for the sins of their parents. **Consider child abuse or alcoholism, for example.** While these sins are obvious, selfishness and greed can be passed along as well. The dire consequences of sin are not limited to the individual family members. **Be careful not to treat sin casually, but repent and turn from it.**

Jesus said: *“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life”* (John 3:14-15). Jesus explained that just as the Israelites were healed of their sickness by looking at the serpent on the pole, **all believers today can be saved from the sickness of sin by looking at Jesus’ death on the cross.** It was not the snake that healed the people, but their belief that God could heal them. This belief was demonstrated by their obedience to God’s instructions. In the same way, we should continue to look to Christ (Hebrews 12:2). **Our salvation happens when we look up to Jesus, believing He will save us.**

Salvation only through Christ, *“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved”* (John 10:19). Acts 4:12 tells us, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” This is not something the church decided; it is the specific teaching of Jesus Himself (John 14:6). **God has provided this way for us to be healed of sin’s deadly bite.**

Jesus’ message is for everyone. Each individual has to choose to accept or reject the Gospel, and no one can become part of God’s Kingdom on the basis of heritage or connections. Having a Christian family is a wonderful blessing, but it won’t guarantee you eternal life. **You must believe in and follow Christ.**

The disciples were unable to cast out this devil (Matthew 17:14-21), and they asked Jesus why. He pointed to their lack of faith. It is the power of God, plus our faith, that moves the mountains in our lives. There is great power in even a little faith when we trust in God’s power to act.

Jesus has power over life and death as well as power to forgive sins. This is because He is the Creator of life. He who is life can surely restore life. **Whoever believes in Him has a spiritual life that death cannot touch or diminish in any way.** When we realize His power and how wonderful His offer to us really is, how can we help but look to Him and live? To those of us who believe, what wonderful assurance and certainty we have: *“Because I live, ye shall live also”* (John 14:19).

Jesus tested the blind men’s faith in Matthew 9:27-30. **Do you believe God can help you? Do you really want His help? So, lookup to Jesus and live!**