

# PETER: REGRET TO RESTORED

Recently, 2 Corinthians 7:10 has surfaced a few times in my studies. I usually reference the passage to remind others (or myself) what genuine grief looks like. It's not unusual for a person to feel bad for wrongdoing. However, it doesn't mean a person will change.

I've mentioned that Jordan and I watch "Hoarders" in our nighttime downtime. The show still airs, but we returned to the show's beginning. It's absolutely mind-blowing. The early seasons would focus on two individuals who struggle with hoarding their homes. They have an emotional connection to items in their home, so they can't get rid of anything. Everything has a purpose, value, or memory attached to it. For some, throwing away an item is like throwing a part of themselves away. So they collect and collect and collect. Many times, the hoarding is so bad they find themselves sleeping around soiled adult diapers and bags of feces because it's so out of control. All these "projects" they had in mind are buried in literal feet of junk, clothes, amazon purchases, etc. It results in isolation, depression, and anxiety. Almost every one of them has ostracized their families. No more family dinners together. Grandkids can't come over. Or children are taken away for child abuse. And these mothers . . . they cry and cry and cry, but they won't change.

A common line from family members is something like: "Your things seem to be more important than us." Junk over people. Of course, every hoarder (most of them) denies it, but the family isn't buying it. So, the 2 Corinthians 7:10 principle definitely applies to this. You can say you're sorry all day, but it's all talk until you repent.

However, there's another common denominator with each hoarder. They all have a sad story. Many times, it's death. Sometimes, it is a betrayal in marriage. Other times, it's sexual abuse. Every now and then, it seems to be a learned behavior, but that's not the norm, and even then, there's typically some tragic story.

This leads to a life of regret. They are hurting, and it only results in more hurt. As you've heard it said, "Hurt people, hurt people." **Regret**—what a terrifying word. The more years, the more opportunity for regret to enter our lives.

As I often think of you, brethren, I wonder how my lack of years in life results in a lack of encouragement in areas you face. This isn't something I can force. I can only work with what I've experienced, but a lot can happen in 10, 20, 30, 40 years! In those years, you have more moments of joy and laughter. But you've probably had many moments of sadness, hurt, and regret. Some regret you can rid yourself of. For example, you're living in sin, and it hurts. You regret the consequences. Yet, there are times you repent, but the damage is done. This is the brutality of life. Some things have consequences that cannot be changed. Relationships can be broken or never

return to their original state. Loved ones may be gone, and you can't say, "I'm sorry." You may have acted with good intentions, doing your best, but unfortunately, the hurt still occurred. And it principally hurts you. I'm throwing out different scenarios because I have no idea what may have happened in your life.

I can tell you that most people have regret if they're being honest with themselves.

**The Last Meal:** Matthew 26:30–35 “And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of Me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” Peter answered Him, “Though they all fall away because of You, I will never fall away.” (Luke 22:31–33, “*Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.*” Peter said to him, “*Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death.*”) Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” Peter said to Him, “Even if I must die with You, I will not deny You!” And all the disciples said the same.”

**The Garden:** Matthew 26:47–54 “While He was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the Man; seize Him.” And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed Him. Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus (*John 18:10, Simon Peter*) stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. (*John 18:11, Shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given Me?*)” Do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once send Me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?”

- *Good intentions:*

- So many times, we mean well. Your regrets may be rooted in good intentions. We're working with the information and understanding at that moment.
  - Paul in Acts 26:9-11
  - (Even God regretted making mankind in Gen. 6 and making Saul King as we see in 1 Samuel 15, though God did no wrong).
- Many times, we think we're in control when we're really not. We're trying to get it done rather than reject God, but that doesn't mean it's so. It doesn't mean it's the right time or way.
  - Moses in Acts 7:23-25

**The Denial:** Luke 22:59–62 “And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with Him, for He too is a Galilean.” But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And immediately,

while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly."

**Restoration:** John 21:15–17 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

- *Forgiveness:*

- Others have a responsibility to forgive as well.
  - David believed he was forgiven - Psalm 51

- *Grace:*

- God is gracious. Mistakes shouldn't result in an eternal beatdown.
  - I wonder if David practically struggled with this with his family.
  - I'm sure Paul had to learn how to move forward as he was surrounded by those he persecuted. He really hurt them.
  - We lean on God because while others may not forgive or let us move on, Jesus always will.

- *Restoration:*

- Jesus can put you back to work, but can you accept that? It's what's needed.
  - This doesn't mean difficult times aren't ahead of us, but what has happened before prepares us for what's to come.
    - John 21:18–19 "Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."
    - Some traditions hold that Peter was killed around 68 A.D. He requested to be crucified upside down because he did not deem himself worthy to be crucified like Christ. We don't know if that's actually true, but we know Peter still stumbled. He was a man. But, he faithfully followed the Lord all the days of his life. Brethren, I believe this: when he shut his eyes for the last time on this earth, he had no sense of regret when he opened them again.