

What Works

Isaiah 30:15 This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says:

**"In repentance and rest is your salvation,
in quietness and trust is your strength,
but you would have none of it.**

For years I traded relationship with God for being religious. I'm still healing from that damage. A "religious" person can have a good relationship with God, as long as they don't let their abilities define that relationship, but let God's love, and love for God be the foundation through and in Christ. The problem is when you try to manufacture it by your own strength and discipline.

So at this point, let me ask you a simple question: "Are you happy?"

Not that happiness is the goal, but it sure is the natural taste from eating the fruit of the Spirit; Joy and peace from and found in God that delivers divine pleasure and total satisfaction. Not that messy, destructive, and temporary demonic pleasure that leaves one empty and craving.

The problem for most people is that they don't know how to relate to God.

In my toxic "religious" days I would turn the Bible into a formula. Take the above verse for example: "If I just repent and rest, I'll be saved, and if I'm quiet and trust, I'll be strong! So I'll read my Bible and pray a bunch!" I would do that for about three days, or two weeks if I was really militant, and then crash, only to emerge more messed up than when I started.

Then I looked at my kids. They naturally relate by....

Repentance...coming to daddy.

Rest...snuggle up.

At this point...they're saved from whatever situation they're in.

Quietness...everything's okay in daddy's arms, being still.

Trust...daddy loves you, and he's not going to hurt you or steer you wrong.

Strength that's found not earned, in daddy's arms. Freedom in Father God's arms, and that's why you pray, worship, and read the Bible.