

God's Comeback Path

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 6:23).

I serve a big God. When I am down and fallen, and suffer the bruises from my fall, He picks me up and carries me back to the place where I fell, so that I can start again, having profited from my earlier experience. Not so with human-kind—an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth becomes our mosaic. We are transactional and ready to pass judgment soonest until the "finger writes in the sand".

But my God is a big God; He does not excuse my sin, for the wages of sin is death, but yes, the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord". I suffer the consequences for my sin—that is my punishment—from the moment sin entered the world, there were consequences. Then comes the stage of forgiveness and grace, extended to me unconditionally, and I have to ask for it. Then follows the stage of atonement where I atone for what I have done through contrite heart and sorrow, as well as actions to demonstrate my intent. The anointing stage follows, a conscious decision to serve and to be set aside. Once I am anointed, transformation with final restoration and restitution. God appoints me to service. That is how God works. And there we have it: Consequences, Forgiveness, Atonement, Transformation, Restitution, Appointment.

I remember the story of David in 2 Samuel 12—he sinned BIG time, with Bathsheba—awful, lying adulterous murder. The prophet Nathan meted out the discipline—there was a consequence—a newborn baby died; the sword never departed from David's house, and his family members were in constant strife. But David did not die; he pleaded with God to save the life of the newborn—he fasted, did not eat, went into a stupor but to no avail. Sin has its ugly consequences. Yet from the disarray came Solomon, the wisest man of all times, and David was described as a man after God's own heart. God can take confusion and pull a miracle out of it.

I serve a big God—He has a comeback path, and one day when He comes in glory, I am going to heaven with Him. No more sin, no more sorrow, no more dying, no more confusion. So why not create that scenario here on earth meanwhile, and practice it! Might we not forgive each other as God has forgiven us? We'll always have the consequences of sin, but where sin does abound, grace does much more abound (Romans 5:20). So there's hope today and room at the cross in every circumstance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-h59uYNXQfU>