

Steps back to God:

1. Implore God... cry out to God earnestly – v. 12 “he implored the LORD his God”
2. Humble Yourself – v. 12 “... he humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers”

James 4:6-10

3. Pray to God – v. 13, 18 both refer to his prayer

2 Chronicles 33:13 “And prayed to Him...”

2 Chronicles 33:18 “Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, his prayer to his God...”

I Timothy 1:12-17

The ‘fruits’ of Manasseh’s repentance:

2 Chronicles 33:13 “... Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.”

2 Chronicles 33:15 “He took away the foreign gods and the idol... and all the altars that he had built...”

2 Chronicles 33:16 “He also repaired the altar of the LORD...”

Psalms 86:5 “For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.”

“Buddhism doesn’t offer redemption and forgiveness in the same way Christianity does” since “Buddhism has no concept of sin.” *Barbara Hoetsu O'Brien, a Buddhist journalist* BreakPoint: How Dare He?, January 7, 2010

Hebrews 7:25 “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him...”

More People Like Us with Problems Like Ours

Manasseh ~ Never Too Late to Repent

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / June 27, 2010

2 Chronicles 33:1-16

- Can horribly wicked people be forgiven and go to heaven?
- Does God label anyone as a ‘Lost Cause’?

I. Maybe You (or that Person You Love) Have Done Everything You Can to Push Away from and Reject the God of Your Parents

2 Chronicles 33:3 “For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down...”

II. Maybe You (or that Person You Love) Have Looked Everywhere But to the Living God for Truth and Spiritual Direction

v. 4 – built altars in the house of the LORD

v. 5 – built altars for the stars in the temple courtyard

v. 6 – murdered some of his own sons as human sacrifices to pagan gods

- Manasseh **practiced sorcery** – trying to gain power from evil spirits
- He practiced **divination** – trying to interpret the future by omens
- He practiced **witchcraft** – trying to control others through communication with evil spirits
- And He **consulted mediums and spiritists** – trying to consult the dead for direction and guidance

2 Chronicles 33:9 “So Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.”

III. **Maybe You (or that Person You Love) Have Even Gone Out of Your Way to Lead Others Away from God**

2 Chronicles 33:9

Romans 1:29-32 “being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”

New American Standard “... also give hearty approval to those who practice them.”

The Message “And it’s not as if they don’t know better. They know perfectly well they’re spitting in God’s face. And they don’t care—worse, they hand out prizes to those who do the worst things best!”

IV. **Maybe You (or that Person You Love) Have Worked Hard Not to Hear God’s Word!**

2 Chronicles 33:10 “And the LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen.”

2 Kings 21:9 says “But they paid no attention...”

V. **It’s Only a Matter of Time Before You’ll be Suffering the Consequences of Rejecting and Running from God**

2 Chronicles 33:11 “Therefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon.”

Galatians 6:7-8 “⁷ Don’t be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. ⁸ Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.” *New Living*

Proverbs 13:15 “... the way of the transgressor is hard.”

Ecclesiastes 8:11-13 “Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him. But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days, which are as a shadow, because he does not fear before God.”

1 Timothy 5:24 “The sins of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them.”

Promise:

VI. **You’re Never Too Far Gone for God**

2 Chronicles 33:13 “And when he prayed to Him the LORD was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea...”

2 Chronicles 33:12-13 “Now when he was in affliction...”

Acts 9:3-6 “³ As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. ⁴ Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ ⁵ And he said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ Then the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ ⁶ So he, trembling and astonished, said, ‘Lord, what do You want me to do?’”

“... I examined myself with a seriously practical purpose. And there I found what appalled me; a zoo of lusts, a bedlam of ambitions, a nursery of fears, a harem of fondled hatreds. My name was legion. . . In the Trinity term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England. . . . The Prodigal Son at least walked home on his own feet. But who can duly adore that Love which will open the high gates to a prodigal who is brought in kicking, struggling, resentful and darting his eyes in every direction for a chance of escape? *Surprised by Joy* [New York: Harcourt, Brace and World], pp. 226-229

Isaiah 55:6-7 “Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.”