

day 4 | The Hardest Work

Replicate

The best way to impact the lives of others is to make things right with those you sin has injured. That work is called restitution. Let me be totally transparent and tell you it will be the hardest part of this book for most who read it. But it will also produce the most genuine and lasting parts of personal revival.

- 1 In your journal or in a separate notebook make a restitution chart or use a separate page for each person. Include for the following information.
 1. Name
 2. Offense(s) (your offenses, not theirs)
 3. Action needed/restitution required
 4. When can I do this?

Ask yourself: To whom do I need to write a letter of apology? Whom do I need to call and ask forgiveness? Whom do I need to visit? Complete the chart, being very specific. In the context of the entire problem, your wrong may not even be the biggest piece, but it is your piece to make right. You are repenting first before God (vertical) and then before the person whom your sin hurt (horizontal). This is unconditional repentance not at all dependent on their response.

Restitution may mean more than an apology. Consider what your sin has cost them—money, reputation, and so on. Pay it back as far as you are able. Also write down when you are going to contact the person and how you are going to do so.

- 2 Ask a friend or mentor to give you prayer support as you follow through with this step. Report to them the results of your restitution efforts. Trust me when I tell you that this will be one of the greatest blessings you have ever experienced.

Elevate

After you have begun doing the hard work of repenting and making restitution, give thanks:

Lord, thank You for changing my heart. You have produced a deep grief in me over what I've done. I have excused the inexcusable and blamed others for what I'm responsible for. I see that as sin now, and I'm turning around. As best as I know how, I'm repenting of all the things that have kept me dry and distant from You. It makes me sick just to think of how I've grieved You.

By Your grace I am dealing with it now. Already I sense that You are welling up in me the hope of restoration and the rightness of reconciliation to You. Don't stop, Lord! I am performing deeds in keeping with repentance. Thank You for this renewed season of mercy to get this work done. I'm getting on the right road, and I'm not looking back. This I pray in Jesus' name. Amen. †