

## Letters of Repentance from Larry Davis

Dear David (read this to the whole church),

I'm sending this letter to you with all my love. My thoughts and affections turn to you very often. I'm honored to have a friend like you. I want to share with you what has happened to me since I've been with the little flock. God has had mercy on me and saved me. I was planning to leave the church and go back to Dalton. I've been under a great delusion because of my own sin. I'm sure you remember me sharing there at celebration about a "moment of honesty" when I was driving to Dr. Bolton's where I felt that the reason I haven't been healed yet was that I really didn't want to be. I also spoke that day about the sobering thought that all my good feelings toward God and His purpose all these years had come from caffeine. Well, that was only the beginning of my honesty. David, I've been a half-hearted reluctant follower of this way for nine years, too cowardly and fearful to drop out and too unbelieving to give my whole being. The Lord has recently spoken so clearly to me in my heart and also in my circumstances that I want to share all of it with you and the others there that I love so much (especially Bill H. and Larry Clinton).

It goes back to how I was in the world and the way that I am. I've always been fiercely competitive, but in a very subtle way. I could cover it so that it wasn't obvious that I was so proud. One-upmanship motivated and drove me deeply. I hated to lose or be topped, so if I ever saw that I couldn't win, I'd drop out beforehand. I was calculating. That's part of the evil spirit that I've had all these years. I entered into work as a research chemist at a disadvantage of having only two years of college. In a few years this drive in me to win had made me the best in the company. But then I saw that I couldn't win because while the chemists were doing all the work in the back room, the sales and management people were being honored and paid all the money. I saw it and I wanted out.

I believe this is part of the reason I opted for the novel lifestyle with you brothers. My discovery of the kingdom was tainted from the beginning. I saw here an opportunity to "gracefully" bow out of the competition of the world and enter into the "competition" of love.

I want to go back a little further to high school. The principal's secretary was mother of a girl who was my classmate through school. She was favored by everyone and intelligent. I saw it and I quietly and calculatingly ended up valedictorian instead of her. I had a 98 average for 4 years; she had a 96. I only want to include this to show you the depth of this evil drive in myself. I know, too, that a good mind can be a tool of the devil. I'm full of reason and I've fallen prey to that over and over — usually it's come out toward Elbert. I've been like the Pharisees that tested Yeshua to catch Him in a mistake. It's been subtle.

I'm too calculating and intelligent to "get caught" at it. I've read some dangerous books too as you well know and my memory recall works on the side of evil as much as good. When I got to Europe, from the beginning, I calculated my "chances" with Jose and John. I saw that their gifting and graces and especially devotion to the anointing that we have put me at a disadvantage. I was also keenly suffering caffeine withdrawal and my "Epicurean" taste buds were screaming at our simple, monotonous diet. There wasn't much money, or freedom to travel, and Jose was truly loving me by guarding me from my own lusts.

Also, at this time a root of bitterness surfaced again about how I was treated at the end in Dalton and how I felt about local elders and autonomous churches (products of my reading books). All this came out in me as accusation toward Elbert and unbelief that we are on that one true foundation and that there are other ways besides the cross. All this evil manifested itself because of my hypocrisy in pointing the finger. I was jealous of Elbert's love toward John and Jose and so the old method of dropping out of the competition before the end rose up stronger in me than ever before in my life. Old idols I thought were forgotten were just as alive and desirable as ever. I saw a lot of motorcycles and Alphas in Spain; they drink the best espresso you ever tasted; their lifestyle isn't so apparently worldly and gross as America's — less flashy, more subtle, and it was very desirable to me.

I had only repressed these things all these years and sublimated them into mystic writers, mate and tea

and special food and wine occasionally. The corruption that's in the world is cause by lust and I had continued to harbor lust in me all these years. Lust never allows you to be satisfied with God's provision and it never allows you to give thanks or to look on the good things that are worthy of praise.

David, I came to the door this week and I almost turned and walked away. You can't imagine how close I came to being destroyed and destroying those I love more than anything. It's awesome and alarming what I am capable of doing against my Lord and He still loved me and had mercy on me. He granted me repentance in my heart yesterday. I couldn't leave. I couldn't deny Elbert's love for me and I couldn't deny the fruit of his life and I kept thinking through all this what you would have said to me and I didn't need to call and find out. I needed to confess my sin and reject that evil spirit that would have taken me to destruction. Thank God there's a rock somewhere that I could fall on and be broken. I want to be. It's going to be hard for me but I believe now. I believe what we preach and live like I've never believed before. I want it to grow and fill the earth. I want to be stimulated by God's life and provision for me and finally, after nine years, enter into rest and I believe that my blood pressure is going to go down and I believe my wife may get pregnant some day.

The Lord gave me a promise yesterday in Rev 7:12-15. Read it.

David, I love you so much. Be sure that everyone knows that the Lord heard their prayer and gave the little flock a big house. It has a large 3-car garage, enough room for 80-100 people, and grounds for gardening, farming, and walking on while we learn to enjoy the good things of God and the age to come. The other day we baptized Josephine, a German from Hamburg who's been in Spain a few years, named Carlos, and Sigrid's sister Gudrun (who renounced anorexia). The little flock is growing.

David, I don't know about the fruit of my life up until now. I pray that I haven't caused anyone to stumble. I believe I'm forgiven because I found repentance. I want to go on now and bear fruit that will remain.

We miss you and love you,  
Larry

Dear David,

I want to continue expressing my heart to you as I see more and more the magnitude of my sin and what I've done. I want to face this squarely and honestly and come to complete repentance. I feel really weak but I want to go on. I know that my life has influenced people in the Body. I'm especially concerned for those closest to me — that they won't be hurt by the deep things that I allowed to work in my heart. I especially want Bill, Brett, and Edward to know that I'm not the "wise sage" that I wanted them to think I was. I see now that I fostered that image, especially in them. The only wisdom I see now is to fear the Lord and hate the evil of darkness.

I believe that I do love those men, but I can only prove that by laying down my life for them now. I know that I often led Brett into discussions on irrelevant theology to just show off my worthless knowledge. Those brothers have heard me say that "no one listens to me" and that "I have no true authority; I'm just an honorary member of the eldership." I see now what an evil spirit this was. I was sowing discord and accusing God and the church that I was unjustly treated. I was actually undermining their faith and promoting myself to gather a following.

The real reason I felt that way is because it was true. Even though I could expound the word and connect many verses, I really was spiritually sterile and impotent. It never had the effect on others that I thought it should have, so I judged them as being dull and slow. That was because I was an empty husk and a "clanging cymbal." I had never allowed the Holy Spirit of God in the church to regenerate me and completely possess me. I came to the church with my own mystical experience of Christ and I felt that I didn't need anything else. My theology continued to agree with that of the church up to the point that I've come to recently.

Now I'm facing the very cross that I've talked and read about all these years. I've been a bad example also. I used my sickness in order to get special treatment, good food, and even beer, especially through Bill

and Gladheart. I should have been a true shepherd and been honest with them, but I took advantage of their giving hearts. I was subtle about this, acting as if it didn't really matter, but all along wanting this special favor, and then talking as if I was concerned about justice and equality in the body — what hypocrisy. I'm amazed that I'm still alive, David.

I know, too, that I've talked about people and their problems with others that those matters didn't involve. I only did it to build my own ego — that I had discernment and was "in on" much of the inner workings of the church. I know I've done this with Bill and Brett. It's a form of sensuality and it always takes the attention off your own personal, spiritual condition; it's gossip and back-biting and discord and it works on the side of evil to divide us from others. I see also that it's an outlet for our grumbling, complaining spirit and our rebellion toward the Lord.

David, I've even been "proud of being humble." I would do things to be noticed by men, like wash dishes.

I'd submit outwardly, causing everyone to think that I was submissive, but inwardly, I was smug and condescending. I think too, that I've given comfort and counsel to others that would build me up in their eyes and create in them a need for me. I hope to God that I can be brought to a place where I can judge myself in these matters. I want people to turn to Yeshua and follow him and give Him the glory. The mercy of God to me now would be that no one would stumble because of my lawless and proud example in the church.

Use this letter however you want and as the Lord gives you wisdom.

Pray for me,

Larry