

Spiritual Truth Is Sometimes Counterintuitive

“Repent” is the “first word” of the Gospel of the Kingdom preached by Jesus and his cousin, John. It may be defined as beginning to walk in a different direction after renouncing past sinful behavior. It does not make you a child of God or in any way “qualify” you for God's love and forgiveness. We are all loved and forgiven by God before, during and after we repent of sinful behavior. Repentance simply enables us to “experience” and “become aware” of that forgiveness. Over time, even Hitler will find, or already has found, his way, and get back on course. True, he took a huge “detour,” and who knows what it might take (or has taken) to get him back on track again? I am guessing that his personal journey towards becoming like Christ (ie. salvation) will include making amends with the people he hurt in the past. Conversely, the millions of people he hurt may have some work to do on their attitudes, as well. Their desire for revenge could potentially be more damaging to their souls than their original suffering at the hands of Hitler. Spiritual truth is sometimes counterintuitive. Imagine the joy Hitler might be experiencing as He is loved and forgiven by countless souls who were “victims” of the holocaust. Those souls were not damaged at all by their physical deaths, but many of them, as well as those who escaped the holocaust, were damaged by attitudes of hatred and the desire for revenge. At the same time, ironically, Hitler's soul may be experiencing salvation and a heightened awareness of God’s love as he repents of his evil ways and receives love and forgiveness from those victims.