

FROM FATHER JOHN: *"The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart. The command of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eye. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; The ordinances of the LORD are true, all of them just. Let the words of my mouth and the thought of my heart find favor before you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer."* ~ Psalm 19

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.



**“TO REPENT IS NOT TO LOOK
DOWNWARDS AT MY OWN
SHORTCOMINGS, BUT UPWARDS AT
GOD’S LOVE, IT IS NOT TO LOOK
BACKWARDS WITH SELF-REPROACH
BUT FORWARD WITH
TRUSTFULNESS, IT IS TO SEE NOT
WHAT I HAVE FAILED TO BE, BUT
WHAT BY THE GRACE OF CHRIST I
MIGHT YET BECOME.”**

St John Climacus

The Season of Lent always reminds me how great God’s mercy is. God’s mercy to the ancient Israelites was great. His mercy to Christians, to all of us, is super abundant in every way. The ancient Israelites had spent scores of years in exile and living in a place where they were greatly oppressed. What is interesting is how they reacted to their oppression. They acknowledged their sins, and they repented.

In his letter to the Corinthians, the Pope St. Clement I wrote “If we review the various ages of history, we will see that in every generation the Lord has *offered the opportunity of repentance* to any who were willing to turn to him. When Noah

preached God’s message of repentance, all who listened to him were saved. Jonah told the Ninevites they were going to be destroyed, but when they repented, their prayers gained God’s forgiveness for their sins, and they were saved, even though they were not of God’s people.”

Lent is a time of repentance. Our Lord and God calls us to repent, and He promises us that when we repent and follow His plan of Salvation, we will find our Lord Jesus. We will encounter our Risen Lord and, when we encounter Him, He gives us grace upon grace. He gives us hope and joy.

Hope and joy come from experiencing God’s mercy and his promise that we will never be alone, that he will never abandon us, that he will never forsake us, that his love endures forever, and that he will always reach out to us and welcome us home. But to realize that hope and joy, we need to humble ourselves, repent of our sins and ask God for forgiveness.

May God Bless you and all those who love the Lord.

