

Repentance Part 1

“1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, 6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: 9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. 10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: 12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” (Mathew 3: 1-12 KJV)

There is a question that people need to ask themselves: *“How can I be saved?”* or yourself you may ask this question: *“How can I be saved?”* To answer this question Paul had made a good statement in the book of Acts, *“21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Acts 20:21 KJV)* So we can conclude two requirements for salvation:

1. *Repentance toward God.*
2. *Faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*

So repentance must come first then followed by faith in the Lord Jesus; such repentance leads us to salvation. So faith in the Lord Jesus must be proceeded by repentance, otherwise there is no salvation.

Therefore the issue that needs to be addressed is this: Is faith in the Lord Jesus without repentance is enough for us to be saved? Faith in Jesus Christ without repentance does not lead to salvation. Many are those who believe but without repentance so they are unsaved because they still live in sin. The Bible speaks about the grace of God and His love to us as it is written, *“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8 KJV)* But that does not mean to go on and sin or live in sin because God is a gracious God, and this is what Paul wrote to the church of God in Rome: *“1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” (Romans 6:1-2 KJV)*

In the same way, John the Baptist exhorted the people and warned them to produce fruit that goes with repentance. *Repentance is to confess your sin, to renounce it, to forsake it and to commit yourself and your life to God through faith in Jesus Christ, and fruit of repentance should appear in the lives of those who confess Jesus as*

Savior and Lord over their lives. “Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” (2 Timothy 2:19 KJV) Those who confess Christ as Savior and Lord over their lives they must depart from sin.

John came to prepare the way for Jesus. He was preaching baptism of repentance. He was telling the crowd the following about Jesus: *“11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:” (Mathew 3: 11 KJV)* Water baptism is mandatory for each and everyone who repents and have faith in the Lord Jesus. Baptism by immersion in water in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit is to bury the old life and to rise to a new life, a life in the Spirit. Then after when your lives are holy before God and your hearts are pure and clean before Him the Lord Jesus will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will be filling you when you repent of your sins and have the character and personality of Jesus in your life, then God will give you the precious gifts of the Holy Spirit.

John warned the people with the followings:

1. *“And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.” (Mathew 3: 9 KJV)* * Don't brag that you are a believer or born again but you are still not repentant and live in sin. Such things will make you rejected by God. * Don't think that your service and ministry to God will cover up the sin that you are doing. * Don't think that your service and ministry to God will cover up your pride, arrogance, cheating, lying, fornication, stealing, wasting resources, taking advantage, using your eyes for ungodly purposes, etc. Before your service, God wants you to repent and be cleansed from the sin that you are living in. God able to change stones and to change the worst sinners and make them His children; those who repent will become first and those who are not yet repented will become last.

2. *“And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.” (Mathew 3: 10 KJV)* God's Judgment is coming on those who are still living in sin and disobedience. The same as Jesus said, *“2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.” (John 15: 2 KJV)* The Pharisees and the Sadducees they heard the message, but they did not repent. So don't be like them. *God's Judgment and wrath is coming on those who live in sin, “12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” (Mathew 3:12 KJV)*

“Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.” (Matthew 3:8)

Repent! What does this word mean? You might be walking in the street, working in your shop, purchasing your grocery, resting in your home, sitting in a coffee shop, taking your cup of tea, visiting a friend, or you are in a church meeting. But, please excuse me for asking this question: *What does repentance represent or mean to you?*

Everyone in this life is moving in a certain way. More or less, each one is convinced about something in life that he stands for it. Everyone has his own mind and his own will. We found those who have faith in knowledge that they believe in no God who created all things. They trust only in scientific power of knowledge and for them God is only a theory that needed to be proven.

We look into the other corner and find people who believe in their own strength and good works as the way for true living and salvation. They believe in the presence of God but they are convinced that to reach God is through doing good works, through following rituals and teachings commanded by men. They don't know the true and the living God who created the Heaven and earth and everything on it and they don't know the way to Him.

Others are lovers of money and material things like gold, lands and real estates, cars, etc. For them money and other material things is the only thing that makes them secure. In this life money and treasures of material things are by themselves not evil things, but the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Greed for money and treasures and other material things is idol worship. When money is always the number one thing in the mind of a person, money is already the god of that person. His mind and emotion is only linked to the bank accounts, business and stock markets, cars, gold, real estates, etc. The love of money makes him selfish, and lover of dishonest gain. He is covetous coveting the possessions of other people. The person who loves money is a slave to money.

There are also people who love the pleasures of this world. They are addicted or enslaved to the things as a way for them to experience peace and to come out from the pressures and stress of life. They enjoy smoking, drinking and gambling; they use and get addicted to certain drugs to make them sleep or relax from anxiety and depression. Others practice and have faith in yoga, karate, and many other kinds of exercise for the mind. Others are involved in immoralities to enjoy living in the pleasure of sin.

There are those who practice witchcrafts and magic arts, horoscope, etc. They are deceived by the power that Satan gives them and they became instruments of Satan to deceive others also. They serve Satan because he gave them the power to see things across distance or beyond their sight and to harm, manipulate or control people who do not have faith in the One and true God. Such power is not from God in Heaven, and God hates such things.

Nevertheless other people love God. They want to serve Him and live a Godly life. But they actually do not know the right way to reach and to please God. God cannot be reached through any other name, than the name of Jesus. God cannot be reached through faith in angels, saints, apostles, Mary the mother of Jesus, Krishna, Mohammed, Buddha, etc. The Bible says, ***“12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12 KJV)*** God can be reached only through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Lord of lords, and the King of kings. Church cannot save you, religion cannot save you, good works cannot also save you, but faith in Jesus Christ after you repent.

All the above categories of people, involve with all these things that we spoke need repentance. They must repent or they will not enter the Kingdom of God.

Jesus came down from Heaven. He came to show us the way to reach God. Jesus said the one who look on Him He sees God, ***“44 Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me. 45 And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me. 46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.” (John 12:44-46)*** Jesus came to show us who God is. Jesus came and took our sins and paid the price for all our wrongdoing. He died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins and He rose from the dead on the third day to give eternal life to everyone who believes in Him.

Repentance is to turn away from sin and move toward God. You need to consider the entire people categories that we mentioned before as sinners, even those who do the good works and those who look good people among the non believers of Jesus; all they need to repent.

You may think that you are far better than they; may be because you have a better life and you also go to church. But Jesus said, ***“5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:5 KJV)*** Every man is a sinner: ***“23 For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23 KJV)*** Therefore everyone needs to repent – turn back from his wrong way and follow God and have faith in Jesus Christ.

Real repentance requires two things:

1. Clear cut decision to stop sinning and turn away from old and worldly way of living: “9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9 KJV) To confess means to recognize and accept your sin, ask God precisely for forgiveness and stop doing that particular ungodly act like adultery, gambling, drinking, worshipping idols, doing witchcraft, practicing usury, eating blood, anger, fighting, stealing, cheating, and many other wicked ways, sins, etc.

2. Complete turn toward God and have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and not in any other name or person: “21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Acts 20:21 KJV) To have faith in Jesus does not only mean to believe in Him but to obey Him, to obey His Word, and to take Him as Lord and God over your life. ***“6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6 KJV)*** Jesus is the way; **you cannot reach God other than through Jesus. Otherwise you find yourself turning from bad to worse. Through receiving Jesus and following His example your life will be changed, and you will live a life of righteousness, serving God and pleasing God.** Jesus is the truth; many lies and deceptions of many kinds are everywhere you find. But the words of Jesus are always valid and all truth. Everything will vanish but the Word of God will all be fulfilled and stand forever. Jesus is the life; when you receive Jesus you will start to live a life full of mercy and grace, enjoying God's love and care, life to the full and life eternal. You will start to produce good fruit because you become God's child and His instrument.

My Dear and Beloved: The Lord Jesus died for your sins on the cross and He rose from the death to give you eternal life. After His resurrection Jesus went to Heaven, and He is now at the right hand of God the Father interceding for us, but He will come again to judge the living and the dead. He will come to take us; to take those who had repented and lived their lives for Him. He will come to judge the wicked who live in sin, and He will come to reward the righteous who live for Him. Now it is the time for you to really decide to turn away from your wrong ways and turn toward God by having faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Also it is not enough to stop your wrongdoing only but you need to have a personal relationship with God through Jesus. Then you will experience a life of righteousness, joy, and peace as you keep yourself away from sin and wickedness of this world. You can pray to God and ask Him your needs. Above all you will produce the best fruit of repentance – eternal life with God. Therefore follow the teaching of God's Word to be ready to be taken to Heaven with us when Jesus comes; repent, forsake your life of sin and start to follow Jesus and to live for God.

My Prayer: *Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sin, who was buried but rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord today I repent from the following sins and wrongdoings: _____ . Today I put my faith only in You, I commit my life from this day on to live for you and to serve you. Lord Jesus. Help me to be changed and to follow your ways. Thank You, Lord, for the eternal, and full life with You. This is my prayer in Jesus' name, Amen*

Lord Jesus thank you for the new souls that you saved today and those who gave their lives to you and accept you as Savior and Lord over their lives. Lord Jesus thank you for the gift of repentance and thank you for the forgiveness for our sins and the salvation that we received from you.

Lord bless our Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives to live for you. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts that they need in their lives to go on and serve you.

Lord bless us as a church and lead us and open to us new doors to evangelize and share our life testimonies with others so they will know you, repent of their sins and follow you. Lord reveals yourselves to them in visions and in dreams. Let them know you are the true God and we are your servant. Lord enable us to go and make new disciples and to baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Lord lead us and help us to train new workers to serve you. Lord help us to plant new congregations and new Bible studies for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Repentance Part 1. Mathew 3: 1-12. Acts 20:21. Romans 5:8. Romans 6:1-2. 2 Timothy 2:19. John 15: 2. Acts 4:12. John 12:44-46. Luke 13:5. Romans 3:23. 1 John 1:9. John 14:6.

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