

Repentance Part 3

"28 But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. 29 He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went." (Matthew 21:28-29 KJV)

The Greek word for ‘**Repentance**’ is ‘**Metanoeo**’, which means to change one’s mind, to change one’s mind for better, to change one’s mind heartily and to amend, with the abhorrence of one’s past sins. It is an inner change of mind, that to change decision, that the mind decide to move away from sins, to hate sin, and that result in an outward changes. The first son at first when he was requested by his father to go he refused and said No, but later on he realized it is wrong to refuse and say No to his father, so he repented, in which he changed his mind, so he went and did what his father had asked him to do, then that was his repentance. **“30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not.” (Matthew 21:30 KJV)** The second son here there is no repentance. What was his sin? A liar, he broke his promise when he promised and said **“I go sir”**, but he did not. Many they will say Yes, yes, yes, we will do, don’t worry, and they will not go. That is why the song that says ‘Yes Lord, yes lord, yes yes lord, yes Lord, yes lord, yes yes lord, yes Lord, yes lord, yes yes lord, yes Lord, yes lord, yes yes lord, yes Lord, yes lord, yes yes lord. Only lip service but they will not do. **Don’t be among such category.**

Repentance is a complete turning back. It is U turn and not round about. U turn it means you completely turn away from sin, that you completely change the direction of your life, 180 degree. But round about it means you move away from sins, but then after you go back to it, you go away from sin and then go back to it, because it is a round about, and so on which is not repentance. Today they will say, Sorry lord, but tomorrow they will go and do it again and so on. Or they will say sorry for the sins that I did today and sorry for the same sins that I will do tomorrow.

Repentance take place when you deeply grief of the sin you did and you decide to totally move away from it. That is to be made sorry and sorrowful after Godly manner; to have Godly sorrow that leads to repentance, then salvation and eternal life will flow in your life. **This what Paul said about Godly sorrow that work repentance that leads to salvation:** *“8 For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season. 9 Now I rejoyce, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh “death.” (2 Corinthians 7:8-10 KJV)*

Further examples of repentance, and leaving behind the old life of sin is what we read in Acts that those who were practicing witchcraft when they repented, they came and brought their expensive books and burnt them, ***“19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.” (Acts 19:19 KJV)*** They were willing to loss large amount of money and their

main resources for living and that was in order for them to live for Christ and without sins; fully trusting Him for their living and for their resources of income that He will totally provide for them. **To repent you need to throw, tear down, cut, or separate from all the following that contradict the Word of God and His will:**

- Your worship of idols, saints, apostles, mother Mary, other religion, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, their statutes and the photos and the icons of them
- Cigarettes, alcohol
- Your boyfriend or girlfriend
- Rubbish things in your mobile, the Social Media, Games, YOU tube
- Etc.

Repentance also need to pay back what you had taken or stolen and to compensate the losses, as we read what Zacchaeus offered when Jesus entered his house, ***“8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. 9 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.” (Luke 19:8-9 KJV)*** Jesus announced that salvation had come to that house because Zacchaeus was willing to correct the wrong way of life that he was living and harming the people with. He was willing to leave extortion and the abuse and was willing to compensate those whom he harmed. He did not throw a party for Jesus as many they do now, and continue in their sins and wrong doings.

Repentance means also that you need to reconcile with those whom you are offended as we read here, *“23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; 24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.” (Matthew 5:23-24 KJV)* So repentance means to move away from fight and strife and live in peace as much as you can with others.

Real repentance also means turning away from sin, disobedience and rebellion, and turning back to God and doing good works that goes along with repentance, as Paul said, ***"20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance."*** (Acts 26:20 KJV) The same as what John the Baptist said, ***"Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:"*** (Matthew 3:8 KJV) ***"10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."*** (Ephesians 2:10 KJV) When God saved us He saved us for a purpose and for certain works that we need to do, and repentance is when we start to do the very good works that God had prepared in advance for us to do and not to do our own. There is no salvation for those who do their own.

Repentance is an act of faith necessary in order to receive forgiveness for your sins. Jesus said in *Luke 13:3*, “*3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*”

Repentance is turning from your sin and giving your life to God. Repentance is the only way to the true Christian life. Repentance includes four definite actions:

1. Confession of all past sinfulness.
2. Renouncing all your present sins that you will cut them and not to do them again.
3. Acceptance of Christ as Savior.
4. Total commitment to Christ as Lord over your life.

The moment you repent, you are released from guilt and true faith comes into your life. The new life you live will be a life of faith.

Your repentance also affects your family, friends and people around you. You will receive a new understanding of their problems and their points of view. You will develop a new, deeper relationship of love with them. You will discover a desire to bring them to Jesus Christ.

Finally, after repentance, God reveals Himself to you. When you turn from your own selfish ways, God begins to make His ways and plans more clear to you each day through His Word that is why we need to read our Bibles daily.

True repentance is Godly sorrow which leads to confession and renouncing of sins and in which when it is done it leads to be released and get freedom from guilt, restoring your relationship with God who makes His ways and plans plain, and lead you to having good relationships with others.

Wrong ways of Repentance:

1. Repentance it is not only enough to be sorry or to say sorry: Repentance should lead us to true conversion and change. That what John the Baptist said, ***“8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:” (Matthew 3:8 KJV)*** John told the Jews they needed to produce fruit after repentance. In other words there need to be a change, a turning point; a day you remember that you did turned from sin toward God; a turning away from sin to God and to start to serve Him. Repentance is not just feeling sorry for being caught or for the bad outcome. It is not just an emotion but a decision to go away from sin and to change your life.

2. Repentance is not regret: Many regret feeling sorry for their sins. Only feelings or only talking, like why I did like that, it is wrong, but no action taken; that is not repentance. This only leads to remorse, a torturing sense of personal guilt.

3. Repentance is not doing penance: Penance is doing good work. ***Ephesians 2:8-9*** says ***“8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.”*** We are saved by grace, and there is nothing we can do to make up for our sins by doing penance. Jesus had paid for our sins on the cross. We cannot add to what He had already done for us. We cannot do good work to cover or to pay for our sins; like feeding the poor and giving gifts and helping people in order for our sins to be covered. We ought to pay back and return what we had taken or stolen, but giving and helping by no way can pay for our other sins.

4. Repentance is not to blame others for our problems: This is reprisal. Reprisal only destroys our relationship with others because we are accusing them and make

them responsible on our sins. Adam blamed his wife for his sin, and Eve blamed the serpent for his sin. That is not repentance and so they were casted out by God outside the Garden of Eden.

The wrong way of repentance is only having regret and feelings of sorry, remorse, torturing sense of personal guilt, no relationship with God, refusing the ways and the plans of God, rejection by God, refusal of the place in Heaven, reprisal on others and break relationship, and injury returned for injury received.

Repentance is needed because the penalty of sin is death, ***“23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:23 KJV)***

All are in need of repentance because all had sinned as we read here, ***“23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” (Romans 3:23 KJV)*** Jesus said, ***“3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3)***

God’s Word tells us that repentance is needed for salvation. God is the one who command that all men everywhere to repent, ***“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:” (Acts 17:30)*** God the Holy spirit is the one who convicts us and convinces us to repent, ***“7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.” (John 16:7-8, 13)***

Repentance begins with God and not with man, but man need to yield to God and obey Him being willing to repent. There is no use to argue to convince people, and we must not strife with them, but it is the work of God on their lives to give them repentance in order to let them escape the trap of the devil as we read here, ***“23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. 24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.” (2 Timothy 2:23-26 KJV)***

God is patient to bring His judgment because He is patiently waiting for the people to repent, ***“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9 KJV)*** God’s desire for everyone is to repent so they will not perish.

As we read the Word of God in our Bible, we must trust God’s Holy Spirit to show us what sin we need to turn from and to surrender to God. The Word of God through the conviction of the Holy Spirit will show us of what we need to repent.

That also shows us the importance of reading daily our Bibles. Read your Bible daily, from the beginning to the end, three to four chapters, in sequence, don't jump to different chapters of the book and don't jump from place to place, then when you finish it start again.

Am I finished with repentance once I am saved? No, because God's Word does not promise us we will never sin again, but when we sin we come quickly to God in repentance, knowing that Jesus is the one who intercede and speak to the Father in our defense, ***"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:"*** (1 John 2:1 KJV) He is our advocate, our lawyer but we need to repent of that particular sin and not to do it again. Because we are sinful, the experience of repentance continues. Repentance will lead us to true conversion and change.

What are the results of repentance?

1. God will have mercy on us and pardon us for our sins: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." (Isaiah 55:7 KJV) We receive forgiveness and have clear conscience; we are reconciling with God and we are saved.

2. In repentance we receive joy: "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." (Luke 15:7 KJV) We will have joy because we have peace with God.

3. In repentance we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit: "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38 KJV) In such Peter concluded his sermon. The gifts of the Holy Spirit will enable us to serve God in a more profound and effective ways.

My Dear and Beloved: Let us come now to the Lord and be willing to repent from all our sins and renounce them. Let us be willing to reproduce the fruit of repentance. Let us yield to God and to the teaching and the instruction that we received in this message. Let us commit ourselves to live to God and to do His will and to start to serve Him and live our lives for Him. Let us repent as Jesus is coming soon so He will take us with Him.

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.

Confess to God and renounce all your sins. Renounce your lack of commitment, you lies, your reprisal and blaming others for your sins and wrong doings. Lord today I repent from the following sins and wrongdoings:

Lord as I repent give me the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that I can go and serve you in a more effective way. Lord I commit myself to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit

in my life so people will see Jesus in my life and that I will set a good example for others to follow.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented and came back to you. Lord bless them, protect them, and provide all their needs. Lord let their lives and testimonies bring others to you, and use them to serve you and do the work that you want them to do.

Lord bless us as a church and fill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to evangelize and to teach your Word. Lord lead us and help us to make new disciples and train new workers to serve you, and enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations 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 3. Matthew 21:28-30. 2 Corinthians 7:8-10. Acts 19:19. Luke 19:8-9. Matthew 5:23-24. Acts 26:20. Matthew 3:8. Ephesians 2:8-10. Luke 13:3. Romans 6:23. Romans 3:23. Acts 17:30. John 16:7-8. 13. 2 Timothy 2:23-26. 2 Peter 3:9. 1 John 2:1. Isaiah 55:7. Acts 2:38. Luke 15:7.

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