

Go Deeper Into Repentance

November 2, 2025

Introduction

Today we are going deeper into repentance. Unfortunately over the years, the word has been connected to a lot of different meanings, not always biblical or true.

Turn or Burn!

Fire and Brimstone

God-botherer (England for street preacher)

Bible Thumper

Get Your Act Together

The word of the year by [Dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com) was announced this week. It is the word "6-7" and it has no defined meaning!

News Website: **A double-digit combination set the social media sphere ablaze among teens in 2025, leaving parents and teachers befuddled -- and now it has officially been crowned Dictionary.com's "Word of the Year": 67. But even the organization that unveiled the winning word -- pronounced "six-seven" and never "sixty-seven" -- admitted it was not exactly sure about its meaning.**

In a social interaction it basically meaning means "I am weighing my options."

Repentance is not a word that we emphasize enough and yet it is key to us going deeper in our discipleship. Repentance is necessary! It means that after **weighing your options(67)** you decide to stop, turn around and return to the Lord!

The entire earthly ministry of Jesus and the early church was built upon the message of repentance:

- From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Mat 4:17 NASB95)

- They went out and preached that [men] should repent. (Mar 6:12 NASB95)
- "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; (Act 3:19 NASB95) - Peter's second sermon after pentecost

What is true repentance?

A Lesson From The Prodigal Son

- To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. "A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. ***"When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.'"*** "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.' "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began. (Luk 15:11-24 NLT)
 - The prodigal son weighed his options and chose to return to His father.
 - The Father weighed his options and chose to run toward His son!

“Correctly understood, repentance is not negative but positive. It means, not self-pity or remorse, but conversion, the re-centering of our whole life upon the Trinity. It is to look, not backward with regret, but forward with hope - not downwards at our own shortcomings, but upwards at God's love. It is to see, not what we have failed to be, but what by divine grace we can now become; and it is to act upon what we see. To repent is to open our eyes to the light. In this sense, repentance is not just a single act, an initial step, but a continuing state, an attitude of heart and will that needs to be ceaselessly renewed up to the end of life.”

— **Kallistos Ware Eastern Orthodox Priest, The Orthodox Way**

How Do We Repent?

Lean Into The Kindness Of God:

- Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, (Rom 2:4-5 NASB95)
- Kindness: loaning someone your strength instead of reminding them of their weakness.
 - God loaned (eternally) His strength knowing the state of our weakness.
 - And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. (2Co 12:9 NASB95)

For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death. (2Co 7:10 NLT)

Why do we need to repent?

Salvation -

- Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. (Act 3:19 NLT)

Wrong Thinking

- When Simon saw that the Spirit was given when the apostles laid their hands on people, he offered them money to buy this power. "Let me have this power, too," he exclaimed, "so that when I lay my hands on people, they will receive the Holy Spirit!" But Peter replied, "May your money be destroyed with you for thinking God's gift can be bought! You can have no part in this, for your heart is not right with God. Repent of your wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive your evil thoughts, for I can see that you are full of bitter jealousy and are held captive by sin." (Act 8:18-23 NLT)

Misplaced Priorities -

- Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches. (Rev 2:5 NLT)

Sidenote: Demonstrating The Kindness Of God Leading To Repentance

The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses [and escape] from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will. (2Ti 2:24-26 NASB95)

Closing

A Prayer From The Puritans

“Work in me more profound and abiding repentance;

Give me the fullness of godly grief, that trembles and fears, yet ever trust and loves, which is ever powerful, and ever confident;

Grant through the tears of repentance I may see more clearly the brightness and glories of the saving cross.”