

REPENTANCE

Purpose: After coming to understand the grace of God through the sacrifice of Jesus, the biblical response is to repent and be baptized for forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:36-38). Repentance is a powerful blessing from God that has been stripped of its potency. With this gift, we see clearly to take the right path...the path of living for God rather than for self. Repentance is not a work that leads to salvation; rather, it is our awakening to come to our senses and live the way God had always intended for us. It is more than a decision; it is God allowing us to see a new worldview, which always results in the fruit of a changed life.

Q: What do you think repentance means?

Most people think that repentance is mostly about feeling sorry or feeling bad about your sin. In fact, most English dictionaries define repentance as meaning to feel or express sincere regret or remorse about your sin or wrongdoing. The original Greek root word translated as "repentance" in most English Bible is the word *metanoia* (pronounced me-tah-noi-ah). The word *metanoia* is a compound word (meaning two words are joined to form one word). *Meta* as a word by itself means change and *noia* as a word by itself means thinking or mindset. Therefore, *metanoia* means "to change the way you think" or "to change and have a different mindset".

Romans 12:1-2

Q: In order to live a life that's holy and pleasing to God, what must be transformed and renewed? (Our mind.)

We need to have a radically transformed mindset and point of view when it comes to the patterns and behaviors of the world.

"Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

2 Peter 3:1-9

The writer describes how the judgment of God is imminent and forthcoming and how we shouldn't disregard God's promise that there will be a Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

Q: Nevertheless, what is God patiently waiting for everyone to do based on v. 9? (God has been patient in hopes that everyone will come to repentance.)

Now read 2 Peter 3:10-15.

Understand that salvation is available to you today, because God has been patiently waiting to see you repent. (See v. 15)

Luke 13:1-5

Q: If someone doesn't repent, what does Jesus say will happen to them? (Jesus taught and preached that without repentance, we will all perish.)

Now read Luke 13:6-9.

Q: In this story, what did that man expect to see on the fig tree he planted in his vineyard?

Q: How patient was the man in waiting for the fig tree to produce some fruit based on v. 7?

Jesus shared this story to illustrate that he expects to find the fruit of repentance produce in our lives or we will all perish.

Luke 3:7-8

Q: What did John the Baptist insist that the crowds do before getting baptized? (John the Baptist insisted on repentance before baptism saying, *"...produce fruit in keeping with repentance"*.)

Q: What's an easy and clear way to identify and recognize an apple tree?

Q: If you see oranges growing and hanging from a tree, would you think that it's an apple tree? Why?

Q: Explain then what should be easily seen and clearly recognizable from someone who has truly repented? (The evidence and demonstration of a changed mindset and the changing of behaviors is the fruit of repentance.)

Now read Luke:3:9-14.

People began asking what should we do then (basically asking how do we need to repent), and John the Baptist answered giving them specific directions of what repentance would look like for them.

Q: If you were to ask John the Baptist, "What should I do?" how do you think he might respond to you?

Q: Who do you think you could go to and ask the question, "What do you think I need to change about myself?"

Luke 15:1-10

Q: Based on these parables, how does God feel about even one sinner who decides to repent?

Q: What goes on in heaven over one sinner who repents? (God as well as angels rejoice over any person's decision to repent of their sins.)

Acts 26:4-20

In this passage of Scripture, Paul shares his conversion story with King Agrippa, who was a King of the Jews during the 1st century AD.

Q: As a convert to Christianity, what did Paul expect from all people based on v. 20? (*"...that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds."*)

Likewise, as a new convert to Christianity, you must share this same message.

Now read Acts 26:21.

Q: Will all people accept you sharing with them how they need to repent? Why?

2 Corinthians 7:10-11

Paul in this passage of Scripture warns against having worldly sorrow which doesn't lead to repentance.

Q: What do you think having worldly sorrow consist of?

Q: Based on v. 11, what does Paul say is produced when someone has godly sorrow?

Q: What does godly sorrow lead to? (*"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret..."*)

Self-assessment questions:

Q: What are some significant changes you've already had in your mindset and behavior?

Q: What else about yourself do you think is important to address and change?

Q: Are there any sins that you don't have godly sorrow about? Why?

Additional verses:

1 John 5:3-4 – Obeying God shows we love him; obedience is not a burden.

Acts 3:19 – Repentance brings times of refreshing.