

Repentance Ministry Bible Study

REPENTANCE

Foundational work: Hebrews 6:1 When we begin to question the way we are and decide to change the way that we believe, think and act in order to obey God and line ourselves up with what He says.

How is it possible?: Hebrews 9:14 The grace, ability and power of repentance is offered to us by God through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Freedom factor: Hebrews 12:1, John 8:32 We can purposely chose to remove things that hinder us in our relationship with God. Jesus said that we can know the truth and the truth will set us free.

Training ground: Hebrews 12:10-13 Christians need to take time to learn what God loves and what He hates. Spend the time to develop deep convictions about right and wrong, getting rid of “gray” undefined areas of disbelief. This will result in holiness, righteousness, peace, strength and produce a level path to live instead of being crippled and broken throughout life.

Repentance is about improving two areas of the spiritual life: Relationship with God, Numbers 7:89, developing friendship with God as He speaks from eternity and Acceptable service, 2 Timothy 2:21, Preparing ourselves for God-sized good works and adjusting to God’s definition of “normal” Christianity.

We ask God for His opinion: Psalm 51:1-12, 1 John 1:6 We purposely open ourselves up to the scrutiny of the Holy Spirit rather than trust our own opinion of ourselves.

Conviction: 1 John 1:8-10 Conviction is a sense of our wrong doing and a healthy responsibility for our own behavior. The right response to conviction is to agree with what God is showing you and repent.

Condemnation: Romans 8:1-2 Condemnation means that there is no hope of a sentence being reversed in a court of law. It is the sense that we have sinned too much and that there is no remedy and no hope for us. This is not true because there is absolutely no sin that is outside of the work of Jesus. Jesus paid the whole price for human sin and anyone can repent and be forgiven no matter what he has done wrong.

Godly sorrow: 2 Corinthians 7:10 Godly sorrow is when you feel the weight of your wrong doing and you are sorry for what you did. You are convinced that it was wrong because you see the sin from God’s perspective. You make a remorseful decision to never do that deed again.

Worldly sorrow: James 4:4 Worldly sorrow means that you got caught and scorn the exposure because it tarnished your high view of yourself. You can’t believe that you did the action, even though you really did it! You will not betray your commitment to yourself, so you deny your actions and make no decision to change. Instead, you make plans to cover your tracks better next time!

Start with this basic premise: 1 Timothy 1:15, Romans 3:9-20 These references state our true condition before God. The inner being is vast and must be reviewed and brought into agreement with the Word of God. Repentance is not telling you how “bad” you are. It is allowing God to show you the deep stain of sin that has affected you. Sin is the fallen, tarnished, warped, broken condition that perverts God’s original design that He called “good.” It discolors us as His image bearers because we do not reflect Him correctly.

Repentance challenges the love and commitment to self: 1 Peter 5:6, 1 John 1:10 The “little ruler of self” is the devil’s nature within us that must be dealt with and brought under the rule of the Holy Spirit. Repentance challenges us to see what we are really like. Self-talk that hinders repentance is “I am basically a good person!” and “I am such a loving person! I don’t have a problem. Everyone else has the problem- not me!” These thoughts are based on self-righteousness, pride and disbelief in our capacity for depravity. We tend to want to minimize our sin with excuses and blame of others.

USEABLE VESSEL

2 Timothy 2:21 There are some key areas that will result in making us a useable vessel for God. The choice is ours.

Faithfulness: Psalm 101:6-7 Integrity is the secret life that you live in faithfulness before God. You display your obedience to Him even when no one is watching.

Taming the tongue: Psalm 50:19-20, James 3:6 We must work to rid ourselves of evil speech such as lying, gossip, back-biting and complaining.

Meekness: Matthew 5:5 Meekness is the absence of the desire for revenge. It is our discipline of love for our enemies. Those who display meekness are the people who God can trust with true spiritual power.

Purity in heart: Matthew 5:8 The pure in heart will discern the movement of the Holy Spirit. How you “see” or perceive things and process your interpretation of life depends upon removing ungodly attitudes in order to see correctly.

Stewarding God’s presence: Revelation 3:19-20 The spirit realm is the realm “next door.” Christ wants to enter our world and visit from “next door.” We have to remove the barricades from the door to make sure that He is our close Friend and Neighbor.

The grace of repentance: Hebrews 4:16 We can be a people who are immersed in God’s grace. We can be forgiven and healed by His grace. Healing is so much more than just physical. It can spill over into emotional, relational and financial needs. God wants to meet all of our needs richly. We just have to turn to Him and stay in the flow of His grace.

LEVELS OF REPENTANCE

Obvious sins: Galatians 5:19 These sins are common knowledge and easy to identify.

Self nature: Romans 7:18, Romans 3:10-18 Our basic nature is evil, against God and is an enemy that we must willingly put to death. Our nature is rooted in rebellion, self-reliance, self-will, self-love, self-glory and self-righteousness. Circumcision of the heart is a deep work of the Holy Spirit that cuts the ways of self out of a person, permanently marking the life to be clean, true and holy.

Generational sin: Exodus 20:5 This is family sin or traits that are passed down through human bloodlines. The devil tries to perpetuate sin once he has a foothold, making the sin patterns seem inherent and, therefore, inevitable. The cross of Christ is the spiritual “stop sign” that halts the furtherance of generational sin.

Neighborhood/Community cleansing the land: 2 Chronicles 7:14, Joshua 14:9, Ezra 9:11 We realize that the physical land is polluted by the sinful activities of its inhabitants. As Christians, we mourn the sin of our land and admit on behalf of others our need of God’s grace and forgiveness. Unbelievers cannot perform this duty. It must be God’s people who cleanse the land with tears and corporate repentance.

Identification repentance: Ezra 9:5-15, Daniel 9:3-19 The righteous cry out to God on behalf of the unrighteous, asking for forgiveness of sins that they did not commit. The righteous identify themselves with the sin, realizing that all sin is against God. God will accept the substitute intercessor and grant forgiveness because of a righteous confession. We see examples of this type of prayer in the lives of Moses, Abraham, Job, Ezra, Daniel and, of course, Jesus.