

MIXED MEDIA FAITH | DAY 10: TURN

Hebrew Word Study • Ezekiel 18:30–32 • Repentance and heart preparation

The invitation: turn toward life

Ezekiel calls God's people to turn from their offenses and seek a new heart and spirit. These five words help us explore what repentance asks of us and what renewal invites us to receive. The following summaries draw from five linked studies by Chaim Bentorah; his letter symbolism and devotional illustrations are identified as interpretation, not dictionary definitions.

1. SHALAK — CAST AWAY

Hebrew: שָׁלַךְ | Core sense: throw, cast, send away.

Bentorah emphasizes the force of Ezekiel's command to cast away transgressions. In his "Diving Bird" reflection, he imagines sin not merely tossed into the distance but entrusted to Jesus, who willingly receives what we surrender. The bird is a devotional illustration, not the standard lexical definition of shalak.

Reflect: What am I still clutching while asking God to free me from it?

2. PASHA — TRANSGRESS

Hebrew: פָּשָׁע | Core sense: rebel, revolt, transgress.

Bentorah describes a frightened passenger who rejects the captain's direction and tries to take control. His illustration invites us to examine how fear can become an occasion for disobedience. Fear itself is not the same as rebellion; the question is what choices we make in response to it.

Reflect: Where am I allowing fear to justify a choice I know is not right?

3. ASAH — MAKE / DO

Hebrew: עָשָׂה | Core sense: do, make, act.

The command to make a new heart challenges us not to confuse remorse with response. Bentorah meditates on the Hebrew letters as images of discernment, God's power, and His presence. This is devotional letter symbolism rather than a literal translation. The practical invitation is to recognize sin, respond obediently, and depend on God's transforming grace.

Reflect: What concrete act of obedience can follow what God has revealed?

4. LEV — HEART

Hebrew: לֵב | Core sense: heart; the inner person, including thought, desire, and will.

Bentorah connects the new heart with love for God and neighbor. The biblical “heart” is more than emotion: it concerns the center from which decisions and desires arise. Repentance therefore reaches deeper than outward appearances, inviting honesty about our motives.

Reflect: Am I asking only for different behavior, or also for transformed desires?

5. RUACH / CHADASH — SPIRIT / NEW

Hebrew: רוּחַ / שְׁדָּח | Core sense: spirit, breath, wind / new, fresh.

Bentorah reads “new spirit” through the lens of cleansing and renewed closeness with God, using imagery of a pleasing fragrance. His wordplay is devotional, not a standard linguistic equivalence with “Holy Spirit.” The text’s invitation is to seek inward renewal, not merely an improved public image.

Reflect: What would a renewed spirit look like in my everyday reactions?

BRINGING THE WORDS TOGETHER

Recognize. Name what needs to change. Release. Cast away what has held you. Turn. Choose obedience in tangible ways. Receive. Welcome God’s work in your heart and spirit. Repentance bears fruit not because we manufacture a perfect heart, but because we respond to God’s mercy with a willing life.

Journal: What is one specific turn I can make today—and how might someone else experience its fruit?

SOURCE STUDIES BY CHAIM BENTORAH

Devotional Ezekiel 18:31 (2013)

Diving Bird — Shalak (2022)

A New Spirit (2019)

Transgressions (2016)

A New Heart (2014)

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