

What is True Repentance?

In our rebellious world, this message of repentance and the Good news is becoming more critical. The call to repentance is not just a call to feel remorse but to change. It's a call to turn away from self-centered living and embrace a changed life centered on God. Therefore you must repent now and return to your First Love Abba Yah.

In the heart of scripture lies a profound call to repentance. However the question remains. What is True Repentance? Could it be simple guilt over past wrongdoings or is it something deeper? Let's dive into what repenting truly means and explore how it connects with the Good news.

The message of repentance and the Good news go hand-in-hand. The Gospel, or the “good news”, is that Yeshua, through His death and resurrection, has provided a way for us to be reconciled with God under a new Priestley Order. However, this reconciliation begins with repentance.

The Call to Repent Now

Throughout the Bible, we see a repeated invitation to repent now. The message is clear. The time for repentance is not in the future, but it is now. In the book of Acts we find an inspiring proclamation: 3:19 “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Repentance: Acknowledge and Convert

When we attempt to define repent, it's important to understand its biblical context. The term “repent” in the Bible is translated from the Greek word “metanoia”, which means “change of mind”. Therefore, the meaning of “repent” encompasses not just feeling sorry for your sins, but a complete change in how one thinks and lives.

Repentance: Heart Posture

Similarly, repentance also goes beyond mere regret over sins. In essence, repentance is a transformation of the heart and mind that leads to a change in behavior, guided by a profound understanding of God's will. This is seen in the book of Luke: 13:3 "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Repent and Be Baptized: The Significance of Baptism in Repentance

The phrase "repent and be baptized" can be traced back to Acts 2:38, where Peter said, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Yeshua Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins." Baptism here signifies the washing away of sins and the start of a new life in Messiah.

Answering the question

"What is repentance?" We see it clearly in Psalm 51. Repentance signifies a shift from a self-centered life to a God-centered life. Psalm 51 was written by David after the prophet Nathan confronted him with his sin. I realized how often we treat repentance as a statement—an "I'm sorry, please forgive me" that checks a box and alleviates our guilt.

However if we look closely at Psalm 51, we see that repentance is a turning away from sin and a turning toward God—a process that doesn't merely alleviate guilt but cultivates deep joy.

Appeal to God's mercy.

The psalm begins: "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love" (v. 1). Here, David appeals for forgiveness based on what he knows about God's character: that he is merciful. David knows God is committed to him in a relationship of "unfailing love"—and when we come before God in repentance, we do so because of his covenant with us through Yeshua.

Define the sin.

The first step to meaningful confession is understanding what sin is. David uses three different words for it in Psalm 51: “iniquity,” “sin,” and “transgressions” (vv. 1–3). Each term has been deliberately chosen for its significant meaning. “Transgression,” “iniquity,” and “sin” are all referring to rebellion against God’s authority and law, a distortion of what should be, and you could say “missing the mark”. David also says his sin is deep—there is no minimizing or excusing it.

Avoid defensiveness.

David’s sin hurt multiple people. He committed adultery, orchestrated a murder, and tried to cover it all up. And yet he says to God, “against you, you only, have I sinned” (v. 4). How can that be? Sin is missing the mark, God’s mark. Our sin can indeed hurt others, and we must seek forgiveness from them, but all sin is ultimately against God.

Look to Yeshua.

David writes, “Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be clean” (v. 7). He knows hyssop signifies purification with blood, and he knows that blood alone can make him clean. What he doesn’t know is exactly how this will be done. However we now understand, for we have the full revelation of Yeshua. Who “has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself” (Hebrews 9:26).

Ask God to break and heal you of your ways.

David prays, “Let the bones you have crushed rejoice” (v. 8). When God reveals our sin to us, it’s painful. It’s never pleasant to confront just how unholy we are. However it is God who breaks, God who sets, and God who restores all things.

Find comfort in the Holy Spirit.

Next David prays, “Do not . . . take your Holy Spirit from me” (v. 11). But the fact that David is grieved over his sin is a sign that the Spirit is at work in him. Taking comfort in knowing the grief you’re experiencing is a sign that you have the Holy Spirit working in you, causing you to hate what God hates and love what God loves.

Rejoice and proclaim truth.

In verses 12–15, David asks God to make him so joyful about his salvation that he can't help but proclaim it to others: "Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise." This is important, so often we do the opposite. We wallow in our sin therefore we draw back from serving others because we think we are unworthy. Therefore the joy of forgiveness should compel us to share the good news with others. Seeking first the kingdom of God and fulfilling the Royal Law (James 2:8-9).

Resolve to obey.

Now if we choose to sin in the same way again and again knowingly, the spirit of grace has not rooted and we then sear our conscience to that sin. What Yahova desires is the mark of true repentance, a heart that is "broken" by sin and truly "contrite." If we come to Yahova with a heart set on obedience, he "will not despise" it because of Yeshua's sacrifice on our behalf (v. 17).

Practicing this kind of repentance will lead to deep joy as you learn to hate sin and love Yahova and his son Yeshua more. It will also lead you to open up with others, not seeking to hide your sin, rather you will start enlisting others in prayer and joining a community of women who fight sin together.

So grateful you made it to straitisthegate, that narrow path, so few be there that find it. I encourage you to continue on in your search for truth and explore more videos and documents available on our website.

May the Face of God shine upon you, his grace forever be with you, and his spirit guide you, in Yeshua's precious name, Amen