



TURN TO LIVE

A Road Map to Restoration

1. God's Joy in Repentance

Luke 15:7 – “I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.”

Heaven celebrates what the world often overlooks — repentance. When even one heart turns back to God, all of heaven rejoices. This reveals something about the Father's heart: He delights in repentance – He does not despise it. From the parables of the lost sheep, coin, and son, we see God's proactive, gracious response to the repentant. Repentance is the moment the lost are found and the broken begin to be made whole.

Reflection Questions:

- ☐ When I repent, do I picture God's joy, or do I imagine His disappointment?
- ☐ What does it say about His character that heaven rejoices over one person's return?

2. God's Patience and Desire for All to Live

2 Peter 3:9 – “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

God warned through Ezekiel, “Turn back, from your evil ways, for why will you die?” (Ezekiel 33:11) and continues to extend that same call in the New Testament. His long-suffering reveals His heart: repentance, not destruction. Every moment He waits is another invitation to live.

Reflection Questions:

- ☐ How has God shown patience with me during seasons of wandering or hesitation?
- ☐ Who in my life might still be within the reach of His mercy because of His delay?

3. A Universal Call to Repentance

Acts 17:30 – “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.”

The gospel is a universal call. Repentance isn't limited to a select group but is announced to everyone in the name of the risen Christ. Paul's words at Mars Hill still resonate today: ignorance is no longer an excuse; the cross proclaims that God commands all people to turn and be saved. The message is one of reconciliation, not judgment. In Jesus, the door remains wide open.

Reflection Questions:

- ☐ How does repentance go beyond confession — as a change of mind and direction toward God?
- ☐ What does it mean that this command is for all people, everywhere, including me?

4. Mercy Over Sacrifice

Matthew 9:13 – “...I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Jesus' mission was to come and seek and save the lost. His call to repentance is an invitation (not condemnation) — an open door to mercy. Repentance is a pathway to healing and a path away from judgment!

- Reflection Questions:
- ☐ How does Jesus' invitation to sinners change how I view my own repentance story?
- ☐ Have I ever tried to earn His mercy rather than simply receiving it?

5. The Kindness That Leads Us Home

Romans 2:4 – “Or despises thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”

Too often, repentance is associated with fear of judgment. Yet Scripture tells a different story — that it's the goodness of God that moves our hearts. He draws us back with patience, truth, and compassion. His kindness is a sacred invitation to return to where we belong—His presence. We have no reason to fear!

Reflection Questions:

- ☐ When I think of repentance, do I associate it with God's goodness or His wrath?
- ☐ How can I better respond to His kindness by turning more fully toward Him?

Closing Reflection: The Thread of Life

From Ezekiel's 'Turn and live' to Jesus' 'Come and follow me,' the message remains consistent. God's primary goal is to restore. Repentance acts as the bridge from guilt to grace, and from alienation to intimacy. It is a gracious act made possible through Christ, who came to seek and save the lost.

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” — Luke 19:10

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