



# Hebrews 6:1-8

DOCTRINE OF  
REPENTANCE FROM DEAD  
WORKS



# HEBREWS 6:1-8

*“Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so.*

*It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.” – Hebrews 6:1-8*

# Repentance: (Greek – *metanoein* – to change one's mind)

REPENTANCE IS NOT

...an emotion.

You can feel grief or remorse without these feelings changing your life or bringing faith.

REPENTANCE IS NOT

...penance.

You can perform religious rituals and acts of charity without changing your life or feeling true faith.

REPENTANCE IS NOT

...confession.

You can acknowledge that you have sinned without turning away from your sins and changing your life.



# Repentance: (Greek – *metanoein* – to change one's mind)

## REPENTANCE IS NOT

...changing from unbelief to belief.

Merely believing that sin is real, God is real, the Bible events are real is not changing your life or changing your actions to move towards God. The demons believe God and Christ are real but do not change because of this belief.

## REPENTANCE IS NOT

...human reformation.

Reformation is man-centered (on self, on people that one has harmed, etc.). For example, a person can stop drinking or committing crimes, but that isn't biblical reformation. Biblical reformation is God-centered.

## REPENTANCE IS NOT

...problem-centered.

We can admit that we have faults, short-comings, failings, weaknesses, but that's not the same as admitting that we have sinful natures. Repentance centers on recognition of our sinful nature and its consequences.

# What is repentance then?

- ◇ A change of mind
- ◇ A turning away from sinful ways to face and to move in a new direction.

*"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2)*

Repentance IS an internal decision and an outward action in response to God's Word.

Turning from sinfulness  
to obedience and  
holiness

Turning from death and  
darkness to life and light.

Turning from the sinful  
ways of this world to the  
sustenance of fellowship  
with God

## *HERE IS YOUR GUT CHECK:*

A man might believe everything the Bible says and yet never allow God's Word to change the course of his life away from the path of sin that leads to death.

It's possible to cling so stubbornly to one's worldly ways, worldly attitudes, personal pride, desires, and ambitions and other means of self-determination that one passes the point of no return.

YOU CANNOT TRULY REPENT IF YOU CAN'T CHANGE YOUR MIND,  
YOUR ACTIONS, AND YOUR ATTITUDES.



# WHY?

JOHN THE BAPTIST TELLS US  
TO REPENT *(Matthew 3:1-10)*

CHRIST'S FIRST COMMAND  
WAS TO REPENT. *(Matthew 4:17)*

PETER'S COMMAND AT  
PENTECOST WAS TO REPENT.  
*(Acts 2:38)*

PAUL TELLS US TO REPENT  
TOWARDS GOD FIRST,  
AND *THEN* TURN TOWARDS  
GOD. *(Acts 26:19-20)*

Any faith or charitable act, no matter how good our intentions, is hollow if it does not come from a place of true repentance. We are glorifying *ourselves*, not God.

When we choose to follow Jesus, we are choosing to put God on the throne of our lives (a seat previously occupied by the enemy and by worldly idols). We are placing Jesus' priorities and plans for our lives ahead of our self-determination and ambitions. We are acknowledging that **NOTHING** we can do will earn favor with God or bring us salvation. We are accepting that we cannot heal our sinful, decaying nature except by allowing the Holy Spirit to work inside of our own spirits. We are asking God to take the lead and guide our steps so we can glorify Him.

When we are motivated by this attitude, when we act as the Holy Spirit directs out of a heart purely desiring to do God's will and glorify Him, our lives and our acts of obedience become living, holy gifts to Him.

# BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF REPENTANCE

- ◇ THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON – Luke 15:17-20
- ◇ ZACCHEUS TURNING TOWARDS GOD - Luke 19:8-9
- ◇ NEBUCHADNEZZAR HUMBLING HIMSELF TOWARDS GOD – Daniel 4:37
- ◇ KING DAVID ACKNOWLEDGING HIS SINS TOWARDS GOD REGARDING  
URIAH AND BATHSHEBA - 2 Samuel 12
- ◇ THE PHARISEE SAUL BECOMING THE APOSTLE PAUL – Acts 9 & Acts 22



# What are the first steps towards true repentance?

- ◊ HAVE A GODLY SORROW FOR OUR SINS IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD
- ◊ CONFESS OUR SINS TO GOD
- ◊ TURN FROM SIN WITH GOD'S HELP
- ◊ SEEK TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE BY IMMERSING ONESELF IN GOD'S WORD, SEEKING THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND LEANING ON THE HELP AND SUPPORT OF GOD'S FAMILY OF BELIEVERS

(AND REMEMBER: "HOLINESS" DOES NOT MEAN "PERFECTION". IT MEANS SEEKING GOD'S WILL AND GOD'S GLORY, RECEIVING JESUS AS SAVIOR, AND TRUSTING IN GOD'S PROMISES WITH ALL YOUR HEART, MIND, SOUL & STRENGTH).

# HOW CAN WE PRACTICE REPENTANCE IN OUR DAILY LIVING AS CHRISTIANS?

## Recognize your need to repent and pray.

Set aside quite time for prayer and for simply being in the presence of God. Ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance to help you identify specific areas and habits of your life in which you need to repent and turn to follow God's ways. Repeat this prayer afresh every day. When you aren't sure what God is saying, don't be afraid to seek help from your pastors or spiritual elders. Remember: Every believer had to start somewhere, and the true body of Christ is here to build one another up, not to tear down or judge others.

## Seek God

There is no substitute for coming to know God personally through reading His word, the Bible, and meditating and praying on its meaning. For how can you please God if you do not know Him and how can you obey His Word if you have not heard it?

And remember: God knows we aren't perfect. Repentance comes from the honest effort to seek God daily out of a sincere heart that sincerely desires to find Him, to obey His ways, and to be changed by Him.

## Allow the Holy Spirit's Work

It does not serve us to learn God's Word and to pray for His illumination if we do not act upon what the Holy Spirit reveals to us. Turning from sin is not a one-shot deal--it is deciding anew, every day, to choose God's ways even when they conflict with our own desires or the pressures of culture. Allow the Spirit to cultivate a new heart within you, one that takes joy in God's teachings and ways.



# References:

*“Foundational Truths for Christian Living”*  
by Derek Prince, Charisma House  
Publishing, 1993

*(Read this book! He’s so much smarter than  
me! I learned it from him!)*