

## Introduction

We have looked at the problem of sin and now we need to look at how to deal with sin in our lives . The Holy Spirit does indeed convict us , but what do we do then ? The Bible shows us

### **Repentance is essential**

Firstly we need to repent in order to become a Christian, let's look at this.

Acts 2:38

“Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

## **We need to live a life of repentance to maintain a Christian walk**

1 John 1:6-9

[6]If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practise the truth;

[7]but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

[8]If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

[9]If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

## **We need this for renewal and revival in the church**

Revelation 2:1-5

[1]"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

[2]I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;

[3]and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.

[4]But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

[5]Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place-unless you repent.

When we look at the original text in Greek and Hebrew we find out what the word repentance means -to have another mind or will , or to change course after further insight,to repent of wrong thoughts , plans or deeds

Mark 1:15

and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

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One of the Hebrew words translated repentance is 'shub', which means to turn back , or to turn away from something, to repent from sin and to return to God

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Today , the word repentance has come to mean simply feeling sorry for what we have done , or regretting something . In biblical terms it has a more profound meaning than this . Repentance is the very first movement in the life of a disciple of Jesus !

Key Verses

Proverbs 28:13

"[13]He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion."

Luke 15:7-10

"[7]I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

The Lost Coin

[8]"Or what woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?

[9]When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost!'

[10]In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

## **What is True Repentance ?**

Repentance is a complete turn.

When we change our thinking, a new understanding develops regarding the nature, the awfulness and the consequences of sin.

We then begin to realise God's holiness as opposed to our sinfulness .  
We change our actions from being disobedient, selfish, rebellious ( our natural self ) and return to God .  
We must turn away from sin turn back to God submit our lives to God and make Jesus Christ Lord of our lives

This does not only apply to the bad things in our lives, but often to the good things as well. Even in ' good deeds ' our natural self may still be in charge .

Repentance is our own responsibility . We have all sinned ; the punishment for sin is death . Jesus took that punishment in our place. God requires nothing more; it has all been accomplished through Jesus on the cross . It is now up to us to turn away from our sinful lives and accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, live with Him in the power of the Holy Spirit. By returning to God we respond to His love.

This is how God showed his love among us : He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him . This is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins ... We love , because he first loved us . '

1 John 4:9-10

"[9]By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

[10]In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

1 John 4:19

"[19]We love, because He first loved us."

### **Three Elements in Repentance**

i ) Repentance means that we recognise our sins and that we understand how awful they are in the eyes of a Holy God. God wants us to understand where we stand with Him in the light of His holiness. We need to open our lives and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the real state of our hearts, as we read the Word of God daily.

ii ) Repentance involves our feelings and emotions, If we truly recognise our state before God it will cause a strong emotional reaction.

Isaiah 6:5

"[5]Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."

It will involve a deep sense of guilt and regret (Godly sorrow)

Psalms 51:3,9

"[3]For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me.

[9]Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities."

1We will feel the weight of all that is wrong in our lives.

This feeling can only really be removed when we come through to a place of receiving God's forgiveness

2 Corinthians 7:8-9

“[8]For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it-for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while-

[9]I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.”

2 Corinthians 7:10

“[10]For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.”

Godly sorrow is part of the Holy Spirit's way of bringing us to the place where we will receive the Word of God for the renewal of our lives .

Repentance involves our will, in fact-

It is a change of mind , of purpose, of the direction of one's life . It is conversion . It is an about - turn and the start of a whole new life lived under the power of God . The initiative for this lies with God . He shows us our need and our state before Him , but we must act upon this revelation and choose

Romans 2:4

“[4]Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?”

1 John 4:9-10

“[9]By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

[10]In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

( iii) We are convicted and turn from our sin and we have forgiveness and reunion with God.

The choice is ours!

We find an example of these three elements in the life of ' the prodigal son ' in

Luke 15 : 11-32

**The Power of Forgiveness**

Repentance does not stand alone - forgiveness is its spiritual twin

Acts 3:19-20

“[19]Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;  
[20]and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you.”

Acts 2:38

“[38]Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

We can experience the tremendous greatness of God's love . God gave His Son , so we can receive forgiveness . It cost Him everything , but that is how much He loves us

1 John 1:7-9

“[7]but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.  
[8]If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.  
[9]If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

The only way to get rid of our guilt is to confess our sins before God and renounce them

Proverbs 28:13

“[13]He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.”

God will then forgive us if we accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour . Confession is often superficial : without true repentance and therefore without a decision to repent . If we sincerely confess our sins and at the same time decide to follow Jesus , God will forgive us and not remember our sins anymore . He blots them out

We no longer need to feel condemned or guilty because God has accepted us

Romans 8:1

“[1]Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Psalms 32 shows us very clearly that joy and peace are fruits of God's forgiveness

Repentance is our personal responsibility, and it is dangerous to wait passively for repentance to occur.