

Repentance

- Repentance on a very practical level is a change of direction, attitude, or thought – we were headed in one direction and something has caused us to change course, to go in the opposite direction.
- We were living our lives contrary to God's Word, we've come to an understanding of the difference between the two and making a commitment to move in the other direction in conformity to God's word.
- Being at war with God or in opposition to God – we surrender and make peace with God, no longer in opposition, but in whole hearted agreement with God.

Psalm 119:59-60 ⁵⁹I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies. ⁶⁰I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.”

- Repentance is the forsaking of our own ways and thoughts, a full surrender to Jesus. It is not what we do to somehow gain God's compassion; it is simply the acknowledging of the truth.

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- **Matthew Chapter 3** ends with the baptism of Jesus. **Chapter 4** begins with His temptation in the wilderness after which is the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.
 - Jesus' first recorded word of public ministry was “**repent...**”

Matthew 4:17 “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

- John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus the Messiah preached the same message:

Matthew 3:1-2 ¹In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, ²and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

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

- Jesus says we need to repent, John the Baptist echoes that message and now here in Peter's letter he's presenting repentance as an either or type of choice. “Either you repent or you perish.”
- Faith in Christ is usually the most prominent characteristic in gospel preaching, but we must understand that repentance is a necessary component of salvation.

- Faith and repentance are connected, if we have faith, believing God's Word to be true, then we will be drawn to repentance – understanding what happens to un-repentant sinners.
- The more deeply we are disturbed and grieved over our own sin the more solid and enduring the result when the Gospel is preached and received.
- Repentance is indispensable, absolutely necessary for salvation.

Jesus repeats that admonition twice in 3 verses:

Luke 13:3, 5 “³I tell you, nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” –
“⁵I tell you, nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

- We know that our faith is not based upon our emotions which fluctuate up and down; our faith is based upon the Word of God.

Romans 10:17 “So then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

- In comparison repentance is not purely an emotional response to sin, nor is it exclusively Spiritual, or physical – but it is in fact all three.
 - Repentance involves every aspect of our human existence: Body, soul, and Spirit.
 - Repentance is a spiritual transaction because it is a response to the conviction of the Holy Spirit.
 - With the realization of sin, the soul responds with an emotional gut wrenching reaction as our soul grieves over our own sin, particularly in light of God's Holiness and Righteousness.
 - There is a practical / physical response to genuine repentance – a convulsive reaction away from sinful behavior and circumstances.
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Repentance is a response to the Holy Spirit: Repentance is a spiritual transaction in response to the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

- The idea or theme of repentance is throughout the Bible, including the Old Testament.
- In the Old Testament God would send His prophets to speak:

Jeremiah 25:4-6 “⁴And the Lord hath sent unto all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear. ⁵They said, turn ye again now every one from his evil way, and from the evil of your doings, and dwell in the land that the Lord hath given unto you and to your fathers for ever and ever: ⁶And go not after other gods to serve them, and

to worship them, and provoke Me not to anger with the works of your hands; and I will do you no hurt.”

- In both the Old and New Testaments, repentance is the work of the Holy Spirit:

Zechariah 12:10 “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplications and they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.”

John 16:7-9 ⁷“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you. ⁸And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹Of sin, because they believe not on Me.”

- Repentance is a gift from God:

Acts 5:31 “Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”

2 Timothy 2:25 “... if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.”

There is an emotional aspect to repentance:

One of the hardest parts of the Christian walk is at times the understanding once again how wretched we are: the depth of our own depravity and how we’ve defiled ourselves.

- With the realization of sin, the soul responds with an emotional gut wrenching reaction as our soul grieves over our own sin, particularly in light of God’s Holiness and Righteousness.

Isaiah suddenly found himself in the presence of a holy and righteous God:

Isaiah 6:5 “Then said I, woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”

- Jesus give us the example of a publican / tax collector:

Luke 18:10-14 ¹⁰“Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. ¹²I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. ¹³And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.”

Paul reacted emotionally to his own sin:

Romans 7:24 “O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”

- Isaiah and the publican both came to the same place / conclusion:

2 Corinthians 7:10 “For Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”

- Peter and Judas Iscariot are both examples: one of Godly sorrow, and the other of worldly sorrow that leads to death.

Luke 22:61-62 ⁶¹“And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. ⁶²And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.”

Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil:...”

- Tears in themselves, are not evidence of genuine repentance.
- Esau found no repentance in spite of his tears.

Hebrews 12:17 “For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.”

There is a [practical / physical response](#) to genuine repentance – a convulsive reaction away from sinful behavior and circumstances:

John the Baptist:

Matthew 3:8 “Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.”

- There will be some manifestation, some discernable change in behavior.
- Humiliation, confession, brokenness, a contrite spirit:

Examples:

- The prodigal son:

Luke 15:17-20 ¹⁷“And when he came to himself, he said, how many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, ¹⁹and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. ²⁰And he arose, and came to his father...”

- Zacchaeus the tax collector:

Luke 19:1-10 ([Turn to / read](#))

Ephesians 4:28 “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.”

A.W. Tozier: We are saved from our sins, not in our sins.

- Paul argued forcefully that we’re not saved by grace so that we can continue to sin:

Romans 6:1-2 “¹What shall we say then”? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ²God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

We’re all familiar with the admonition in 1 Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 “⁹Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with man kind, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

- According to **1 Corinthians 6:11**, the issue is not if we have done these things, the issue is are we still doing them? Is there repentance from these things?

Woman caught in the very act of adultery:

John 8:11 “... And Jesus said unto her, neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.”

1 Corinthians 5:11 “But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.”

- Why no repentance – still doing their sin.
- If God doesn’t want us to have fellowship with them, you can bet that he won’t be having any.

Matthew 9:13 “But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

2 Chronicles 7:14 “If my people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

- 5 of the 7 churches listed in Revelation chapters 2-3 were called to repentance.

Matthew 4:17 “..., repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”