

Key Text: II CORINTHIANS 7:10

“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.”

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

The word translated as repentance is “*Metanoia*” in the original language. This word means a change of the mind that involves the emotions and the will. **Matthew 3:8 States that there is FRUIT that is in keeping with “Repentance”**. So what is the result of Biblical repentance? The Bible teaches that repentance is turning away from the sinful way of thinking and acting and turning to a Godly way of thinking and acting. So the Fruit of repentance is a legitimate **change** in the life of the person.

REPENTANCE IS THE FOUNDATION FOR FAITH

The First step in Salvation is REPENTANCE. The second step in salvation is to BELIEVE. see Mark 1:15

- John’s first message was, REPENT. Matthew 3:1
- Jesus Christ’s first message was, REPENT. Matthew 4:17
- The Twelve Apostles preached REPENT. Mark 6:7-13
- The First Sermon at Pentecost was, REPENT. Acts 2:38
- Paul’s message to the Ephesians was, REPENT. Acts 20:20-21
- God commands us to REPENT. Acts 17:30 “ALL MEN EVERYWHERE”

Our life as a Christian must start with REPENTANCE. If we refuse to turn away from “OLD DEAD WAYS” then our new life is not going to be built on CHRIST. Whatever else we might try to build our new life on will fail. It will fail because of the shaky foundation that we have laid.

See Hebrews 6:1,2 “**THE FOUNDATION OF REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS**”

WHAT ARE SOME “**FALSE**” CONCEPTS ABOUT REPENTANCE?

1. **Repentance is not just a conviction of sin.** Genesis 6:3; Acts 24:24-25 Why? Because conviction is what precedes repentance and not all who are convicted will repent.
2. **Repentance is not just feeling sorry.** 2 Corinthians 7:10 Why? Because just feeling bad for getting caught or feeling shame and regret does not mean that we will “Change”. True repentance has the fruit of change in our lives.
3. **Repentance is not just “Turning over a new leaf.”** Collisions 2:20-23 Why? Because willpower and perfect behavior is not the same as having a “New Mind” and a “New Life”. Even though the appearance is good the source of change is not repentance but self-will. The key is hating the sin and not simply avoiding it better.
4. **Repentance is not “Acting more religious”.** Matthew 5:20; 3:7-12 Why? The change that repentance brings comes from the inside and religion can only deal with the outward appearance.
5. **Repentance is not just a “Mental Belief”.** James 2:19-24 Why? There has to be more than an acknowledgment that sin is bad. A connection between our thoughts and our actions is paramount.

TRUE REPENTANCE IS NOT EXPERIENCED WITHOUT GOD'S SPIRIT WORKING

THIS MEANS THAT YOU CANNOT ACCOMPLISH REPENTANCE IN YOUR OWN EFFORT. THINK OF REPENTANCE AS COOPERATING WITH GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT.

- *Ezekiel 11:19-21 "I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them..."*
- *Acts 11:18 & 2 Tim. 2:25 "Grant Repentance"*
- *Luke 18:25-27 "With God nothing is impossible"*

Here's what you will see with true repentance

Based in part on 2 Corinthians 7:10,11 we may teach what are some of the fruits of true repentance. Here are seven mentioned in verse 11: Earnestness, Vindication, Indignation, Fear, Longing, Zeal, Avenging of Wrong. Another way of teaching these same concepts is seen in "The Tree of Repentance" and "Sin to Service" below.

The Tree of Repentance

1. **Godly Sorrow = The Soil**
(Psa. 51:17)
2. **Confession of Sin = The Roots** *(Psalms 32:5)*
3. **Forsaking of Sin = The Trunk**
(Prov. 28:13)
4. **Hatred of Sin = The branches**
(Ezekiel 36:31,32)
5. **Testimony = The leaves**
(Psa. 51:13; Luke 7:47)
6. **Loving Restitution = Fruit & Seeds** *(Luke 19:8)*

SIN → SERVICE

Isaiah 6:1-10

- **Started in God's Presence**
Vs, 1
- **Saw God's Holiness**
Vs, 1,3-4
- **Stated he was a sinner**
Vs, 5
- **His Sin was purged**
Vs,7
- **Sterilized for Serving**
Vs, 8
- **Submitted to God's call**
Vs, 9,10

God can use any person for honorable things if they have been cleaned.

2 Timothy 2:21 "If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work."

Paul the Apostle was so sinful that he murdered disciples who followed the teachings of Jesus. Then, later on, Paul became a disciple of Christ and the one who wrote this verse along with much of the New Testament. So do you think God can use you?