

REPENTANCE WHAT IS IT?

Greek noun 'metanoia' repentance verb 'metanoeo' to repent 'to change one's mind' 'to regret'

'Repent & turn away from all sins so that your sin will not become a stumbling block to you Turn away from all your sins which you have committed & get a new heart & a new spirit Ezekiel 18:30,31

'It implies an intellectual & a hearty giving up of ALL controversy with God upon ALL & every point It implies a conviction that God is wholly right & the sinner wholly wrong, and a thorough & hearty abandonment of ALL excuses & apologies for sin' Charles Finney the revivalist of the 18th century through his ministry thousands surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ Preaching REPENTANCE it was found 80% of his converts remained true to their faith in Jesus Christ

To put it another way 'It is to turn away from sin (turn your back to sin) & turn 360 degrees to God' Leaving behind ALL of our past sins, failures & successes Why successes? Surely, they are good? We are to turn (leave) everything ALL to follow Jesus

Repentance is a radical transformation of thought, attitude, outlook & direction It means being sorry enough to change, quit & go in a new direction A turning from sin, leaving sin behind, renouncing our past Its a decision not an emotion or feeling (get caught up in the hype of an altar call) We need to recognize we have sinned against God & man Its not head knowledge but heart Repentance One who refuses to gloss over their inquiry its seeing sin how God sees it, He hates it Proverbs 6:16-19 we are to forsaking ALL sin Romans 3:23 Matthew 10:38

1 Forsaking of ALL sin meaning 'being sorry enough to change, quit, renounce, the past & go in a different direction

2 Dying to self means having no rights, you are no longer your own You walk with God out of obedience to His leading by His Holy Spirit

WHAT REPENTANCE ISNT?

It isn't sorrow for sin or sorry you have been caught 2 Corinthians 7:10 Godly sorrow leads to Repentance it isn't Repentance but the prelude to Repentance There can be conviction, tears , regret, remorse, despair& still no Repentance If a person expresses their wrongs in tears then it's time to talk Repentance

'There is a radical distinction between natural regret & God given Repentance The flesh can feel remorse, acknowledge its evil deeds, & be ashamed of itself However this sort of disgust with past actions can be quickly shrugged off & the individual can soon go back to his old wicked ways' Author unknown

Biblical example is found in Luke 18:18-26 The rich young ruler This young man desired to know about eternal life But when confronted by Jesus That he'd be required to give up ALL his riches to follow Jesus He wasn't prepared too Jesus didn't compromise or make an allowance nor should we

Let me give you an example Many years ago I was a counsellor at a Youth Rally where many young people came forward to receive Christ praying the salvation prayer The young man was sorrowful but wasn't willing to give his whole life over to Christ Last year in the Church we were in We had a couple of people respond to Salvation one fall away immediately & the other is living with another new Christian Honesty I find it hard to say Christian here because according to His Word they are not Why not because there was no Repentance (no turning away from sin & turning to GoWhy is it many who accept Christ fall away? Main reason lack of Repentance & lack of renouncing sin known & unknown A Pastor recently realized 80% of his converts had fallen away Judas experienced remorse, emotions & anguish but didn't Repent If he had he'd been saved & not committed suicide

2 Corinthians 7:10 AMP 'For Godly grief & the pain God is permitted to direct, produce a repentance that leads & contributes to Salvation & deliverance from evil, it brings regret But worldly grief (the hopeless sorrow that is characteristic of the pagan world) is deadly – breeding & ending in death'

REPENTANCE IS COMMANDED (it's not an optional extra)

When we come to Christ it's not on our own terms but according to what God has set out in His Word 'In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands ALL people everywhere to repent' Acts 17:30 In Luke 13:3,5 Jesus provides an option either we repent or perish 'He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance' 2 Peter 3:9

IF THERE IS NO TRUE REPENTANCE THERE WILL BE NO TRUE SALVATION

Baptism is the outward sign of true repentance 'Repent & be baptized" Acts 2:38 Baptism is a public demonstration of repentance Baptism is the symbol of dying to self which is Repentance

In Word of God we see John the Baptist preached Repentance Matthew 4:17 Jesus preached Repentance Matthew 4:17 The Disciples preached Repentance Mark 6:12 So did Peter Acts 2:38 where 3,000 were added to the Church along with Paul Acts 20:21 So why isn't it preached in our pulpits today? Many of the great preachers preached Repentance including Charles Finney, DL Moody, John Wesley, Charles Spurgeon, Smith Wigglesworth, David Wilkerson

AN EXAMPLE OF REPENTANCE IN SCRIPTURE IS FOUND IN LUKE 15:11-32

I will get up & go to my Father, & I will say to Him, Father I have sinned against heaven & in your sight So he got up & came to his (own) Father Bou while he was still a long way off, his Father saw him & was moved with pity & tenderness Z(for him) & he ran & embraced him & kissed him – fervently

The parable of the Prodigal Son 1 He realized he was wrong; he recognized his sinful state 2 He made an inward decision 'I will arise & go to the Father' In doing so he was going to offer to serve His Father as a servant 3 He arose & went with humility to His Father You see he made a decision but it required action

REPENTANCE INVOLVES (based on our scriptural example)

- 1 Act of the WILL – the choice is yours – it's not an emotion, a feeling it's a decision I WILL
- 2 Faith must be involved – Mark 1:15 Need to believe Christ died for you but that is not enough
- 3 Conversion – Acts 3:19 Repent 'to turn & change direction' not my way but your way Lord
- 4 Fruit – Matthew 3:8 there must be an evidence of the change that's taken place in your life
- 5 Baptism – Acts 2:38 the seal of the Holy Spirit of dying to self & a new beginning has begun

REPENTANCE IS AN ONGOING REQUIREMENT

Whenever we sin there must be Repentance no matter how long you have been a Christian No one is exempt Sometimes God may require us to Repent on behalf of our Nation, City, Community Its interesting to note out of the 7 Churches of Revelation 5 were required to Repent Yes Churches are required to Repent

Out of a list of 10 men in the Bible who said 'I have sinned' we believe only five actually repented They were David (2 Samuel 12:13), Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1:6), Job (Job 42:5,6), Micah (Micah 7:9) & the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:18)

Here's a self-examination taken from Finney's "Breaking Up Fallow Ground" Before you go through this list Ask the Holy Spirit to convict you as you read through these & repent of those that you are convicted of

1 Ungratefulness 2 Lack of Love for God 3 Neglect of the Bible 4 Unbelief 5 Lack of Prayer 6 Neglect Fellowship 7 The manner in which you have performed spiritual duties 8 Lack of love for souls 9 Lack of love for the poor & foreign Missions 10 Neglect of Family duties 11 Lack of witnessing 12 Neglect to watch over your fellow Brethren 13 Neglect of self-denial 14 love of things & possessions 15 Vanity 16 Envy 17 Bitterness 18 Slander 19 Levity 20 Lying 21 Cheating 22 Hypocrisy 23 Robbing God 24 Bad Temper 25 Hindering Others from being Useful 26 Idols & other Religions For a full explanation go to lastdayministries.org then go to articles by Charles Finney

REPENTANCE IS THE KEY THAT UNLOCKS THE DOOR THROUGH WHICH ONE ENTERS BY FAITH INTO ETERNAL LIFE

In conclusion Meditate on Psalm 51:10-17 Praying it personally over your life