

IMPORTANCE OF REPENTING

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Sincerely repenting of our sins and wrong attitudes can be done at any time—any day. This repenting includes confessing and forsaking any attitude; any decision; or any activity that is contrary to God’s will and Word. Being in the will of God is the only safe place to be in today—it is the only place of protection, and the only place where we can receive the benefits of the Atonement work of Christ. The way to be protected and to avoid trials, troubles, is AV 1 Corinthians 11:31 *“If we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.”* If we are judged by the Lord, it is because we have omitted judging ourselves—then WEY 1 Corinthians 11:32, *“chastisement [discipline, correction] follows, to save us from being condemned along with the world.”*

Judging ourselves means to repent, confess, and forsake any sin God has revealed to us. Satan can cause trouble if we will not repent of any known sins or anything that God is trying to show to us. NKJV As Proverbs 28:13 tells us, *“He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”* It is a divine privilege to be kept free from trouble and protected from all problems—all the result of truly repenting.

Satan is always trying to get us in an unscriptural position, and if he does—through our not knowing; because of unbelief, or some other reason—he can cause trouble for us. We must be ready to admit, and willing to forsake, any wrong attitude as soon as it is revealed to us, which will protect us from any trouble that the devil may have planned for us.

If we are growing spiritually, we will avoid the unscriptural attitudes Satan wants to place in us. NIV Hebrews 6:1 *“Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ [basic Christianity] and go on to [perfection AV], not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God.”* We should not have to keep going over basic principles of divine truth.

The importance of repenting is great, because it not only keeps us out of trouble, but protects us from trouble in the first place. Everyone needs divine protection today—more than ever before. God’s protection is the result of sincere repentance.

Jesus referred to some in Galilee who had lost their lives—AV Luke 13:1 *“whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices;”* and He then asked NIV Luke 13:2-3, *“Do*

you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no!"

It did not happen to them because they were worse sinners, He meant, because you are all sinners until a sincere repentance is made. Jesus then followed with, *"Unless you repent, you too will all perish,"*—maybe not by a wicked ruler, or a building falling on them, but they could perish by some other way. Repenting enables God to protect us from harm or injury.

Every day we should repent and ask for God's protection before ever leaving our home or driving a vehicle. With so many vehicles on the road today, and with so many being distracted while operating vehicles—texting, talking, taking care of children, etc., tragic accidents are being reported more and more. But AV Psalm 121:8 tells us, *"The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in."*

Every promise given to Israel is a valid promise to us today—if we will follow God's plan of sincerely repenting and putting our faith in the Atonement of His Son. Jesus said AV Matthew 3:2 *"Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand;"* which means truly repenting that will NIV Matthew 3:8 *"Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."* NLT Matthew 3:8 *"Prove by the way you live that you have really turned from your sins and turned to God."*

If we have truly repented, we can expect to receive divine healing. Jesus said at Nazareth, NKJV Luke 4:18; Isaiah 61:1, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed."*

The Gospel of Christ is the Truth from the Word. Those who are brokenhearted are those who are willing to sincerely repent. Liberty to the captives is freedom from the devil's influence, and healing from physical oppression. The preaching of John the Baptist was a call to repentance for the remission of sins—this opened the way for Jesus to heal those who had truly repented of their sins.

Wherever Satan has caused trouble, there is always a spiritual cause. NKJV Proverbs 26:2 *"A curse without cause shall not alight."* When the cause is revealed, repentance is next, so the deliverance can be given.

No matter how serious the problem, or how unpleasant the situation, sincerely repenting will definitely place us where God can deliver us. NKJV Matthew 12:31 *“Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men”*—if they are willing to repent, of course.

That is a real manifestation of God’s love and mercy; and how willing God is to help anyone who truly repents of past sins.

The importance of repenting is that it will bring divine wisdom and protection if those who have sinned will sincerely confess and truly forsake them. Jonah proclaimed NIV Jonah 3:4 *“Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned.”* It was a wicked city, so God had to proclaim a serious warning. If they did not repent, the prediction would come true.

When he heard the warning, the King of Nineveh believed God’s Word, and came down from his throne. He clothed himself in sackcloth [humility] and sat in ashes [repentance]. Job had that same repentant attitude and said AV Job 42:5-6 *“I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”*

The king said that everyone else should repent, fast, and pray for God’s mercy. AV Jonah 3:8-9 *“Let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?”*

That sincere repentance saved them from sure destruction, because NIV Jonah 3:10 *“When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.”*

Jesus referred to this sincere repentance when He said NIV Matthew 12:41 *“The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here”*—meaning, of course, Himself. As God in the flesh, He was infinitely greater than Jonah or anyone else. If a heathen king of a wicked city could repent and be saved, then anyone could repent and be saved.

If we have sincerely repented, confessed and forsaken our sins, we will have confidence that God will answer our prayers. We will be able to act in faith on the

promise of His Word and be sure of receiving all that we need or the answer to prayer that God has promised to give to us. The importance of repenting cannot be described in words—because the result is an inspiration of faith that enables us to trust God and receive the benefits of His power.

AV 1 John 3:20-21 *“If our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart.”* If our own heart condemns us, how much more would God condemn us? We would not be able to act in faith if there are things in our life to make right. 21-22 But *“if our heart condemn us not”*—as the result of sincerely repenting— *“then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.”*

When God told Jonah to warn Nineveh of their need to repent, or the city would be destroyed, he listened to the devil—who convinced him that he would be labeled a false prophet—so he fled to Tarshish instead of going to Nineveh. A “mighty tempest” threatened the lives of everyone on board, so they NKJV Jonah 1:7 *“cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us.”*

Jonah admitted that he was the cause of the trouble. AV Jonah 1:12 *“And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.”* Even though it was an act of suicide, God’s mercy caused a 17 *“great fish to swallow up Jonah,”* which gave him another chance to repent and get back into the will of God.

On the third day of that predicament, the Holy Spirit inspired Jonah to repent. AV Jonah 2:8 *“They that observe lying vanities [regard worthless idols NKJV] forsake their own mercy.”* They that listen to the Devil, forsake the mercy of God, He meant. But Jonah said NKJV Jonah 2:9 *“I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.”*

Jonah had surrendered his life to God before, but he did not live up to it—he forsook the mercy God wanted to show him. Now, inside that fish, he decided never to listen to the Devil again, but always listen to God. That is really repenting—and a sincere repentance like that, will deliver anyone out of any trouble they are in—anytime and anywhere.

The first result, when we truly repent, is that God takes possession of our life and becomes our Teacher and Guide to lead us away from every unscriptural thing in our

life and leading us into His divine Truth—then we are scriptural in all things. We must be led out of every human way or plan we could trust in; and be led into a position where we trust God fully and alone for everything.

This results in our being free from the grip of sinful ways, attitudes, and interests; we will have God's protection, and healing from weakness and pain; it will mean enjoying peace in our home and being delivered from things that disturb our peace. We are to have the same health, healing, victories, answers to prayer, and manifestations of God's power as they did in the Bible.

After committing the worst sin possible, the people were told—NIV Acts 2:38 *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”* Jesus said AV Mark 1:15 *“Repent ye, and believe the gospel.”*

This erasing of past sins is the foundation of a Christian life of faith—not everyone has that foundation. Repenting enables us to surrender our self-will to be God's divine will. Repentance in its full meaning is being willing to give up every unscriptural attitude, and to learn under God's teaching, how to be scriptural in all attitudes toward everything.

This being scriptural is opposite to what we were before repentance. Since Adam sinned, everyone has been born under the dominion of the devil—all the ways of humanity are the ways of the devil. If someone has not truly repented and received the Holy Spirit, they would never think that Satan was controlling their thoughts—but he can and he does by the thoughts he puts in their mind—which always seem like their own sensible reasoning.

True repentance is to truly change from one course of action to another; it means being converted from doing things the world's way and to start doing them the Lord's way. Repentance brings greater results than anything else. The first result is a full pardon and forgiveness of sins—made possible by the shed Blood of Christ—nothing is more valuable than that.

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