

# TRUE REPENTANCE

## (RECEIVES GOD'S BLESSINGS & LIFE ETERNAL)

#S320R 0712 23W

(Ref...Acts 11:18), "So, then, to the Gentiles also God has given the repentance which leads to Life"(Eternal).

Repentance could seem to be an unnecessary subject to consider (for someone who has had teaching and training in the Truth), because we think that we have advanced beyond that point in the Christ-life. However, if we consider repentance in the broadest sense of the word, we can receive new and real insight which will carry God's blessing, as one learns from the added light received from God's Word.

Most of us understand that repentance means a change in our actions, or to change our course by turning to go in an opposite direction. In the Divine life, repentance means to give up our way doing things according to the earthly and worldly ways and plans of man (that we had come to know and follow). It means to confess one's former course of action (or an attitude), and to change from that course to another. It means turning from Satan's ways to accept the pathway of life that God intended for us to receive Eternal Life.

It does not make any difference how good a person may appear to be, how self-righteous they may seem, or what good things they accomplish, if it is worldly or fallen man's plan it is wicked and rebellious in God's sight (and will lead one to destruction if not repented of). A changed perspective on life and a cleansed heart after a true repentance, however, will lead a person to a full surrender of self from their heart and lead to eternal Life.

True repentance will bring about spiritual development with greater results than anything else a human being could do. The first valuable result is that it enables us to receive the full pardon and cleansing from sin (which Jesus Christ purchased for us on Calvary's Cross, with the shedding of His precious Blood).

Nothing could be more valuable to us than to start over with a clean heart, as the result of a genuine repentance. That is what lays the foundation for a truly successful Christian life of faith (which is something very few professing Christians have) because they did not start right. Repentance places us in a position to surrender our life fully to God, (and be filled with the Holy Spirit to prepare and lead us to Eternal Life). (Acts 11: 18, the Apostles and brethren agreed), "So, then, to the Gentiles also God has given the repentance which leads to Life."

Repentance means to be willing to confess our wrong actions, misplaced trust, and give up every unscriptural attitude in our lives, to learn under the teaching of God to become Scriptural in everything, (which we will soon realize will be directly opposite to what we were in our former nature). Every human being since the fall of Adam (into sin), has been born under the power and control of Satan and self, (which God must take from our hearts to prepare us for Eternal Life). All the natural ways of humans are really the ways of Satan. Anyone who has never truly repented and received the Holy Spirit, would never think for a

moment that Satan was the ruler of their life, and that they were living in his will.

Satan controls people by the thoughts he puts in their mind (which seem exactly like their own thoughts), and that is why it is so easy for him to control people. He uses man-made things and circumstances to help in his control (along with the thoughts he puts in a person's mind). One of Satan's favorite plans in doing that, is to get people to accept a false religion, of which there are large numbers of them in the world, and all are claiming to be of God, and according to His will.

Anyone who is under the power and control of Satan, and has never had a cleansed heart nor the fullness of God's Spirit,... would naturally accept any religion that was from Satan (their master). It is the failure on their part to follow God's divine plan (to believe, repent, and receive the Holy Spirit), Who would enable them to discern divine truth from Satan's error. We are told (1 John 2: 26-27) "I have thus written to you concerning those who are leading you astray. And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him (the Holy Spirit) remains within you, and there is no need for any one to teach you. But since His anointing gives you instruction in all things (and is true and is no falsehood) you are continuing in union with Him even as it has taught you to do." (That promised anointing of the Holy Spirit is what takes rebellion out of a surrendered Christian's heart, because the real seat of sin is rebellion against God).

(The late Pastor used an illustration to explain); "Suppose a man would steal a hundred thousand dollars, then leave this country and go to another country and live a very good outward life there,... using that money he stole for charitable purposes, join some church and become a model citizen in that country. People who did not know of his past life (or what he had done), would hold him in great esteem (and probably give him a public office). Nevertheless, that man would be a terrible sinner in reality, because every penny he spent of that money would be evil and sinful."

"It is the same in Divine things. Regardless of how good of an objective a person may have in human concerns and daily situations (or how good their life is),... if it is done in their own strength and according to human plans, then it is more desperately wicked than the worst of open sins. One person may have a plan to make money legitimately, and another have a plan to make money illegitimately,... but the objective of both is to get money outside of God's plan and in His way. In God's sight, one is as much of a sinner as the other, it is just that one is an open sinner and the other a hypocrite. One may get money by stealing it and the other get it in some legitimate worldly way, (but both are outside of God's will, contrary to Divine law, just as evil as the other in God's sight (and must be repented of).

Real repentance means to give up every human plan and idea and accept all of God's plans. That is real repentance and having self removed from our heart,... but this outlook is entirely lost sight of in the professed Christian world today; in fact, there is no real repentance taught in the nominal Christian world today.

Repentance also means an obedience to the entire Word of God as it

is written in the New Testament (and where the Old Testament supports the New), but obedience to the Word is not taught at all in the nominal religious circles. The majority of them just believe the historical facts of the Bible, but do not even know that the Bible teaches obedience, much less do they obey it. Some of the valuable Truths given us in the Bible which we consider precious in our Christian walk, and that have brought us so much blessing,.. the average professed Christian will say they do not see it that way and they do not think it necessary to be obeyed. Jesus said, however, "Teach them to obey every command which I have given you." (Matt. 28:20). A rebellious attitude will send people to the Lake of Fire forever; (and that is the worst part of it). It will also rob them of everything they have a Scriptural right to have in this life (as Rom. 8:6 admonishes us) "for to be carnally minded is death" (carnal-minded means worldly-minded), but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

To be spiritually minded, means anyone who has truly repented and willing to give up their own ways and plans, to accept God's way, not in their own strength but in the strength that God provides. That is abiding in Christ.

However, due to some ignorance of God's ways and plans, and one's unbelief in the beginning of their Christian life, they will have some temptations and trials,.. but they will be limited where one has truly surrendered to hold steady in doing God's will in their life. If we are sincere in our commitment, sooner or later the result will be that as we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and obey the Word of God, we will be brought to the place of great victory and blessing.

Giving up efforts of the self-life, and being obedient to the entire Word of God, is abiding in Christ. We have to begin (by our own freewill choice) to want to truly abide in Christ, and then continue to abide in Him (in a life of faith) until we are developed by the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit into His image. Just to the extent that we willingly abide in the image of Christ (and we desire to do His will only in our life), to that extent we will act like He did. We will be inspired and enabled to love as He has loved us when our repentance is sincere, and our commitment is real and final. It couldn't be otherwise, because God is a Master workman and a great teacher for any surrendered and willing soul.

(John chapter 15:), Jesus gave us God's whole plan for our heart to be transformed into having a Christlike love and obedient faith within ourselves, through our true repentance and full surrender to obey God's will in our life). (1-2) "I am the true vine (Jesus said), and My Father is the vinedresser. (To be the vinedresser means that God personally tends to each branch of the vine so we can grow in faith and prosper in the Truth in obedient faith, because God does not want any soul to perish). (Jesus said) "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit." (We have to make our choice to repent, make a final surrender of our life to God, and be willing to do His will,.. and He will inspire and enable us to do His will). (4-5) "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the

vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me." (Abide in, means to continue). Another rendering of verse 4, says, "Continue in me, and let me continue in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself—that is, if it does not continue in the vine—so neither can you if you do not continue in me."

Jesus' explanation was that to abide in Me means to keep a close union with Him, which comes through faithful obedience to His commands (John 15:10) "If you keep My commandments, you will abide (continue) in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide (continue) in His love."

He meant that we show if we have true love for Him by whether or not we obey His commands, and He used His own example of obedience to His Heavenly Father's command to go to the Cross and die for us, to emphasize His point about us having true love for Himself. (John 14:31) "it is in order that the world may know that I love the Father and that it is in obedience to the command which the Father gave me that I thus act. Rise, let us be going."

The apostle John emphasized the importance of a sincere repentance to be in close union with Jesus, (1 John 3:6) "No one who continues in union with Him lives in sin: no one who lives in sin has seen Him or knows Him." (That correlates to Jesus telling us that those who live in sins of the world cannot receive the Holy Spirit to guide them on a pathway of faithful obedience). (John 14:17) "That Spirit the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him. You know Him because He remains by your side and is in you."

Satan has many plans to keep people from realizing the importance of true repentance, and that it is the first step toward them making a right start in a true Christian's life of faith on God. One of Satan's favorite plans is to get people to accept a false religion, proven by the fact that there is still controversy in some false religions of the nominal Christian world today (the late Pastor said), as to whether there was a virgin birth or not (whether Jesus was really born and lived on earth), (and whether or not to believe even the historical facts of the Bible). Anyone with any spirituality at all can see that there is no amount of Christianity in that kind of doctrine, (which would also refute the Bible account of Jesus sacrificial death and his resurrection to Life) (if one were disputing whether or not He was born and lived on earth). [If Christ is not resurrected, our faith is in vain!] Everyone who would follow such twisted doctrines (which are in reality disputing whether Jesus was God in the flesh), will go straight to the Lake of Fire if not repented of.

Real repentance takes us into a Christianity that is real,.. and entirely different from trying to obey the Word of God in our own strength. The moment we make a full surrender to go God's way and to obey His Word, His Holy Spirit then takes full possession of us, to enable us to meet each circumstance in a Scriptural way (which is most important).

There are two very important steps to take in the Christian life. The first is to start right; that means to fully settle what we intend to do with our life; whether we intend to go just as much of God's way

that suits us (and to go a whole lot of our own way), ..or, whether we are going to give up our ways entirely and go God's way altogether.

We may not fully know God's plans at the beginning of our Christian life, but we are held responsible for the attitude that we choose to take. If we are only willing to go a fraction in God's way, then it would be better not to start at all. But, if our attitude is to go all the way with God and accept all His ways (which is a real and absolute repentance and surrender, then God can take full possession of us and enable us to meet successfully and Scripturally, everything that arises in our life.

All the blessings that we desire to receive from God in our life, are to be preceded by real repentance of the old ways and plans that we were following. God has a plan for our home-life, the health of our bodies, the provision of needed finances and Scriptural desires, peace and success at our workplace, and every other part of our life. True repentance means to give up any former ways of meeting circumstances in a human way, (while at the same time shutting ourselves out of God's way), and that must be a final and genuine decision. Then God can lead us into every blessing that Jesus provided on the Cross.

Repentance has no merit or virtue in it (but that merit is all in the Blood that Jesus shed for us), nor does it induce God to do anything for us, ... but it is the one condition through which God can get into our lives to bring to us every grand and glorious thing that Jesus Christ purchased for us. Free gifts have been purchased for us by Jesus shed Blood; that is, perfect righteousness, perfect victory in deliverance from sin and the devil in our life, perfect health, and protection of our bodies without the least human help or remedy, and perfect peace in individual life and home. (Isaiah 53:5 gives Promise of those free gifts) "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed." (A true repentance from 'self' allows God to bring all these things into our life).

Scripture tells us that Jesus Christ purchased financial prosperity and blessing, that is, we are to have all the money to meet our needs, and to also have all that we would desire to give away to others. Many people have not always made perfect success in that way (but it is our privilege). (2 Cor.8:9 tells us) "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."

Repentance from our human ways and plans of self to get things we need, is the condition by which God can give these blessings to us, and it is our Scriptural responsibility to claim by faith those free gifts provided by the shed Blood of Jesus Christ.

That is the result of "true repentance"!!

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S320R/7/12/2023 MAIN POINTS:

1... True repentance in the life of a Christian is of greatest importance, because it not only brings answers to prayer and victory in this life, it will put a person on the pathway to receive God's reward of Eternal Life (for those who are faithful to trust on Him for things and circumstances in this life).

2... True repentance will enable us to abide in Christ (be connected to the True Vine), so that He can abide in us (as Jesus explained John 15:), "if you keep my commandments, then He will enable us to bear fruits of true righteousness, which we cannot do unless He abides in us."

3... Repentance allows us to receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit (we are told 1 John 2:) which remains within you. It is that anointing of the Holy Spirit that will take rebellion against God out of a surrendered Christian's heart,... because the real seat of sin is rebellion against God.