

Really Want to Change

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Matt. 4:17 *Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is*
Luke 13:3 *Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise*
Acts 26:18 *To turn them from darkness to light*
Hebrews 12:4 *In your struggle against sin, you*
John 8:24 *If you do not believe that I am, THE ONE*

On Repentance

1 We may have experienced responding in an unscriptural manner to someone or reacting in anger to something—then realizing we did not act correctly and thinking *that was not right, I really want to change*.

2 That is the *first step* to change, and God will enable us to succeed by giving us His Spirit within and a new way to respond.

3 AV John 13:34 *“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”* Love does not react in anger or feel resentment over such things.

4 The first step in being right with God is making a true *repentance* for past mistakes. The Bible mentions *repentance* multiple times.

5 Jesus knew how *important* it is to say the *right thing, right away*, and began His ministry with AV Matthew 4:17 *“Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* How much closer *at hand* is it now?

6 Repentance is a vital aspect of the Christian life and is often stated AV Mark 1:15 *“The kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”*

7 In preparing the way for the Master—AV Matthew 3:2 *“Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

8 Repent means to *“think again,”* or *“rethink”* the way we *had* acted or the attitudes we *had* kept. In Hebrew *repent* means to *return*—like *“return to God.”* In Greek, *repent* means *regret* or *reconsider* how we acted.

9 Repent then means *rethinking* the attitudes we *had* kept or the words we *had* used with people. Were any of those attitudes or words what God wants us to *have* or to *say*?

10 We are to be very *sorry* for the way we had *offended* God when offending someone—and then taking action to *change* our ways—if we **Really Want to Change!**

11 Repenting means we cast away anything in our life that *tempts* us or *entices* us **to** the things we are repenting *of*.

12 If we really want to change, we really make a decision—with the help of the Holy Spirit—not to *return* to those mistakes, unscriptural attitudes, or bitterness.

13 Going *back* to those wrong ways after we have *repented* of them and have received God’s forgiveness, is explained...

14 AV 2 Peter 2:21 *“For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.”*

15 *Repentance* and *faith* are always linked—it is how we are *spared* from being guilty.

16 When we repent and believe on the Name of Jesus, we become new creatures born into God’s family. We are no longer held in sin by Satan.

17 God wants *no one* to perish—and it is why Jesus said AV Luke 13:3 *“Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish;”* so AV Acts 3:19 *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.”*

18 Being sorry we got caught at something is *not* repentance. In original Greek it means a change of *heart, mind, and thoughts*—a reverse of what we *had* planned to do.

19 *Repentance* brings a visible *change* in our life; what we talk about; our attitudes, and our responses.

20 We should be rethinking and regretting our past ways and attitudes—then there is a noticeable *change* in the way we had acted.

21 When *Jesus* comes *into* our heart, *self* moves *out* because there is room for only **one** to be in control.

22 The apostle told King Agrippa that he was sent to the Gentiles AV Acts 26:18 *“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”*

23 The apostle had preached in 20 *“Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.”*

24 After repentance we can still face temptations and even struggle with them, because Satan never gives up trying to entice us.

25 NIV Hebrews 12:4 *“In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.”*

26 Our change should be noticeable on the *outside* because there is now a *change* on the

inside—God is in control. And He continues to change us and adjust our attitudes to be what He wants them to be—as we remain committed to doing His will and following His Word.

27 The importance of *repenting* and *returning* to trust on God is emphasized in many places throughout Scripture.

28 After committing the worst sin possible, they 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.*”

29 True *repentance* is a true *change* from one direction to another direction; it means a conversion from doing things the *world’s* way to doing them the *Lord’s* way.

30 Repentance brings great results—we are forgiven through faith in the Blood of Jesus.

31 Erasing past sins is the foundation of a Christian life of faith—not everyone *has* that foundation.

32 Repenting is being willing to *give up* every unscriptural attitude, and to *learn* under God’s teaching how to be scriptural in all attitudes.

33 Everyone is born under the control of the devil—all the ways of *humanity* are the ways of the *devil*.

34 If someone has not truly repented and received the Holy Spirit, they would not know that Satan was still controlling their thoughts.

35 The Bible predicts that huge numbers of people would follow huge numbers of false religions in the last days—where we are today.

36 Satan’s only intention is to have people pass from this earth still in their sins and unprepared for eternity.

37 Jesus said to religious leaders NIV John 8:24 “*If you do not believe that I am, THE ONE I CLAIM TO BE, you will indeed die in your sins.*”

38 There are two *stages* to repentance—*first stage* is like seeing the horizon of a burning desert stretched out in front of us and *knowing* that this is *not* the direction in which we should be going—so we turn around and make our way *back* through the crowd.

39 Repentance is not *valid* until we *turn around* and *go back* in the *other* direction.

40 We can hate *sin* as a criminal hates *punishment*, but this is *not* real *repentance*. If we hate sin because of the punishment, we just *regret* that God is fair and just.

41 But if we *know* that sin is an offense against Jesus, and we detest *hurting* our Savior—*that* is true repentance!

42 Not wanting to offend God should make us *want* to change. We should *desire* to leave wrong ways and attitudes behind us and really want a *changed* attitude that glorifies God.

43 We should *want* to be forgiven and *want* God to prepare us for Heaven—beginning with repentance.

44 To hate sin and wrong ways because they caused our *Savior* to be beaten, mocked, and crucified—is what repentance is about!

45 Repenting is *not* because we are afraid of punishment or penalties, but because it made *Jesus* suffer—and so *unjust* was the suffering!

46 Jesus bore it all, so we could be changed and head in the *right* direction.

47 After repentance, God possesses our life and begins guiding us *away from* unscriptural things and leading us *out of* all human things we may trust on or worldly ways we engage in. He wants to *show* us how to put our trust totally on Him.

48 We are then *free* from slavery to sinful ways; *free* from unscriptural attitudes; and *free* from unprofitable interests. We will have God’s *protection*; His *healing*; and be *delivered* from things that disturb our peace.

49 Satan’s desire is to have people desire worldly ways and attitudes, but with a religious covering to hide their heart attitude.

50 Millions of religions follow the devil’s methods—*ignoring* God in this life and *depending* on their own ways to obtain things they want.

51 God is, however, the *same* today; Jesus came to *deliver* us from Satan’s power today; and the Holy Spirit is *given* to anyone today—if they repent, believe, and accept God’s Word as their guide from that moment forward.

52 Repentance is *not* real unless a *final* decision is made to turn *from* unscriptural things in our life and to *accept* God’s Word as the *rule* of our life.

53 Every evil thing that has ever happened to anyone, has been caused by an unscriptural attitude toward God and His Word.

54 AV Psalm 1:1 “*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly;*” or does not accept the advice of the world.

55 We are to *reject* worldly ways; make a Bible *repentance*; *return* to God in faith; and then *walk* in the light of His Truth every day by the power of the Spirit.

56 *That* is true *repentance* and *that* gives *entrance* into God’s Kingdom!



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