

# REPENTANCE –Part 1

Webster's dictionary

Repent- To turn from sin out of penitence for past wrong doings, abandon sinful or unworthy purposes and values, and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one's life.

Repentance- The act or process of repenting; contrition for one's sins together with the dedication of oneself to the abandonment of unworthy purposes and values and to the amendment of one's life.

Vines Bible dictionary

Repentance- In the NT the subject chiefly has reference to "repentance" from sin, and this change of mind involves both a turning from sin and a turning to God. The parable of the Prodigal Son is an outstanding illustration of this. Christ began His ministry with a call to "repentance," Matt. 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."** *Matthew 4:17*

Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, **and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**" *Luke 24:46-48*

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" *Acts 3:19*

"how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, **repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.**" *Acts 20:20-21*

"that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance."  
*Acts 26:19-21*

"Now, therefore," says the LORD, **"Turn to Me with all your heart"** *Joel 2:12*

**Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance.** For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. **For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation** *2 Corinthians 7:9-10*

"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, **but sinners, to repentance.**" *Mark 2:17*

Repentance begins with turning to Jesus (accept Him as your Lord and Savior) and turning away from sin.

Repentance =

1. Turn to God—turn to Jesus—God the Son
2. Turn away from sin
3. Keep walking towards Jesus (Christian walk), your relationship with Jesus gets closer and stronger.
4. Keep walking away from sin (Christian walk), keep separating yourself from sin over time.

I personally believe you must have the power of Jesus to have the strength to separate from the power of sin. And turning away from sin demonstrates that Jesus (God Himself) is in your life. People have told me, "Man you must have Jesus because only God could have changed you."

Turning to God (Jesus) and turning away from sin are two sides of the same coin of Repentance. They both exist together as one. Works consist of good works and bad works. A true Christian will immediately start doing greater good works and less bad works (sin); and this becomes more obvious over time. Faith and works go hand in hand with each other.

I will show you my faith by my works. *James 2:18*

Faith is the state of your heart and works are the outward manifestation of your heart.

Repentance =

- If you love Jesus you turn to Him. Faith progresses in this order: From belief in Jesus → Love Jesus → Accept Jesus → Commitment to Jesus with a confession of faith [Romans 10:9]
- If you love Jesus, you turn away from sin.

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.” *John 14:15*

The sinners prayer is a perfect model for Repentance.

Repentance in your heart:

“I accept and receive You Jesus as my Lord and Savior.  
God I know I am a sinner.  
God I am sorry I am a sinner.  
I turn to You Jesus with all my heart.  
Please Jesus forgive all the sins of my life.  
All this I confess with my mouth and believe in my heart.  
Amen.”

Forgiveness: With this Confession of Faith, you immediately have Salvation, the Holy Spirit indwells you and God forgives all the sins of your entire life.

Then, Repentance in deeds: You demonstrate Repentance from sin with your actions and works. You start and continue to sin less and less over time.

Repentance from sin is one of the true signs of saving faith.

1. You do not practice sin
2. Sin does not rule you
3. Sin does not have dominion over you

Sin is not to be your master. Jesus is your Lord.

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. *Romans 6:12-14*

“Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.” *John 8:34-35*

I shall mourn for many who have sinned before and have not repented of the uncleanness, fornication, and lewdness which they have practiced.

*2 Corinthians 12:21*

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that **those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.** *Galatians 5:19-21*

Practical Tip— First start with giving up “ridiculous” sin in your life. For example, false god worship, perverse or “out-of-control” immorality or hurting innocent people. Just keep continuing to turn away from sin. God will give you the strength and ability to repent.

We all struggle with certain sin issues, but we must be sorry for this and keep trying to do better. A Christian will battle with sin until the day he dies, but the Holy Spirit sanctifies us over time. Sanctification by the Holy Spirit is a process where God Himself gives us the power to sin less and do good works; i.e. become more holy.

With Repentance a Christian will not practice sin. He or she will not make sin a habitual continual lifestyle. Jesus calls all sinners to repent.

“For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”  
*Matthew 9:13*

“ ‘I never knew; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ ”  
*Matthew 7:21-23*

“ ‘I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.’ ” *Luke 13:26-28*

Jesus warns you, do not practice lawlessness, do not be a worker of iniquity (sin).

**“But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live. Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?”** says the Lord God, “and not that he should turn from his ways and live?” *Ezekiel 18:21-23*

**“But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die.”** *Ezekiel 18:24*

“To you first, God, having raise up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, **in turning away everyone of you from your iniquities.**” *Acts 3:26*

## Repentance –Part 2

### The Progression of Repentance (Turning away from sin)

**C** 1) Conviction of sin

- a) Recognition and knowledge of sin followed by
- b) Confession of sin

**S** 2) Sorrow over sin

“For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation” *2 Cor 7:9-10*

**R<sup>1</sup>** 3) Genuinely Repent of the sin in the heart

- “I will not do this sin again”
- “I will stop doing this sin as of now”

**F<sup>1</sup>** 4) Ask God [Jesus] for Forgiveness

**F<sup>2</sup>** 5) Forgiveness granted by God [Jesus]

**R<sup>2</sup>** 6) Repent of sin in action and deed

step 3 (Repentance) and  
step 4 (Ask for Forgiveness)

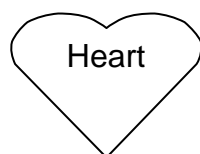
Note: you can not sincerely ask for Forgiveness from God for your sin until you first repent of the sin in your heart (turn away from the sin and do not want or intend to do this sin again). You must separate yourself from the sin in your spirit before your ask for Forgiveness.

Remember God knows your heart. He knows if you really plan on not doing this sin again. He knows if you “really mean it” or if you are pretending or “faking it.” How can you ask for Forgiveness if you intentionally plan on doing the same sin again or have no desire to stop doing the same sin?

If you are truly sincere and want to stop sinning and turn away from sin then God immediately Forgives you. God does not need to wait until you repent in deed or action because:

- 1) God knows the future and He knows if you truly repent by deeds later
- 2) God knows the intent of your heart and you can not fool Him
- 3) Deeds proceed from the will of the heart. “Cause and Effect”

“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.” *Matt 15:18-19*



→ DEEDS  
WORKS

(Outward manifestation of the heart inside)

Good heart → Good deeds

Bad heart → Bad deeds

Repentance in heart → Repentance in deeds

No repentance in heart → No repentance in deeds

The heart and deeds are connected. The two go together, they go “hand in hand.”

A change in the heart → A change in deeds.

A change for Good in the heart (R<sup>1</sup>) → A change for Good in deeds (R<sup>2</sup>)

God says in Scripture that if a brother sins against you and repents, you must forgive him.

“If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.” *Luke 17:3-4*

God always forgives you if you repent of your sins. “Think about it”— if someone sins against you and they truly are sorry and the person does not commit this sin again, you genuinely forgive him. However, on the other hand, if the person continues to commit the same sin against you without repentance, you have a very difficult time forgiving him.

Now hopefully you understand why Scripture states that Repentance is necessary for Forgiveness of sins to occur.

Repentance → Forgiveness

Repentance always precedes Forgiveness

“Repent therefore and be converted that your sins may be blotted out”  
*Acts 3:19*

“Repent and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission [Forgiveness] of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” *Acts 2:38*

“Lest they should turn [Repentance]  
And their sins be forgiven them” *Mark 4:12*

Forgiveness always follows Repentance.

“to open their eyes in order to turn them [Repentance] from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God that they may receive forgiveness of sins” *Acts 26:17-18*

Jesus opened His ministry with a message of Repentance:

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” *Matt 4:17*

“For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinner, to repentance.”  
*Matt 9:13*

Jesus closed His ministry with at message of Repentance:

“and that repentance and remission [Forgiveness] of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem”  
*Luke 24:46-48*

Almost every person has a “secret sin” that they need to repent of and turn away from. It can be difficult because the sinner loves his sin, especially his particular characteristic sin. But the sinner must love Jesus more than his sin and choose Jesus over his sin.