

Lesson 5 Repentance

A change of attitude and action from sin toward obedience to God.

2 Chronicles 7:14 | Repentance is a change of mind and attitude leading to a change of action

¹⁴ If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

- God finds pleasure in repentance.
- (2 Peter 3:9). God commands repentance (Acts 17:30).
- God gives repentance (Acts 5:31 / Romans 2:4).
- The Greek word translated “to repent” is metanoia, which means “to have another mind,” or “to change course after further insight” (Matthew 4:17 / Mark 1:15).
- Israelites in the Old Testament were referred to as “stiff-necked” for their unwillingness to repent from their sin. (Exodus 32:9)

Process of repentance:

2 Corinthians 7:10 | Godly sorrow for sin

¹⁰ For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

- True repentance is not just sorrow within or towards other people, but first and foremost, it is true sorrow towards God.

1 John 1:9 | Confession of sin

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- True repentance admits and confesses the act as an ugly sin or a transgression, not just a mistake or a weakness. It assumes responsibility for wrongdoing and doesn't blame others.

Matthew 3:8 | Willingness to give up sin

⁸ Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance.

- True repentance includes the decision to cease from sin. If a person is not willing to stop sinning, then he hasn't really repented.

Luke 19:8-9 | Inclusion of restitution

⁸ Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.” ⁹ And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham.”

- True repentance attempts to make amends and restitution for any wrongs done. It readily accepts the consequences of sin and makes compensation where possible.

Examples of true and false repentance:

1 Samuel 15:24 | Saul’s false repentance

²⁴ Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.”

Matthew 27:3 | Judas’ false repentance

³ Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders.

Jonah 3:5 | Nineveh’s true repentance

⁵ So, the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

Luke 15:21 | Prodigal son’s true repentance

²¹ And the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.”

- The son had a memory of the father’s house and the father’s mercy. The son stopped to reflect on his present condition.
- The son decided to go to the father.
- The son confessed his sin to the father.
- The son forsook and left his sin.

True repentance doesn’t only bring pardon but complete restoration.