

Salvation—Repentance

Intro: Repentance is probably the most difficult command that God has given to man. Yet, it is a necessary step in the process of salvation. Let us consider this important step.

I. REALIZATION OF SIN.

A. Without a realization that I have sinned, there will not be a need to repent.

B. We have all sinned.

1. Rom. 3:23 ^{“23} For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
2. Gal. 3:22 ^{“22} But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.”

II. DEVELOP THE DESIRE TO LIVE ACCORDING TO GOD’S REVEALED WILL.

A. Realize the destructive nature of sin.

1. All the dark experiences of life are associated with it.
 - a. Pain
 - b. Shame
 - c. Sorrow
 - d. Death
2. Eze. 18:30-31 ^{“30} Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn *yourselves* from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?”
3. Rom. 3:16 ^{“16} Destruction and misery *are* in their ways:”
4. A desire to escape from this destruction.

B. Realize the goodness of God.

1. Rom. 2:4 ^{“4} Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”
2. In the parable of the Prodigal Son; Luke 15:17-19 ^{“17} And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, ¹⁹ And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.”

C. Realizing the blessed nature of righteous living.

1. Purpose of life
 - a. Deu. 10:12-13 ^{“12} And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, ¹³ To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?”
 - b. Acts 17:26-27 ^{“26} And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; ²⁷ That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:”
 - c. Rev. 4:11 ^{“11} Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”
 - d. Phi. 3:7-8 ^{“7} But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,”

2. Peace
 - a. Rom. 5:1 “¹ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - b. Phi. 4:7 “⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
3. Joy
 - a. Phi. 4:4 “⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always: *and* again I say, Rejoice.”
 - b. 1 John 1:4 “⁴ And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.”
4. Rest
 - a. Mat. 11:27-30 “²⁸ Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.”
 - b. Heb. 4:1 “¹ Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.”
5. Fatherhood of God
 - a. Mat. 6:9 “⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”
 - b. 2 Cor. 6:18 “¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”
6. Forgiveness of sins
 - a. Luke 24:46-47 “⁴⁶ And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ⁴⁷ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”
 - b. Eph. 1:7 “⁷ In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”
7. Eternal salvation
 - a. John 11:25 “²⁵ Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:”
 - b. John 20:30-31 “³⁰ And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: ³¹ But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”

III. NECESSITY OF REPENTANCE.

A. God has commanded it:

1. John the Immerser preached it:
 - a. Mat. 3:1-2 “¹ In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, ² And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
 - b. Mat. 3:7-8 “⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:”
2. Apostles preached it
 - a. Prior to the New Testament age; Mark 6:12 “¹² And they went out, and preached that men should repent.”
 - b. After the Christian Dispensation began.
 - (1) Acts 2:38 “³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
 - (2) Acts 17:30-31 “³⁰ And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: ³¹ Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge

the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”

(3) 2 Pet. 3:9 “⁹The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

c. Included in the Great Commission; Luke 24:46-47 “⁴⁶And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ⁴⁷And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

B. Scriptures speak of the necessity:

1. Luke 13:3 “³I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”
2. Luke 24:46-47 “⁴⁶And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ⁴⁷And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”
3. Acts 17:30-31 “³⁰And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: ³¹Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”

C. Without it, we would never be living according to God’s Will.

IV. WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

A. 2 Cor. 7:9-10 “⁹Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. ¹⁰For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”

B. It is honestly, fervently and sincerely seeking the favor of God.

C. It is done by:

1. Having godly sorrow produced by:
 - a. Realization of our guilt and condemnation.
 - b. A knowledge of God’s law.
 - c. An abiding faith and love for God and His will.
 - d. A sincere sense of personal responsibility.
2. Turning from a sinful way of life.
3. Turning to God in His appointed way: based upon the desire to do and be right.
4. This leads to a change in life.
5. Making restitution, if possible, in whatever righteous way possible; Luke 19:8 “⁸And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore *him* fourfold.”
6. Getting out of any sinful situation.

Conclusion: The question comes down to each and every one of us: have we truly repented and repented after a godly manner that leads to salvation?