



INTRODUCTION

If someone repeated every word you asked them to say... would that prove they were saved? Obviously, the answer is no. Then what exactly are we looking for them to do or say?

The **goal of evangelism** is *not* getting someone to repeat words or simply pray a prayer. It is helping sinners to understand why they need a Saviour and leading them to genuinely repent toward God and trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Acts 20:21 – “Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1. Repentance is more than **FEELING** bad about your sin.

Luke 13:5 – “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

Psalms 119:59 – “I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.”

Many people mistake repentance for emotions or an emotional response.

1 coin, 2 sides **Repentance** and **believing** are two sides of the same coin.

If you truly believe the Gospel, you will turn to God and run to Christ!

If you truly turn to God and run to Christ, you have indeed **BELIEVED!**

Emotions

Some people cry. Some feel guilty. Some get scared or promise change. Repentance is *not* just a change of mind or an intellectual understanding. True repentance is believing God, agreeing with Him, and turning to Him.

Wrong Way

Imagine someone driving the wrong way on the highway.

Someone says, “You are going the wrong way!”

They respond, “I feel terrible.” That does not solve anything!

Repentance is *not* merely admitting you are wrong... it is **TURNING** around!

Prodigal Son

Luke 15:18, 21 – “I have sinned against heaven” – what an admission!

David

Psalms 51:4 – “Against thee, thee only, have I sinned” – he offended God!

Judas

*Matthew 27:4 – he had regret, but no repentance – they are *not* the same.*

He said, “I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood...”

They said, “What is that to us?” He was used by the devil and these men.

2. Conviction is the Holy Spirit's WORK.

John 16:8 – "...He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment."

Our job is to join God at work. We must preach the Gospel... to explain as clear as we can the truth of the Bible, to love people enough to care about their soul and to instruct those that oppose themselves, to answer their questions as best we can from the Bible, and to make as clear and plain as possible how God wants them to respond to Jesus Christ.

They must obey the Holy Spirit... turn to God from their sinful way... and trust Jesus Christ!

A Gardener A gardener cannot make a seed grow.
He can prepare the soil, plant the seed, and add the water.
He then must wait on God. It is God who gives LIFE!
The same is true with evangelism and soul winning. Do all you can.

Philip + Ethiopian **Acts 8:26-39** – The Holy Spirit prepared both men for the divine meeting. Philip obeyed God. The Holy Spirit spoke to the man. Philip spoke also. The Ethiopian had to make a decision concerning Christ – he BELEIVED!

Nathan + David **2 Samuel 12:7** – "Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God..."
The Holy Spirit prepared both men for the divine meeting.
Nathan obeyed God. The Holy Spirit spoke to David. Nathan spoke also.
David had to make a decision concerning God's words – he REPENTED!

3. Grace invites a sinner to COME to Jesus Christ!

Mt 11:28 – "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Responses There are typically 3 responses to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
Acts 17:32-34, some **rejected** (mocked), **postponed** (later), some **believed!**
The first two responses are the same. You either reject or receive Him.

The Proposal Imagine a marriage proposal. Love that is forced is not genuine love.
You cannot pressure someone into genuine love – it must be real.
True Salvation is marriage to Jesus Christ – it must be real. Amen.

The Danger The "Sinner's Prayer" is not a danger in and of itself – it is a sinner's guide.
Prayer is biblical. The danger is giving assurance based on repeated words.
The Bible never says, "If you repeat these exact words..."
It says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ." (Confession flowing from believing!)

Burning House Imagine someone trapped inside a burning house.
You do not rescue them by teaching them to say, "Help."
They are rescued by trusting the firefighter enough to jump into his arms!
Faith is not saying the right words – faith is trusting the right SAVIOUR!

This week... Pray daily for lost people. Ask God for boldness. Carry Gospel tracts everywhere.
Start one spiritual conversation with someone. Begin living intentionally for Christ.

Jesus said that He came to call “sinners to repentance” (Matthew 9:13).

Matthew 9:13 – But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for *I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*

The first public word He preached was “repent” (Matthew 4:17).

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

John the Baptist began his ministry the same way (Matthew 3:2).

Matthew 3:2 – And saying, *Repent* ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Jesus told His hearers twice that without repentance, they would perish (Luke 13:3, 5).

Luke 13:3 – I tell you, Nay: but, *except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*

Luke 13:5 – I tell you, Nay: but, *except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*

If intellectual belief is all that is necessary for salvation, then the logical conclusion is that one need never repent. However, the Bible tells us that a false convert “believes” (intellectually) and yet is not saved (Luke 8:13); he remains a “worker of iniquity.”

Luke 8:13 – They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which *for a while believe*, and *in time of temptation fall away.*

In his book *One Thing You Can't Do in Heaven*, Mark Cahill notes that, when witnessing to the lost, “if there is no desire to walk away from sin, the person is not really making a true heart commitment to the Savior. In John 6:44 Jesus says, ‘No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him.’ If God is drawing someone to Him, He would also be drawing the person away from sin.”

God Himself “commandeth all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30). Scripture says that the Lord is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

Clearly, those who do not repent will **PERISH**.

If repentance wasn't necessary for salvation, why then did Jesus command that repentance be preached to all nations (Luke 24:47)? When He sent His disciples two by two, they “preached that men should repent” (Mark 6:12).

Luke 24:47 – And that *repentance* and remission of sins *should be preached in his name among all nations*, beginning at Jerusalem.

Mark 6:12 – And they went out, and *preached that men should repent.*

Praying a sinner's prayer with someone who isn't genuinely repentant may leave you with someone who is not saved, but thinks they are because of the prayer. Therefore, rather than lead them in a prayer of repentance, it is wise to encourage them to pray to God on their own.

When Nathan confronted David about his sin, he didn't lead the king in a prayer of repentance. If a man committed adultery, and his wife is willing to take him back, should you have to write out an apology for him to read to her? No; sorrow for his betrayal of her trust should spill from his lips. She doesn't want eloquent words, but simply sorrow of heart. The essence of his apology should be something like this: "Please forgive me. I have betrayed your trust. I am so sorry." The same applies to a prayer of repentance. If a person is genuinely repentant (he has sorrow of heart and his mouth is stopped from self-justification), he should pray himself; his words aren't as important as the presence of "godly sorrow."

Listen to what the Bible says in Romans...

Romans 10:9 – That if thou *shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus*, and shalt *believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead*, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:10 – For *with the heart man believeth unto righteousness*; and with the *mouth confession is made unto salvation*.

Tell them ... *"Believe with your heart (not just your head) and confess with your mouth to the God of heaven and earth and your Creator acknowledging that you have broken HIS Law and that you deserve His eternal punishment for your crimes against Him. Ask Him to forgive you. Ask Him to save you. Confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and follow Him. By faith, put your trust in Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour in the same way you would put on a parachute to save you. You would not just believe in it; you would put it on – entrusting your life to it. Entrust your life and soul to the Lord Jesus Christ."*

If they are not sure what to say, perhaps David's prayer of repentance (Psalm 51) could be used as a model, but their own words are more desirable.

Questions to ask that might challenge them to trust Christ TODAY...

"When are you going to trust Christ for salvation?"

"Can you guarantee that you will wake up tomorrow?"

"What temporary, earthly, pleasure-filled sin is so satisfying that you are willing to choose it over the Saviour and as a result spend eternity in hell to continue in it rather than repenting and trusting the Saviour today before it is too late?"

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