

LIFE TOGETHER at CHRIST THE ROCK FELLOWSHIP

LESSON 3

REPENTANCE, REBIRTH & REGENERATION

Introduction: Repentance is a conviction of guilt brought about by the Holy Spirit applying the Divine Standards to our lives. This results in a change of attitude toward God and proceeds to a change in conduct in our lives.

Rebirth results when we repent of unbelief. Rebirth occurs when God acts upon the spirit of man, which is dead, and resurrects it into a new sphere of life through the power of the Holy Spirit. Man is then alive to God and united to Him in Christ.

Regeneration comes as a result of rebirth. It is the continuance of salvation in our lives. **The Hebrew and Greek words for salvation** imply the ideas of **deliverance, safety, preservation, healing and soundness.**

In this lesson, we hope to have a clear understanding of Godly repentance which moves us to a life of completeness with God as He works in our lives.

I. Repentance from Dead Works

- A. Dead Works** - Man-made laws, works of the flesh - a practice to gain favor and earn God's grace.

Hebrews 6:1

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, Not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- B. First words of the gospel are repent and be baptized.**

Mark 1:15; Matt. 3:1-8; Matt. 4:17; Mark 6:7-13; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30 & 31; Romans 3:23; Eph. 2:1-5

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

C. False concepts concerning repentance. For instance, repentance is not fear.

Acts 24:24-25

And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."

Some of the things which repentance is not:

- a. Repentance is not conviction.
- b. Repentance is not resolutions or reformation.
- c. Repentance is not sorrow.

II Cor. 7:9-11; I Samuel 15:29; James 2:19-20; II Tim. 3:5

2 Cor 7:9-12

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. 10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter. NKJV

D. Roots of repentance - A change of mind or a change of heart resulting in a change of attitude and actions. It is a complete change in direction - 180 degree turn from sin toward the will of God.

Isaiah 55:7-9

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

E. Fruits of genuine repentance:

Matthew 3:8 - The action or steps of Godly type sorrow and repentance are:

1. Confession of sin:

John 1:9-10

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

2. Forsaking of sin:

II Chr 7:14

*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.*

3. Baptism in water:

Acts 2:38-41

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

II. Rebirth - A supernatural experience by which we are born of the Spirit of God and receive a new nature from God.

John 3:1-8

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for not one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' "The wind blows where it wishes, and you

hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

How are we reborn? We are reborn when the Word of God causes faith to arise in our hearts and the Holy Spirit gives birth to a new nature within us. *Romans 10:8-10*

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

A. Importance of faith:

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

B. Rebirth comes by hearing the Word. *Romans 10:8*

C. Rebirth comes by believing the Word. *Romans 10:8-10*

D. Rebirth comes by confessing the Word. *Romans 10:8-10*

III. Regeneration

A. New Creation

II Cor. 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

B. Royal Priesthood

I Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; Who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.