

Hebrews 5:12-14 (NKJV) 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need [someone] to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes [only] of milk [is] unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, [that is,] those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. **Hebrews 6:1-3** (NKJV) 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, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits.

Six foundational doctrines given to us in (Heb. 6:1–3).

Repentance from dead works, Faith toward God, Doctrine of baptisms, Laying on of hands, Resurrection of the dead and Eternal judgment.

These doctrines are the essential starting point in our understanding and growth in Christ and His teaching. **The disciple of Jesus Christ is personally responsible regarding how he/she builds there life.**

- **“Repentance from dead works is listed first. What is a dead work. Dead works are works of the flesh that will not produce the eternal fruit of the kingdom of God.**
- Repentance happens as we are aware of specific sin or willful sin
- A realization of having grieved God in some way
- Inner corruption, desires that are out of order, recognition that first love for Jesus is stifled in some way by my life’s choices.
- repentance begins with illumination — the light of Christ exposing what was hidden.

The works that align with God will bear fruit that is eternal and are kept in heaven where moth and rust cannot destroy. **A dead work is a work not done out of faith and obedience. They could be religious in nature but remove the element of faith and or obedience to Jesus leadership.** A work of the flesh does not depend on the Holy Spirit!

- **The old covenant/Old Testament, Hebrew understanding of repentance literally meant to turn back, to return. It was action related and was an outward expression.**
- **The new covenant/New Testament, Greek understanding has one definite meaning and that is to change one’s mind.**
- **If you put both of these definitions together you get a full expression of what repentance is. However, We must emphasize the correct order. New covenant**

understanding must precedes the old covenant action. Your mind must be changed, born again and renewed into the very mind of Christ.

- **When your mind, heart is changed your body will in turn follow.** *Many have tried on their own to change direction (Resolution) but true change will not occur until your mind is changed.* By the word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, we come out of old patterns of thinking and by grace are enabled to know and live out of Jesus perfect understanding, knowledge, and wisdom. When we truly repent we will be moving in a totally different direction that aligns with Jesus and abides in Him.
- **Every religion loves their version of Jesus, Christianity however requires repentance so that we can die to ourselves and be disciples of Jesus Christ, the only Begotten.**

You could repent with tears, or no tears, filled with emotion or no emotion. **True repentance is not an emotion, it is a surrendering of our will, it is a firm inward decision that has identified the truth within Christ and the lie or lack within ones self.** We have to change our minds concerning sin.

If anyone will be reconciled to God, the first move that they must make, the first essential act would be to repent.

The prodigal son, gracious father parable is one of the greatest example of true repentance (Luke 15:11-32). I won't read the story but want to highlight scriptures order.

1. The son wasted his fathers inheritance with worldly pleasures (dead works)
2. He came to himself, or he came to his senses. (This was his moment of truth) He had a changed mind.
3. He said I will return to my father and confess my sin (Made the decision)
4. He arose and went (He lived out his thought-he returned to his father). The son changed his relationship with sin and was restored to his father.

Judas sinned and showed remorse which is false repentance. He felt badly about his sin but never changed his direction. Many Christians never get there breakthrough because they are full of remorse but not full of repentance. *Judas was full of emotion, but emotion does not save you. Continuance in your own way is denial of God.*

We have to understand this principal because it will be key for your living out a victorious faith. **True repentance must always go before true faith. Without real repentance there can never be true faith!**

We are introduced to John the Baptist who had one message formed in his heart and on his lips. REPENT!!!

Matthew 3:1-2 (NKJV) 1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

- The first message preached by Christ Himself was **Repent and believe the gospel. (Mark 1:15)**. **Think about it the first command that ever fell from our Lord's lips was Repent and believe.**
- **Matthew 4:17 (NKJV)** From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
- After Christ death and resurrection as He was commissioning His disciples again we see His emphasis on repentance. **Luke 24: 47** and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
- After the Holy Spirit fell at Pentecost and the crowd asked "what shall we do?" Peter responded with the words of Jesus in **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. **Repentance precedes new birth and the gift of the Holy Spirit.**
- The Apostle Paul carried the same message-*Acts 20:20-21* ²⁰ *how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Repentance precedes faith and is the first response God requires from sinful man. Faith is an empty profession if repentance is not first established. We must remember this not just in our initial coming to Christ but in our daily living with Christ. **Just to say I believe in Jesus is not the gospel preached by Jesus or the Apostles. Christ and the Apostles preached one must repent and believe ! We must turn away from the dead works of our sinful nature that are not based upon repentance and faith and do an about face towards God and His word!**

How we begin our life in Christ must be how we continue our life in Christ. If we are enabled by the power of God to step into a repentance that saves us from the penalty of sin and death, we must also believe that by the power of the Holy Spirit we can repent as a child of God to enter into the fullness of Jesus Christ.

Continued repentance -not just out of sin in regeneration but a lifestyle of repentance, humility, beholding and becoming like Jesus allowing Him to sanctify our mind through and through. We must not just believe in Christ, we must also believe into Christ. He didn't just pay your debt, He adopted you as sons and daughter with a grand inheritance . Many

Christian repent enough to be saved but we are instructed to mature into fullness. Out of our sin, yet into His righteousness, out of our weakness but into His power, out of our failure and into His victory, out of our limitation and into His power and wisdom.

Repentance clears the obstacles to see clearly the word of God through a lens of faith and not from our past experiences , religious paradigms that limit God, lack etc. In order for the word of God to take full shape in our lives we need to step into full faith and that will always be preceded by true repentance and the realization that fellowship with God has been disrupted because of our sin.

2 Corinthians 7:10 “Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation...”

Get to know the joy and gift of repentance from dead works. Repentance should be fueled by first love in order to be transformed into Christ image.

We repent into the thoughts of God and are bound to Jesus Christ (person and word) and are set free from demonic and humanistic strongholds and limitations. Jesus invites us to take His yoke (Matthew 11:28) but we must allow Him to change our mind, that His way is superior and His yoke (ways, teachings) alone will release the grace needed to endure and be victorious. We need constant revelation of the Word so we know how to think differently.

1. Confession — Naming the Sin and going to the root. The goal is to be fully exposed before Jesus and willing to repent in areas we fall short of His glory.

- 1 John 1:9 (NKJV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- Agreeing with God about the sin acknowledging your lack and His perfect righteousness
- True repentance seeks to: Restore what was broken, Make amends when possible

Matthew 3:8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.” It becomes a lifestyle, not a one-time event.

2. Receiving Forgiveness

- Repentance is incomplete without receiving grace. Judas felt remorse., Peter wept — but returned to Christ. True repentance ends not in despair, but in victory.
- Trusting the blood of Christ

- Resting in forgiveness
- Walking forward in hope

It is not just turning from sin —It is turning toward a Person.**Repentance is a Lifelong Posture**

3. Repentance brings healing. Church father, Basil the Great Compared sin to sickness and repentance to treatment. The Church was a hospital, not a courtroom.

The goal isn't punishment — it was healing and restoration.

Communion-beholding the beauty of Christ perfection and suffering and allowing the blood to illuminate in our own lives area of living that makes the Lord suffer still (not in the area of atonement, that was completely fulfilled upon the cross) rather in the area of grieving God. be willing to repent and turn to God and receive His mercy.

Home group questions

1. Discuss the correct order of repentance: we must have a changed (renewed) mind before we can truly change our direction.
2. Discuss the differences between remorse and repentance and give testimony of your breakthrough?
3. Discuss the importance of having an obedience that is rooted in the love of God and not just the obedience of a servant.
4. Discuss-God's goal isn't just to save you from past sin but also that you would repent into the fullness of Christ.
5. Why should we view repentance as a gift from God and not a punishment when we are wrong?The goal of repentance isn't punishment; it is healing and restoration.