

# Message Title: REPENTANCE

**Theme:** *The Month of Rebuilding – Temple and its Walls*

**Main Text:** *John 3:1–7 (KJV)*

**Date:** *August 10, 2025*

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## Scripture Reading: John 3:1–7 (KJV)

*“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God... Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”*

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## Introduction – Rebuilding Starts with the Heart

Family of God, as we step into this *prophetic month of rebuilding*, not just the *walls of our cities* or the *structure of our churches*, but the **temple of our hearts**, the Lord is saying:

**“Before you build upward, you must dig deep. Before you can ascend, you must descend into repentance.”**

We are in a season like Nehemiah’s called to restore what has been broken down. But before Nehemiah ever lifted a brick, he wept, fasted, and repented for the sins of the people (Nehemiah 1:4–6).

Repentance is the **first gate** in the spiritual rebuilding process.

Let me say it again:



**There is no true revival without repentance.**



**Walls built without repentance will eventually fall.**



**Temples built on pride will not stand.**

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## I. What Is Repentance? (Definition & Revelation)

According to **Vine’s Expository Dictionary**, repentance (Greek: *metanoia*) means:

- **“To change one’s mind.”**
- **“To change for the better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one’s past sins.”**

It is not just regret. It is not feeling bad.

It is a *radical change of direction*, a mental, spiritual, and moral U-turn back to God.



### Repentance is:

- A change of **mind** — I now think like God about sin.
- A change of **heart** — I now feel what God feels about unrighteousness.
- A change of **will** — I now choose what God chooses.
- A change “... for remission of sins;” (Lk 3:3b)



**2 Corinthians 7:10 (KJV):**

*“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”*



### **Illustration:**

Imagine driving fast down the wrong road. You don't just slow down. You make a U-turn. That's what repentance looks like.

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## **II. Who Needs to Repent? (Universality of Sin)**

Nicodemus, in John 3, was a respected Pharisee, **religious, moral, and educated**. Yet Jesus said to him:

*“Ye must be born again.”* (John 3:7)

Why? Because **religion doesn't save. Good works don't cleanse. Only repentance and rebirth bring new life.**



**Romans 3:23:**

*“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”*



**John 3:16:**

*“Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

That “**whosoever**” includes:

- The preacher and the prostitute
- The faithful and the fallen
- The moralist and the murderer

Repentance is not a one-time act. It is the **lifestyle of a growing believer**.

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## **III. Why Must We Repent? (Purpose of Repentance)**

Jesus began His ministry with a cry:



**Matthew 4:17 (KJV):**

*“Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*


Why do we repent?

1. **To see the Kingdom.**  
Without repentance, we are spiritually blind.
2. **To enter the Kingdom.**  
Jesus said, “Except ye be born again...” (John 3:5)
3. **To align with God's will.**  
Repentance realigns our hearts with His rule.



**Matthew 6:10:**


*“Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done...” It starts with surrender!*

 **Power Quote – David Wilkerson:**

*“God is after your heart, not just your hands. Repentance opens the door for true intimacy with Him.”*



## **IV. When Should We Repent? (Urgency of Repentance)**

 **John 3:19–21:**

*“Men loved darkness rather than light... but he that doeth truth cometh to the light...”*

The best time to repent is **now**, while conviction is fresh, while grace is calling.

 **Galatians 3:22:**

*“But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith... might be given to them that believe.”*



**Illustration:**

Have you ever ignored a smoke alarm? That delay can be deadly. **Repentance is Heaven’s alarm**—don’t snooze it!



Delay is dangerous. The Spirit doesn’t always strive with man (Genesis 6:3).



## **V. Repentance and Rebuilding – A Prophetic Call**


Beloved, this is more than a sermon. It is a **call to rebuild the ruined altars of the heart**.

Just as in Nehemiah's day:

- The **walls** were broken.
- The **gates** were burned.
- The **people** were scattered.

But Nehemiah **wept, repented**, and then rebuilt (Nehemiah 1:4–11).

**In the same way, repentance precedes revival. Confession precedes restoration.**

 **Acts 3:19 (KJV):**

*“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come...”*



No repentance, no refreshing.



No turning, no transformation.



But when we repent, **heaven opens**.

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## Conclusion – Will You Turn Today?

Nicodemus came to Jesus by night...


But he left with **light**.


He came curious...

But he left **convicted**.

And later, in John 19:39, Nicodemus is found **publicly honoring Jesus**.

Why? Because **repentance changes your direction, your decisions, and your destiny**.

 Today, God is calling for a people who will rebuild the walls of holiness, worship, prayer, and purpose—but it starts with repentance.

 *“Will you answer the call?”*


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## 7 Prayer Points for Repentance and Rebuilding

1. **Father, I return to You with my whole heart. Cleanse me from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)**
  2. **Lord, help me to hate what You hate and love what You love.**
  3. **Jesus, break every hard and stubborn part of my heart.**
  4. **Holy Spirit, rebuild the broken walls in my walk with You.**
  5. **God, uproot every hidden sin and make me whole again.**
  6. **Revive me, Lord! Let the fire of repentance burn in my soul.**
  7. **Use me to help others rebuild—just as You are rebuilding me.**
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## Call to Action / Altar Call

*“If you know the Lord is calling you to a fresh place of surrender, step forward... lift your hands... kneel at your seat. Today is your moment to be made new.”*

 *(Worship team softly plays “Create in Me a Clean Heart” or “I Surrender All”)*