Message Title: REPENTANCE

Theme: The Month of Rebuilding – Temple and its Walls

Main Text: John 3:1–7 (KJV)

Date: August 10, 2025

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."

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.



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."

of 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.

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.**

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.



"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.



"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

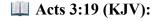
Beloved, this is more than a sermon. It is a **call to rebuild the ruined altars of the heart**.

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.



"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.

© 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.



make "Will you answer the call?"



🙏 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.



🦙 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")