REVIVAL PRAYER PODCAST

“Celebrate Repentance”

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November 2026

Jesus Celebrates Repentance

The Lost Sheep *“Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.” Luke 15:7*

The Lost Coin *“‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Luke 15:9–10*

The Lost Son *“For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate… It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’ ” ” Luke 15:24, 32*

Measured by Repentance

Throughout the Bible, people are not measured on whether or not they sin, or even how much they sin, but rather they are measured on how they respond to their sin. Everyone sins. The question is not *if we **sin***; the question is *if we **repent***.

No Repentance	Repentance
Saul	David
Rich Young Ruler	Zaccheas
The Older Brother	The Prodigal Son
Judas	Peter
Pharisees	Disciples
Thief on Cross #1	Thief on Cross #2

Verses on Repentance

"If my people who are called by my name 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." 2 Chronicles 7:14

"For the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity. " Proverbs 24:16

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." " Matthew 3:2 (Also see Matt. 4:17)

"Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. " Matthew 3:8

"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Matthew 6:12–13 (also Luke 11:4)

"I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." Luke 5:32

"Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." Luke 7:47

"Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him." The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" " Luke 17:3–5

"When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life." Acts 11:18

"God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance. " Romans 2:4

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. " James 5:16

"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. " 1 John 1:5–9

"Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent." Revelation 2:5

"Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. " Revelation 3:19

Misconceptions on Repentance

Too often, we view repentance as something we do at the beginning of Chrstian life, yet it is meant to be the continuation of the Christian life. Repentance is not just for salvation; repentance is for sanctification.

Too often, we avoid repentance. We want revival and yet we avoid repentance. We want others to repent yet we will not repent ourselves. I personally do not trust anyone who I do not see repent. The leaders I respect the most are those who repent.

Too often, leaders will not lead in repentance. Fathers are not willing to repent. Pastors are not willing to repent. Repentance is a mark of true Christian leadership.

Too often, we view repentance as a weakness. Repentance is not weakness. Repentance is a mark of courage. The more we celebrate repentance, the more we will welcome repentance. (Acts 11:18) The more repentance we welcome, the more the kingdom will come. (Matt. 3:2)

Too often we try to repent without confession. Or perhaps we confess and try to confess privately when we need to confess publicly. If confession privately continues to bring about private sins, perhaps you need to confess to a trusted mentor, father or mother. Confession does not guarantee repentance, but you cannot get there without it. If we confess the small sins, we will never get to the bigger sins. (Eph. 5:12-13; James 5:16; 1 John 1:6-10)

Too often, we punish ourselves for repenting. Repentance is not endlessly punishing yourself over yesterday's sin. It is bringing your sin into the light and receiving grace and forgiveness.
Too often, we confess but do not walk in true freedom. We "repent" but continue to walk in darkness and remain in bondage. Repentance is not just turning from evil; repentance is turning to Jesus. Jesus is the truth and the truth will set us free.

Case Study of Martin Luther

Martin Luther was known for his lengthy sessions of confession to the priest. It is historically documented that he once confessed sins for 6 hours straight. Luther was the man he was not because he was sinless, denied his sin or hid from his sin. He was the man he was because he recognized his sin and repented. Luther understood the depth of his sin and grew to understand that depth of God's love. Luther learned that his sins, though they were many, were covered by the greater mercy of God. He modeled what Jesus said, "those who sin much, love much." (Lk. 7:47)

While Luther developed in his understanding of grace and forgiveness, he continued to value confession and repentance. In 1517, he posted the 95 Theses. He argued that repentance was meant to characterize the whole Christian life, not merely a sacrament administered by a priest. In his 1529, *Small Catechism,* he included instruction on confession and receiving forgiveness. Luther continued to value confession and repentance even in his developed understanding of grace and forgiveness.

Action

1) Enter repentance through God's love. (Romans 2:4, 5:8)
You cannot hide from God. You do not need to hide from God. God's love leads you (and others) to repent. God's love is at the headwaters of repentance.
2) Confess sin. (Eph. 5:12-13, James 5:16, 1 John 1:6-10)
The Bible calls us to confess our sins. Have courage. Anyone can hide. It takes courage to be know for who you really are and to confess sin. Lead in repentance. Walk in the light.
3) Rebuke the Enemy. (Matthew 6:19, James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:8-9)
Recognize that some sins have given access for the Devil to have a stronghold. In such cases, it is good to bind evil spirits in the name of Jesus and send them where Jesus wants to send them.
4) Receive forgiveness. (Ps. 103:12, Is. 1:18, Acts 3:19, 1 John 1:9)
When we confess our sins, we can receive forgiveness. We can walk in freedom. We can have our sins sent as far as the east is from the west.
5) Receive the Holy Spirit. (Luke 11:13, John 7:37, Eph. 5:18)
We not only want to get rid of the bad, we want to replace it with good. Repentance is not just turning from evil, but it is replacing it with God's Spirit of holiness.
6) Continue to repent. (Matt. 3:8)
Keep your confessions current. If you confess small sins, it will keep you from the bigger sins.
7) Stand your ground. (1 Cor. 16:13, Eph. 6:10-20, 1 Peter 5:9)
We must continue to resist the enemy. Let us continue to abide in Jesus. Let us stand and keep standing in freedom and repentance.
8) Lead others in repentance.
If we want others to repent, we must model it. If we desire our families, churches or communities to repent, we must model this and lead them in repentance.
9) Celebrate repentance. (Luke 15:7, 9-10, 24, 32; Acts 11:18)
When God leads you and those around you to repent, CELEBRATE! Break the shame. Encourage people! Tell yourself and others, "I view you more highly now than I did before!"

Prayer

Father, thank you for your love leads us in repentance. Thank you for celebrating repentance. Thank you for calling me to repent and to continue to repent. I cannot hide from you and I do not need to hide from you. You are not only forgive me from my sins, but you free me from the power of sin and give me the Holy Spirit to walk in freedom. I receive the courage to repent and continue to repent. I receive the Spirit to lead others in repentance.

