





SERMON OUTLINE FOR DIGITAL DOWNLOAD

Lesson Title: *Lesson Four: The Misunderstood Response — It's More Than a Prayer*

Subtitle: *You Must Be Born Again*

 **Date:** October 5, 2025

 **Texts:** Titus 3:4-5; Matthew 7:21-23

I. INTRODUCTION: SALVATION IS A HEART THING

Remember this: Salvation is a heart thing!

Key Truth:

“Church culture can produce church members. But only the Spirit of God can produce sons and daughters of the Kingdom.”

II. DECONSTRUCTING THE MISUNDERSTOOD RESPONSE

Matthew 7:21-23

Jesus makes it clear:

- Not everyone who says “Lord, Lord” will enter the Kingdom
- Many have religious works without relationship

Modern confusion:

- Church attendance equals salvation
- Praying a sinner’s prayer equals salvation
- Emotion equals transformation

Salvation is not behavior modification — it’s a **supernatural change** produced in the heart by the Holy Spirit.

III. WHY TRUE SALVATION REQUIRES SUPERNATURAL TRANSFORMATION

Ephesians 2:1 – “You were dead in sin...”

- Dead people can’t respond
- Romans 3:11 – “No one seeks God”
- 1 Cor. 2:14 – “Spiritual things are foolish to the natural man”

Ezekiel 36:26-27

- God gives a **new heart**
- He puts His **Spirit within**
- He causes us to **follow** Him

A spiritually dead heart needs to be **made alive**, not just reformed.

IV. THE WORK OF REGENERATION

Titus 3:4-5

“...not by works... but through the **washing of regeneration** and renewing of the Holy Spirit.”

Regeneration is:

- The **internal work** of the Spirit



- Awakens the heart to respond
- Makes a person a **new creation**
- Is the **bridge** between hearing the gospel and living a transformed life

John 3:3–8 – “You must be born again”

- Born **of the Spirit**
- The wind (Spirit) moves **beyond human control**
- Salvation is **Spirit-driven**, not behavior-driven

V. WHAT HAPPENS INSIDE A REGENERATED HEART?

1. **Conviction of Sin**
John 16:8 – The Holy Spirit **pierces** the heart
2. **Illumination of Truth**
2 Cor. 4:3–6 – The veil lifts; Christ becomes real
3. **New Birth**
John 1:12–13 – Born of God, not of flesh or effort
4. **Faith and Repentance Follow**
True response comes **after** the heart is awakened

Warning:

- Repentance without regeneration is behavior modification
- Regeneration must come first

VI. WHY THEN DID JESUS SAY, “REPENT”?

Matthew 3:2 / Matthew 4:17 / Acts 2:38

Does this contradict regeneration-first theology? No.

Explanation:

1. **The Call to Repentance** is the means God uses to awaken hearts
 - Romans 10:13–17 – Faith comes by hearing
2. **Repentance Aligns Us** with the Kingdom Jesus announced
3. **Jesus’ Audience** was still under the Old Covenant, being prepared for Pentecost
4. **Divine Sovereignty & Human Responsibility** work together
 - Philippians 2:12–13 – “God works in you...”

Thought:

Jesus calling Lazarus: The command went out — but life had to enter before response was possible.

VII. WHAT IS BIBLICAL REPENTANCE & FAITH?

Repentance (metanoia):

- Change of mind and direction
- Not just guilt — but **godly sorrow**
- 2 Cor. 7:10 – “Godly sorrow leads to salvation”

Godly sorrow is sorrow **toward God**, not just regret over consequences

Peter (godly sorrow) vs. Judas (worldly sorrow)

Faith (pistis):

- Full **trust in Christ** as Savior and Lord



- Not just belief in facts — but **surrender and reliance**
- **Faith + repentance = true conversion**

VIII. REPENTANCE AND FAITH GO TOGETHER

You cannot have:

- Faith without repentance
- Or repentance without faith

Together, they are evidence of regeneration, not the cause of it.

Acts 2:37–38 – “They were pierced to the heart... Repent...”

IX. PRACTICAL STEPS TO GIVE GOD YOUR HEART

Step 1: Recognize your heart’s condition

- Jeremiah 17:9 – “Desperately sick...”
- Mark 7:21–23 – Sin flows from the heart

Step 2: Admit Your Inability to Change Your Own Heart

- Humility invites grace (James 4:6)

Step 3: Surrender the Whole Heart to God in Faith

- Proverbs 3:5 – “Trust with all your heart”
- Psalm 51:10 – “Create in me a clean heart...”

Step 4: Realize God by His Holy Spirit produces this New Life

- Ezekiel 36:26–27 – “I will give you a new heart...”

Step 5: Walk in the Fruit of a New Heart (Newness of Life)

- 2 Cor. 5:17 – New creation
- 1 Thess. 1:9 – “Turned to God from idols”

X. CONCLUSION: TRUE SALVATION IS MORE THAN A PRAYER

It’s not just saying “Lord, Lord.”

It’s being **born again** — by the Spirit

It’s a **surrendered heart** that turns to God in repentance and trusts Christ fully by faith

It’s a **new life**, not a new routine