

REPENTANCE

Week 2 of 40 Days of Prayer

INTRODUCTION

James 4:6 says, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” This verse and others point to a very clear and powerful principle in Scripture: *you will either humble yourself, or you will be humbled.*

Today’s message, and this week’s theme for the 40 Days of Prayer journey that our church is on is REPENTANCE.

Repentance. What is repentance? Greek word, “Metanoia” which means it means there has been this transformative change of the mind, heart and behavior. Put another way, *a change of mind that leads to a change of heart that leads to a change of behavior.*

Isaiah 30:15-18: ¹⁵ *This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says:*

*“In repentance and rest is your salvation,
in quietness and trust is your strength,
but you would have none of it.*

The Problem of Being Half-Dead

See, the problem is... I’m still only half-dead. My spirit is alive, but I still have this body of death hanging onto me. And it is either getting weaker or stronger. It is either being put to death or being fed.

But the only way for me to experience the life of Jesus in me and through me is to die to self.

Jesus said, ²³ *Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.*

Luke 9:23

Out of the gate, Jesus says, “If you truly want to follow Me, you are going to have to die to self. Deny yourself. Pick up your cross. Daily. This instrument of death. And a brutal one at that.

You are alive in Christ, but you are still in this “body of death” as Paul describes it. And as Paul says in Romans 8:12-13 we have an obligation, but it is not to the flesh to live according to it, but if you by the Spirit put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

But the process by which we partner with the Holy Spirit to put our flesh to death is hard work, have you noticed? And we would tend to rather figure out some kind of compromise where we can *manage* our sin rather than *mortify* it.

Further thoughts:

The Problem of Being Half-Devoted

Romans 12—is our all truly on the altar???

Our attraction to Idols

James 4:4-10

A Personal Testimony and Challenge

How do I know I need personal revival?

- Loss of Conviction
- Loss of Hunger
- Loss of Love
- Loss of Urgency
- Loss of Transparency

What Daily Repentance/Rest Looks Like

- Search Your Heart (Psalm 139:23-24)
- Let Peace Make the Call! (Colossians 3:15)
 - Feel unsettled? STOP!
 - Ask the Lord to search your heart
 - Confess/Repent/Restitution (if applicable)
 - Did peace return?
- Ask Jesus to fill you with His Spirit and recommit your heart to live for Him only
- Be open with another brother or sister about it