

Repentance

Turning Back to God

Repentance means turning back towards God. It involves a decision and action, to change direction from going our own way to going God's way.

The Importance of Repentance

Acts 3:19 (NIV)

(19) Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

In what way is repentance part of being saved?

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NIV)

(10) Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

How is repentance different to just feeling sad?

Steps of Repentance

Read about the lost son in Luke 15:11-24 (NIV). Make a summary of what happened.

Luke 15:11-24 (NIV)

- (11) Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons.
- (12) The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.
- (13) "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.
- (14) After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.
- (15) So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.
- (16) He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.
- (17) "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!
- (18) I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.
- (19) I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.'
- (20) So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.
- (21) "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'
- (22) "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.
- (23) Bring the fatted calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate.
- (24) For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Luke 15:11-13 (NIV)

- (11) Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons.
- (12) The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.
- (13) "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

Luke 15:14-16

- Luke 15:14-16 (NIV)
- (14) After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.
 - (15) So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.
 - (16) He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

Luke 15:17

- Luke 15:17 (NIV)
- (17) "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!

Luke 15:18-19

- Luke 15:18-19 (NIV)
- (18) I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

(19) I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.'

Luke 15:20-21

Luke 15:20-21 (NIV)

(20) So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

(21) "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

Luke 15:22-24

Luke 15:22-24 (NIV)

(22) "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

(23) Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate.

(24) For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

The Fruit of Repentance

Read about Zacchaeus in

Luke 19:5-9 (NIV)

(5) When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."

(6) So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

(7) All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

(8) But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

(9) Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.

What did he do to show he had changed?

Matthew 3:8 (NIV)

(8) Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

What can we do to show that we have repented?

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

(1) Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

(2) Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

How can we make repentance part of our daily lives?

3 Steps for Repentance

1. Feel deeply sorry for sinning against God (2 Corinthians 7:10)

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NIV)

(10) Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

2. Confess your sins (1 John 1:9, James 5:16)

1 John 1:9 (NIV), James 5:16 (NIV)

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

(9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

James 5:16 (NIV)

(16) Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

3. Declare and enjoy Christ's victory over sin and its effects on your life (Colossians 2:14-15)

Colossians 2:14-15 (NIV)

(14) having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

(15) And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Ask a Friend

Can you share a story of your own personal repentance?

Application

Is there something you can do to change and/or to show that you have changed? Ask God to guide you in this. Read Psalm 51 in which David repents from his sin.

Psalm 51 (NIV)

- (1) Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
- (2) Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
- (3) For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
- (4) Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.
- (5) Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- (6) Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.
- (7) Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- (8) Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
- (9) Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.
- (10) Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- (11) Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- (12) Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
- (13) Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.
- (14) Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
- (15) Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.
- (16) You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
- (17) My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.
- (18) May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.
- (19) Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Prayer Model

Lord Jesus, thank you for saving me. I have decided to turn away from sin and live the way that you want me to. I commit my life to you.

Key Verse

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.”