

"Discipleship Training Program"

Christianity 101 - Lesson Two

Repentance

Memory Text Scripture

II Corinthians 7:10 "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."

First Word of the Gospel

The first word of the Gospel is "**repent**." The second word is "**believe**."

- **Mark 1:15** "And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."
- **John's** first message was repentance.
 - **Matthew 3:1-8** "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, ²And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. ³For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁴And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, ⁶And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance."
- **Jesus Christ's** first message was repentance
 - **Matthew 4:17** "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
- The twelve **Apostles** preached repentance
 - **Mark 6:7-13** "And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits; ⁸And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse: ⁹But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats. ¹⁰And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place. ¹¹And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city. ¹²And they went out, and preached that men should repent. ¹³And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them."
- The first message on the day of **Pentecost** was "repent"
 - **Acts 2:38** "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."
- **Paul's** first message was repentance
 - **Acts 20:20-21** "And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, ²¹Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

Repentance is the first step in the believer's life; God **commanded** it. If this foundation is not properly laid, the whole structure will be shaky, unable to stand the tests and trials that come.

- **Acts 17:30** "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:"

Paul speaks of it as the "foundation of repentance from dead works." **Hebrews 6:1,2**

False Concepts Concerning Repentance

- It is not **conviction** of sin
 - **Genesis 6:3** "And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years."
 - **Acts 24:24-25** "And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. ²⁵And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."[^]
 - Conviction **produces** repentance, but not all who are convicted repent.
- It is not **worldly** sorrow
 - **II Corinthians 7:10** "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."
 - Worldly sorrow is simply being sorry "for getting caught", but not being sorry for the crime committed.
- It is not **reformation**
 - Reformation is turning over a "new leaf", but not genuine repentance.
- It is not **religious**
 - The Pharisees in Christ's day were extremely religious, yet they were hypocrites. They never experienced repentance, but rather crucified Jesus.
 - **Matthew 5:20; 3:7-12** "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: ⁹And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. ¹⁰And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. ¹¹I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: ¹²Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."
- It is not only "**believe**-ism" or mental faith
 - Mental faith is merely a mental acceptance and assent to a set of creeds of doctrines, but without any change in the life. This is dead faith.
 - **James 2:19-20** "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. ²⁰But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"

The Proper Root Of Repentance

The Root of Repentance:

- **Matthew 3:8** "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:"
- The root meaning of the word repentance is "a change of **mind**, or a change of **heart** and **attitude**", and this in particular, concerning sin and relationship with God. It means a complete about turn; a change of direction.

The Fall brought about in man a mind in **rebellion** against God and His Law; a mind which desires to go its own way.

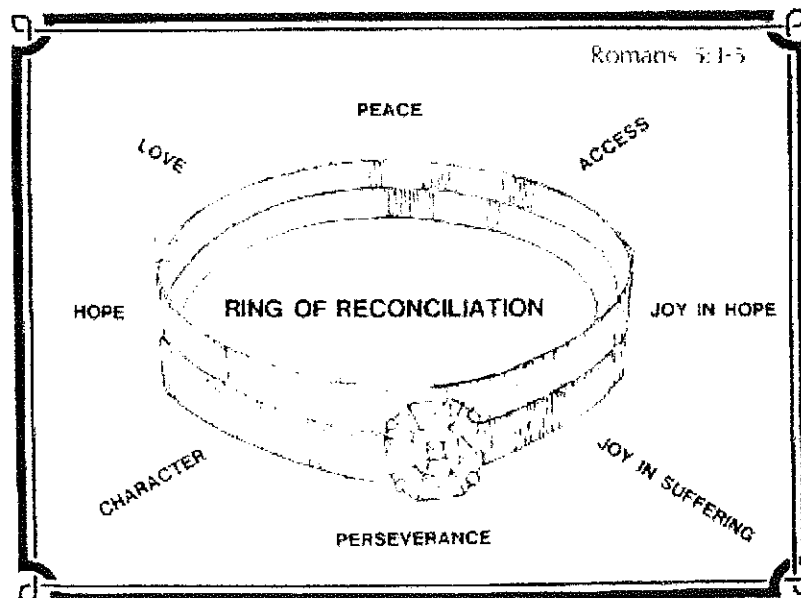
- **Ephesians 2:3** "Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."
- **Colossians 1:21** "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled"

Repentance, brought about by the Holy Spirit, is a change of mind; a facing towards God. No man can or will repent of himself, but true repentance is brought about by the **conviction** of the Holy Spirit; God grants and demands repentance. This is the root of repentance.

- **Isaiah 53:6** "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."
- **Romans 2:4** "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"

Repentance is the informing and changing of the **mind**; the stirring and directing of the **emotions** to urge the required change; and the action of the **will** in turning the whole man away from sin unto God.

Example – Luke 15:11-24



What Are The Fruits Of Repentance?

The Fruit of Repentance

- **Acts 26:20** "But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance."
- **Matthew 3:8** "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance."

If there is genuine repentance **inwardly** (the root), this will be evidenced **outwardly** (the fruit).

John the Baptist called for "fruits meet for repentance".

The fruits of repentance are evidenced in:

- **Godly sorrow** for sin
 - **II Corinthians 7:9-11** "Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. ¹⁰For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. ¹¹For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter."
- **Confession** of sin
 - **Psalms 32:1-5** "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. ³When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. ⁴ For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah ⁵I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah"
 - **I John 1:9** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- **Forsaking** of sin
 - **Proverbs 28:13** "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."
- **Hatred** of Sin
 - **Ezekiel 36:31-33** "Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations. ³²Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord GOD, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel. ³³Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded."

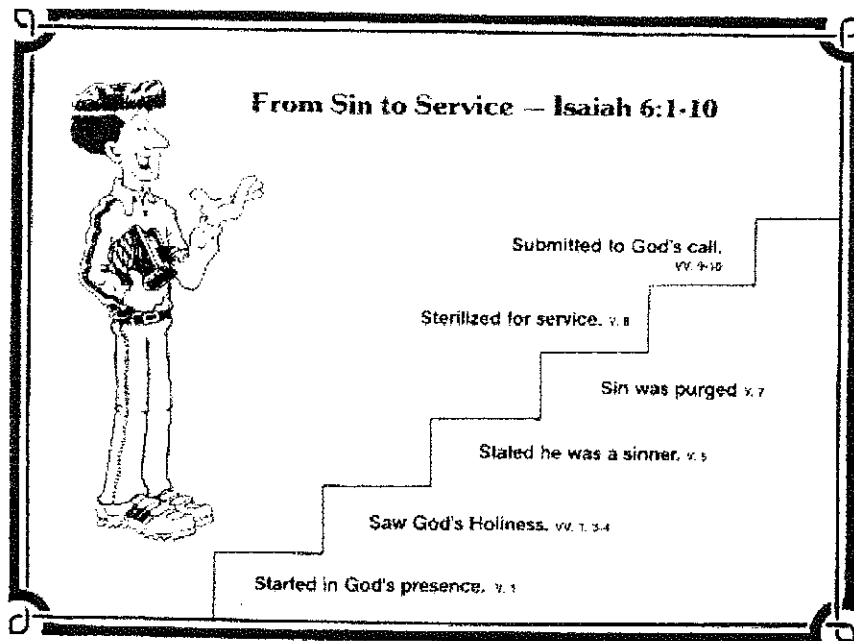
Fruit involves restitution where possible.

- **Leviticus 6:1-7** "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ²If a soul sin, and commit a trespass against the LORD, and lie unto his neighbour in that which was delivered him to keep, or in fellowship, or in a thing taken away by violence,

or hath deceived his neighbour; ³Or have found that which was lost, and lieth concerning it, and sweareth falsely; in any of all these that a man doeth, sinning therein: ⁴Then it shall be, because he hath sinned, and is guilty, that he shall restore that which he took violently away, or the thing which he hath deceitfully gotten, or that which was delivered him to keep, or the lost thing which he found, ⁵Or all that about which he hath sworn falsely; he shall even restore it in the principal, and shall add the fifth part more thereto, and give it unto him to whom it appertaineth, in the day of his trespass offering. ⁶And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the LORD, a ram without blemish out of the flock, with thy estimation, for a trespass offering, unto the priest: ⁷And the priest shall make an atonement for him before the LORD: and it shall be forgiven him for any thing of all that he hath done in trespassing therein."

- **Luke 19:8** "And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold."

Without these fruits being manifest, there is no genuine Bible repentance!



REAL REPENTANCE FROM PSALM 51

Using a scale of 1 to 10 (1-least and 10-most), rate yourself on each of the real repentance principles found in Psalm 51. Add up your scores. Then compare it with the goal of 10 for each question. Ask God to help you recognize where you are weak. Begin by praying that God will make you completely honest about yourself as you take this personal repentance inventory.

MY SCORE

1. I confess that I have sinned
2. I am not trying to cover up anything
3. I make no excuses for myself
4. I realize that it is my nature to disobey God
5. I deeply regret that I have offended God
6. I know that God is willing and able to forgive me
7. I want to be made clean and pure where I am now
unclean
8. I choose to correct any wrongs I have done, wherever
this may be possible

MY TOTAL SCORE

BEST POSSIBLE SCORE 80

