

REPENTANCE

Don Krow

Some people have a misunderstanding of what repentance is. Repentance is not perfection but a change in direction. We're going to talk about the parable of the prodigal son, or the lost son. Jesus is telling a story that perfectly illustrates what it means for an individual to repent. In Luke 15:11-12 Jesus said, "And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living."

The younger son wanted his inheritance before his father died, which is quite unusual, but his father granted the request and gave his sons their inheritance. Verse 13 says, "And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living." The younger son took all of his wealth, his part of the money his father had accumulated during in his life and given to him, went into a distant country, and wasted it in riotous living. One translation says, "partying and spending the money on prostitutes."

Verses 14-17 read, "And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land [The land became destitute and people were starving]; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine." He got a job working for a man in that country and was sent to feed the pigs. "And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks of that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him." He was so hungry, at the point of starvation that he said, "just give me the pig's food—anything," but no one gave him anything. He had squandered all of his inheritance. "And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!" One translation says, "when he came to his senses." In other words, his father's servants had more than enough food and he was dying from hunger, at the point of starvation.

He made a decision; he repented. Repentance is a change of mind, a change of heart that causes a person to turn around and move in a new direction. In verses 18-19, he said, "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants." "Just make me a slave, father. I've sinned against you, squandered your living, and sinned against God. Just make me a slave." Then he rose and went to his father. Repentance is more than just a change of attitude, a change of mind, and a change of heart. It leads a person to act on what they believe, to turn around (or return) and go in a new direction. We've all turned away from God, our Father, and from heaven, our home. The Bible says in Isaiah 53:6 that, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way" but God in His mercy took our sins and laid them on Jesus.

The story continues in verses 20-24. "And he arose, and came to his father." One night I was telling this story to a man who had never heard it before, and he just knew that when the son returned, his father would say, "Son, look what you've done. You've wasted all my wealth, all I accumulated in my life. Be one of my slaves." Most earthly fathers would probably be very angry and have an attitude like that, but notice the attitude of this father: "But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion [love came out of his heart for his son], and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.” They began to have a party.

We’ve all turned from God, and Jesus is telling that in this story. I once told this to a man who said, “I see what Jesus is saying. If I’ll just turn to the heavenly Father for mercy and say, ‘Father, I’ve sinned against you, and I’m not worthy to be your son,’ He’ll accept me.” Our heavenly Father will have compassion, and He won’t make you a slave. He’ll restore you to full sonship with Him. God is waiting. Have you turned away? Why don’t you turn to God, your Father, and to heaven, your home today?

A while back, I was talking about repentance with a single young lady whose name was Sheri. I said, “Sheri, what if a guy fell in love with you and said, ‘I want to marry you, Sheri, to commit my life to you. I want you to be mine, for us to be one. Will you marry me?’” I asked, “What would that commitment of marriage involve on his part?” She is a very sharp, intelligent girl, so she answered, “It would involve him forsaking all others to be committed only to me.”

That is a perfect example of what it is to repent and come to God. In Acts 26:18, Jesus told the Apostle Paul that his commission was to tell people to open their eyes (their spiritual eyes) and “to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins.” When you turn to someone in marriage, it automatically involves turning from everyone else. When you turn to God in a relationship through Christ, it involves turning from Satan and his kingdom to God and His kingdom, and to receive forgiveness of your sins. It’s not perfection, but it is a change of direction. It’s turning ultimately to God and His ways, and in turning to Him, it’s turning away from Satan and his ways. May God make these truths real to you today as you consider what the Bible says about this wonderful doctrine of repentance.

REPENTANCE (Outline)

Repentance is a change of mind, a change of heart, a change of direction. It is not perfection.

Luke 15:11-24: “And he said, A certain man had two sons: ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. ¹³And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. ¹⁴And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. ¹⁵And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. ¹⁷And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, ¹⁹And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. ²⁰And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. ²¹And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. ²²But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: ²³And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.”

In marriage you totally commit yourself to another individual. This automatically implies the forsaking of all others to be joined to this one.

In repentance, a person has a change of mind, a change of heart that results in him turning to God and His ways and from Satan and his ways. It is an “about face”—a new commitment.

In Acts 26:18, repentance is stated as turning from darkness to light, from Satan unto God to receive the forgiveness of their sins.

Acts 26:18: “To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”

REPENTANCE
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO REPENT?
(Teacher's Guide)

1. According to Luke 24:46-47, what is the message that is to be proclaimed to the nations?

Jesus' death for our sins, repentance, and forgiveness of sins.

2. What does it mean to repent?

It is an "about face" to a new commitment.

It is a change of mind; it's a change of heart that results in one turning to God, from his old ways to God's ways.

It's a change of direction; it's not perfection.

It is to make a decision that changes the total direction of one's life. That decision involves turning from our old ways to commit ourselves to God and His ways.

Repentance is turning to a Person, to God through Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21; Zechariah 1:3).

Good works are the fruit of a changed heart (Acts 26:20 NASV; Matthew 7:21-23).

3. In Luke 13:1-5, what is the point that Jesus is trying to make from these verses?

That without repentance people will perish.

4. Compare 2 Peter 3:9 with Luke 13:6-9. What is the point Jesus is trying to make from these verses?

That God is long-suffering, waiting patiently for men to repent.

5. Read Luke 16:19-31. In this parable, Jesus uses the common Jewish concept of eternal punishment. What could the rich man have done to avoid this doom?

Luke 16:30 – Repent.

REPENTANCE (Detailed Teacher's Guide)

Note: The following information may be read out loud (a numbered section at a time) with the person(s) being disciplined. After each numbered section is read, pause and ask the question(s) that correspond to the paragraph(s), and then discuss them.

¹ Repentance is a gift that God grants people who want to come to Him and be saved. It is a new attitude, a change of mind, a change of heart THAT RESULTS in one turning from sin to God, and ultimately to His ways.

² In Matthew 3:8 John the Baptist said, "Bring forth fruit that is consistent with repentance [let your lives prove your change of heart]" (Amplified Bible). And the Apostle Paul said in his preaching to the Gentiles "that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance" (Acts 26:20; NASV). From these scriptures, we can see that "repentance" is "a change of heart, a change of mind" and that good works are the FRUIT of that changed heart. Vine's Expository Dictionary states that this change of mind involves both a turning from sin and a turning to God. Jesus' call to "repentance" is addressed not as in the Old Testament to a nation BUT TO THE INDIVIDUAL.

³ The early Christians' preaching linked repentance with the call to faith (Acts 20:21), the demand to be baptized (Acts 2:38), and the promise of the forgiveness of sins (Luke 24:47). In Acts 3:19 "repentance" and "conversion" are placed side by side. This shows that the two terms are related. In the call to conversion, sometimes the word "repent" is only used. At other times the word "believe" is only used. At still other times they are both used together (Acts 20:21). But both words involve a change of heart toward God (The New International Dict., Vol. 1, p. 358). This change of heart, change of mind, results in turning around to move in a completely new direction. This change of direction can be summed up by the words of Jesus, "FOLLOW ME!" (Matthew 4:19; 8:22; 9:9; 16:24; 19:21; Mark 2:14; 8:34; 10:21; Luke 5:27; 9:23, 59; 18:22; John 1:43; 10:27; 12:26; 21:19). "Follow" means: to come or go after; move behind and in the same direction; to come or go with; to accept the guidance or leadership of; to adhere to the cause or principles of; to be governed by; obey; and comply with.

¹ According to Luke 24:46-47, what is the message that is to be proclaimed to the nations?

² (a) What does it mean to repent?

(b) Good works are the fruit of a changed heart, how does Acts 26:20 prove this?

(c) Why did Jesus tell the people in Matthew 7:21-23 that He never knew them?

(d) What does this show about the lack of repentance?

³ (a) Read Luke 13:1-5. What is the point that Jesus is trying to make from these verses?

(b) Compare Luke 13:6-9 with 2 Peter 3:9. What is the point Jesus is trying to make from these verses?

⁴The prodigal son of Luke 15:11-32 is a good example of repentance. He had turned his back on his home and his father to waste his life in sinful and riotous living. Eventually he came to himself and made a decision to arise and go back to his father and home. He first had the change of heart, and then acted by carrying out his decision. He returned to his father and home, acknowledging, “Father I have sinned!”

In our sinful condition we have all turned our backs upon God, our Father and heaven, our home. We must stop and have a change of mind, a change of heart, a change of direction. This essential act is called “repentance” and is the first move we must make to be reconciled to God.

⁴(a) Read Luke 15:11-23. Which verse indicates that God is willing to restore to us full sonship (and not just make us slaves)?

(b) Read Luke 16:19-31. Jesus uses the common Jewish concept of eternal punishment. What could the rich man have done to avoid his doom? (v. 30).

REPENTANCE (Discipleship Questions)

Definition Repentance:

1. It is an “about face” to a new commitment
2. It is a change of mind
3. A change of heart that results in one turning to God; from his old ways to God’s ways.
4. A change of direction; NOT PERFECTION
5. To make a decision that changes the total direction of one’s life
6. Turning from old ways, and totally committing to God
7. Turning to a Person, to God through Jesus Christ

Read Luke 24:46-47

1. What is the message that is to be proclaimed to the nations?

Read Luke 13:1-5

2. What must one do in order not to perish?
3. Can only certain people repent, or is it available for everybody?
4. Are there worse sinners than others?

Read 2 Peter 3:9

5. How is the Lord concerning His promises?
A. _____
B. _____
6. How many is God willing to let perish?
7. What is His desire for ALL people?

Read Luke 16:19-31

8. How did the rich man treat Lazarus while they were alive?
9. When they both died, where did Lazarus go?
10. Where did the rich man go?
11. What did the rich man desire from Father Abraham? (verse 24)

12. What was Abraham's response?
13. What is fixed between heaven and hell?
14. In verse 30, why did the rich man want Lazarus to be raised from the dead to speak to his five brothers?
15. In verse 31 Abraham said that if they wouldn't believe Moses and the prophets, or the Old Testament, they wouldn't believe a man raised from the dead. Can you see how this applies to us today? _____ We must believe by faith, and receive His grace.

Read Acts 26:18

16. Although it doesn't specifically say, this verse is talking about repentance. What will happen to those who repent?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
 - D. _____
 - E. _____

Read Acts 26:20

In the last part of this verse, three things are stated that the Gentiles should do. (These are similar to what you listed from verse 18.)

17. What would you "do" that proved that you had repented?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____

Read Matthew 7:21-23

18. Will everyone who says, "Lord, Lord," enter the kingdom of heaven?
19. What do you have to "do" to enter in the kingdom of heaven?
20. Those who will not enter heaven argued their case by saying they did what things?
21. What did Jesus say they practiced instead of the will of God?
22. What does this show you about the importance of true repentance vs. lip service toward God?

It is the power of the name of Jesus that will cast out demons, and do many wonders, but if you have not repented in your heart toward God, it will have all been for nothing.

Read Isaiah 55:6-7

23. What two things are you to do while the Lord may be found and while He is near?

A. _____

B. _____

24. What must the wicked do?

25. What must the unrighteous do?

26. What will God do for the man that does those things stated above?

A. _____

B. _____

Read Luke 15:7

27. What is heaven's reaction to the one who repents vs. ninety-nine who don't need to?

Read Acts 3:19

28. "_____ therefore and be _____, that your sins may be _____, so that times of _____ may come from the _____ of the _____."

Read 2 Corinthians 7:10

29. What produced repentance?

30. What does repentance lead to?

31. What produces death?

Read Psalm 103

32. Write down all the promises noted in this Psalm.

Do you recognize that all these promises are for those who repent?

Have you repented toward the Lord your God?

If you haven't, but would like to now, please say this prayer with a repentant heart:

Lord Jesus, I come to you as a sinner, but by Your mercy upon me, I want You to come into my heart as my Lord and Savior. I confess with my mouth that you are Jesus, the Lord, and I do believe in my heart that God raised You from the dead. I thank You for hanging on the tree for me so that I may eternally live with you. I give my life to You, in Jesus' name. Amen

REPENTANCE (Discipleship Answer Key)

1. Repentance and remission of sins
2. Repent
3. Available for everybody
4. No
5. A. Not slack B. Longsuffering
6. None
7. Come to repentance
8. Poorly
9. A Place like Heaven, Abraham's bosom
10. A place of torment, hell
11. Have Lazarus dip his finger in water to cool his tongue
12. No
13. A great gulf
14. So his brothers would repent
15. Yes
16. A. Eyes will be opened
B. Turned from darkness to light
C. Turned from power of Satan to God
D. Receive forgiveness of sins
E. Receive inheritance
17. A. Repent
B. Turn to God
C. Do works benefiting repentance
18. No
19. The will of My Father in Heaven
20. Prophesied, cast out demons, many wonders
21. Lawlessness
22. Lip service doesn't save you
23. A. Seek Him B. Call upon Him
24. Forsake his way
25. Forsake his thoughts
26. A. Have mercy B. Pardon abundantly
27. More joy over one sinner who repents than ninety-nine who don't need to
28. Repent – Converted – Blotted out – Refreshing – Presence – Lord
29. Godly sorrow
30. Salvation
31. Sorrow of the world
32. A. Forgives all iniquities
B. Heals all diseases
C. Redeems life from destruction
D. Crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies
E. Satisfies mouth with good things
F. Youth renewed
G. Executes righteousness and justice for oppressed
H. Makes ways known
I. Merciful and gracious
J. Slow to anger- abounds in mercy
K. Hasn't dealt with us according to our sins or punished us according to our iniquities
L. Removed sins, east to west
M. Pities us
N. Merciful from everlasting to everlasting
O. Gives strength to those who heed His word

REPENTANCE

by Don Krow
(Additional Information)

Repentance is a gift that God grants people who want to come to Him and be saved. It is a new attitude, a change of mind, a change of heart THAT RESULTS in one turning from sin to God, and ultimately, to His ways.

In Matthew 3:8 John the Baptist said, “Bring forth fruit that is consistent with repentance [let your lives prove your change of heart]” (Amplified Bible). And the Apostle Paul said in his preaching to the Gentiles, “that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance,” (Acts 26:20; NASV). From these scriptures we can see that “repentance” is “a change of heart, a change of mind” and that good works are the FRUIT of that changed heart.

Vine’s Expository Dictionary states that repentance (Gk. “METANOEO”) “signifies to change one’s mind or purpose, always, in the New Testament, except in Luke 17:3, 4, of repentance from sin” (p. 952). It further states: “In the New Testament the subject chiefly has reference to repentance from sin, and this change of mind involves both a turning from sin and a turning to God. The parable of the prodigal son is an outstanding illustration of this. Christ began His ministry with a call to repentance, Matthew 4:17, but the call is addressed, not as in the Old Testament to the nation, BUT TO THE INDIVIDUAL” (p. 953).

The Expository Dictionary of Bible Words states: “The Old Testament word that expresses the biblical concept of repentance is “SUB.” This verb is found over a thousand times in the Old Testament . . . in the 164 uses of this word in a covenant context, it indicates turning from evil to God, from evil ways to God’s ways, or from God to idols. “SUB” is that commitment to a faith and way of life that involves turning from a previous way, and this is to ‘repent’ . . . repentance itself, as it is illustrated in the Old Testament, is essentially the ‘about Face’ of a new commitment.

“In the New Testament, ‘METANOEO’ and ‘METANOIA’ are used in the same way as ‘SUB’ in the Old Testament—to emphasize a change of mind and attitude. To repent is to make a decision that changes the total direction of one’s life.”

“Repentance in both the Old Testament and the New Testament provides a perspective on faith. For faith in a biblical sense is commitment, not merely ‘belief about.’ One who repents has faith, for it is faith in God that is expressed when we carry out a decision to turn from our old ways and to commit ourselves to God’s ways” (Ibid., p.522).

The New International Dictionary of N. T. Theology states: “Repentance is no longer obedience to a law but to a PERSON.” The call to repentance becomes a call to discipleship. So repentance, faith and discipleship are different aspects of the same thing.

“There are many passages in which the term ‘METANOEO’ does not appear, but in which the thought of repentance is clearly present. Examples are: ‘Unless you TURN and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven’ (Matthew 18:3). ‘So therefore, whoever of you does

not FORSAKE all that he has cannot be my disciple' (Luke 14:33). It is the spiritually poor, the little ones and the helpless, who receive the promise of the Kingdom of God (Matthew 5:3; 18:10, 14)" (Ibid., Vol. 1, p.358).

"The early Christian preaching continued the call for repentance (See Mark 6:12 and the sermons in Acts). This early preaching linked repentance with the call to faith (Acts 20:21), the demand to be baptized (Acts 2:38), the promise of the forgiveness of sins (Luke 24:47); and salvation (Acts 11:18). Conversion is turning from evil (Acts 8:22; Revelation 2:21) to God (Acts 26:20). In Acts 3:19 and Acts 26:20, 'METANOEO' (repentance) and 'EPISTREPHO' (conversion) are placed side by side. This shows that the two concepts are related. The fact that this group of words does not occur often in the Pauline writings (six times) and not at all in the Johannine (apart from Revelation), does not mean that the idea of conversion is not present.. Both Paul and John convey the idea of conversion (turning) by that of faith. Paul speaks of faith as 'being in Christ,' as the 'NEW CREATION,' as 'PUTTING ON THE NEW MAN,' as the 'DYING AND RISING OF A MAN WITH CHRIST.' The Johannine literature represents the new life in Christ as the 'NEW BIRTH,' as the passing from DEATH TO LIFE and from DARKNESS TO LIGHT" (Ibid., Vol. 1, p.359).

From these statements we see that in the call to conversion sometimes the word "repent" is only used. At other times the word "believe" is only used. Still at other times they are both used together (Acts 20:21). But both words involve a change of heart toward God. Repentance is the first response of man to the Gospel that is demanded by God. It must always accompany true faith. Without repentance, faith alone, as described in James 2, would be dead faith, that is, mental assent that cannot save.

REPENTANCE DEFINED

Again, as already stated, repentance in the New Testament denotes an inner decision, a change of heart, a change of mind. The Old Testament word denotes an outward action of turning back or turning around. By putting the two together we see that repentance involves a change of heart, a change of mind that results in a turning around to move in a completely new direction. This change of direction can be summed up by the words of Jesus: "FOLLOW ME!" (Matthew 4:19; 8:22; 9:9; 16:24; 19:21; Mark 2:14; 8:34; 10:21; Luke 5:27; 9:23,59; 18:22; John 1:43; 10:27; 12:26; 21:19). "Follow" means to come or go after; move behind and in the same direction; to come or go with; to accept the guidance or leadership of; to adhere to the cause or principles of; to be governed by; obey; and comply with.

AN EXAMPLE

The prodigal son of Luke 15:11-32 is a good example of repentance. He had turned his back on his father and his home to waste his life in sin and riotous living. Eventually he came to himself and made a decision to arise and go back to his father and home. He first had the change of heart, and then acted by carrying out his decision. He returned to his father and home acknowledging, "Father I have sinned!"

In our sinful condition we have all turned our back on God, our Father, and heaven, our home. We must stop, have a change of mind, a change of heart, and a change of direction. This essential act is called "repentance" and is the first move we must make to be reconciled to God.

REPENTANCE IS NOT AN EMOTION

Concerning Esau, Hebrews 12:17 states, “he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully WITH TEARS.” This is evidence that strong emotion is not necessarily proof of repentance. Many people, because of a strong sales approach, respond to a Gospel call but never come to the change of heart and change of mind that is necessary to receive God’s salvation. Shedding a tear sometimes indicates a person is sorry he was caught in a situation, but he may never have a change of mind about his actions.

REPENTANCE BEGINS WITH GOD

Scriptural repentance begins with God, not with man. John 6:44 states, “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him.” For this reason, the supreme crisis of every human being comes at the moment of the Spirit’s drawing to repentance. When a person says, “yes” to that drawing, it will lead to saving faith. If rejected, it will leave a person to continue in his own sinful way. That’s why the scripture says, “Today if you will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts” (Hebrews 3:8). And again, “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation” (Hebrews 2:3). Apart from God’s grace and the drawing of His Spirit, man, left to himself, is incapable of repentance.

REPENTANCE IS FROM DEAD WORKS

In Hebrews 6:1 it says that repentance is from dead works. In Acts 20:21 repentance is toward God. John Calvin once said that we must turn from our works as well as from our sins, and flee to Christ for his mercy and pardon. In Isaiah 64:6 it says that “all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.” There is no reference here to sin but only to our own righteousness as a means of trying to justify ourselves.

REPENTANCE IS MADE COMPLETE BY MAN’S RESPONSE

Although repentance is initiated by God, it is made complete by man’s response. For this reason, God’s decree is for “all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30). All scripture is absolutely unanimous on this point, “except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3, 5). Consider these messages from the scriptures themselves:

REPENTANCE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but WHOSO CONFESSETH AND FORSAKETH THEM SHALL HAVE MERCY” (Proverbs 28:13).

“Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; REPENT, AND TURN YOURSELVES FROM YOUR IDOLS; AND TURN AWAY YOUR FACES FROM ALL YOUR ABOMINATIONS.” (Ezekiel 14:6).

“Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should RETURN FROM HIS WAYS, AND LIVE? ³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. REPENT, AND TURN YOURSELVES FROM ALL YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS; so iniquity shall not be your ruin” (Ezekiel 18:23, 30).

“Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked TURN FROM HIS WAY AND LIVE: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?” (Ezekiel 33:11).

“Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and BREAK OFF THY SINS BY RIGHTEOUSNESS, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity” (Daniel 4:27).

“Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; TURN YE UNTO ME, saith the LORD of hosts, and I WILL TURN UNTO YOU, saith the LORD of hosts” (Zechariah 1:3).

REPENTANCE IN THE GOSPELS

“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” (Matthew 3:7-8).

“And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow Me. And he arose, and followed him. ¹⁰And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. ¹¹And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? ¹²But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. ¹³But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but SINNERS TO REPENTANCE” (Matthew 9:9-13).

“And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed Him. ¹⁶And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners? ¹⁷When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but SINNERS TO REPENTANCE.” (Mark 2:15-17).

“And they went out, and PREACHED THAT MEN SHOULD REPENT” (Mark 6:12).

“There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? ³I tell you, Nay: but, EXCEPT YE REPENT, YE SHALL ALL LIKEWISE PERISH. ⁴Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? ⁵I tell you, Nay: but, EXCEPT YE REPENT, YE SHALL ALL LIKEWISE PERISH.” (Luke 13:1-5).

“What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? ⁵And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. ⁷I say unto you, that likewise JOY SHALL BE IN HEAVEN OVER ONE SINNER THAT REPENTETH, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance” (Luke 15:4-7).

“Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? ⁹And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. ¹⁰Likewise, I say unto you, THERE IS JOY IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ANGELS OF GOD OVER ONE SINNER THAT REPENTETH” (Luke 15:8-10).

“Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. ³⁰And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but IF ONE WENT UNTO THEM FROM THE DEAD, THEY WILL REPENT” (Luke 16:29-30).

“And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ⁴⁷And that REPENTANCE AND REMISSION OF SINS SHOULD BE PREACHED IN HIS NAME AMONG ALL NATIONS, beginning at Jerusalem” (Luke 24:46-47).

REPENTANCE IN ACTS

“REPENT YE THEREFORE, AND BE CONVERTED, THAT YOUR SINS MAY BE BLOTTED OUT, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).

“The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. ³¹Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give REPENTANCE TO ISRAEL, AND FORIVENESS OF SINS” (Acts 5:30-31).

“Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. ²²REPENT THEREFORE OF THIS THY WICKEDNESS, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee” (Acts 8:21-22).

“Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? ¹⁸When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted REPENTANCE UNTO LIFE” (Acts 11:17-18).

“Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device. ³⁰And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but NOW COMMANDETH ALL MEN EVERYWHERE TO REPENT: ³¹Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:29-31).

“And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publickly, 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” (Acts 20:20-21).

“Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, ¹⁸To open their eyes, and TO TURN them FROM darkness TO light, and FROM the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive FORGIVENESS OF SINS, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. ¹⁹Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: ²⁰But 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” (Acts 26:17-20).

“First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should REPENT AND TURN TO GOD AND PROVE THEIR REPENTANCE BY THEIR DEEDS” (Acts 26:20; NW).

REPENTANCE IN PAUL’S LETTERS

“And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? ⁴Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the GOODNESS OF GOD LEADETH THEE TO REPENTANCE? ⁵But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; ⁶Who will render to every man according to his deeds: ⁷To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: ⁸But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, ⁹Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; ¹⁰But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: ¹¹For there is no respect of persons with God” (Romans 2:3-11).

“And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have NOT REPENTED OF THE UNCLEANNESS AND FORNICATION AND LASCIVIOUSNESS which they have committed” (2 Corinthians 12:21).

“The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia - your faith in God has been known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. ⁹They tell how you TURNED TO GOD FROM IDOLS to serve the living and true God” (1 Thessalonians 1:8-9; NW).

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, ²⁵In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if GOD peradventure will give them REPENTANCE TO THE ACKNOWLEDGING OF THE TRUTH; ²⁶And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will” (2 Timothy 2:24-26).

“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS, and of faith toward God” (Hebrews 6:1).

REPENTANCE IN PETER’S LETTERS

“The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, NOT WANTING ANY TO PERISH, BUT ALL TO COME TO REPENTANCE” (2 Peter 3:9, NRSV).

REPENTANCE IN JOHN’S LETTERS

“I have GIVEN HER TIME TO REPENT of her immorality, but she is unwilling. ²²So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, UNLESS THEY REPENT OF THEIR WAYS” (Revelation 2:21-22, NIV).