

EXPLAINING WHAT REPENTANCE REALLY IS

as seen in the Book of Revelation

Revelation 2:5 "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

Revelation 2:16 "Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth."

Revelation 2:22 "Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds."

Revelation 3:3 "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee."

Revelation 3:19 "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."

Revelation 2:21 "And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not."

Revelation 9:20 "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:"

Revelation 9:21 "Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts."

Revelation 16:9 "And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give Him glory."

Revelation 16:11 "And blasphemed the god of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds."

<i>Revelation 2:5 (x2), 16, 22</i>	"repent"
<i>Revelation 3:3, 19</i>	"repent"
<i>Revelation 2:21</i>	"repented not"
<i>Revelation 9:20, 21</i>	"repented not"
<i>Revelation 16:9, 11</i>	"repented not"

The book of Revelation shows us what REPENTANCE is!

To REPENT means to **think differently**.

Remember REPENTANCE is my privilege and my pleasure.

Jesus Christ cannot this for me! Repentance can only come from the REPENTANT one!

REPENTANCE is a Reversal of my Decision.

REPENTED NOT is a Refusal to Accept any correction from GOD.

REPENTANCE indicates basically my position as a Christian – my spiritual condition.

Luke 15:7 “I 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.”

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

REPENTANCE must bring me into direct contact with GOD.

REPENTANCE shows a softness towards GOD. It indicates a complete readiness to allow God to work in my life.

REPENTANCE is a Healing; it removes all stiffness and stubbornness towards GOD.

Acts 11:18 “When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.”

Luke 5:32 “I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Luke 13:1 – 9 “There were present at that season some that told Him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? 3. I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. 4. Or 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? 5. I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. 6. He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. 7. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find

none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? 8. And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: 9. And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down."

This passage in *Luke* is to bring out the glorious Fact that I must be consciously searching my heart in order to be in A STATE OF REPENTANCE.

This is how we can fulfil and obey John's command by the Holy Ghost in ...

1 John 2:1 "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not..."

Of course he is bound to add, "*And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*" The Lord Jesus Christ is our High Priest, interceding for every one of us!

Acts 2:38 – 42 "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. 39. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. 42. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

What Causes Repentance?

Let's look at Job's experience, at the end of his sufferings:

Job 42:5 – 6 "I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth Thee. 6. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

What causes repentance? Seeing CHRIST as He is! Equal with God on the Throne, being High and Holy, not under any Greater Authority than His; Humble and Lowly, Meek and Submissive to God; Willing to Commune with sinful, self-righteous men; Willing to Give His All to save mankind from Eternal Damnation!

Matthew 11:20 – 21 "Then began He to upbraid the cities wherein most of His mighty works were done, because they repented not: 21. Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty

works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.”

Matthew 12:41 – 42 “For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41. The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here. 42. The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.”

This was Christ’s only sign – the sign of the prophet Jonas.

Matthew 16:4 “A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas...”

Three days and three nights the Lord Jesus was in the lowest Hell. This meant that He died at the time of the evening sacrifice on the Thursday. His body remained on the Cross all night and into Friday when the thieves’ legs were broken to hasten their deaths. Joseph claimed His body and with Nicodemus, they were able to buy spices and ointments and the linen cloth to wrap Him in. They would not have been able to buy these things on the Thursday as it was counted as a Sabbath, being the first day of the Passover feast. According to *Psalms 119:62*, He rose from the dead at midnight, which was counted as the first day of the week from the evening before.

“At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto Thee because of Thy righteous judgments.”

Luke 16:27 – 31 “Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house: 28. For I have brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.”

Was the Lord referring to His own Resurrection when He had Abraham saying these words in His parable?! It is the Word of God which gives us the faith to believe that Christ rose from the dead to give us Eternal Life!

Romans 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

John 20:29 "Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

John 11:46 -47, "But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done. 47. Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.

48 – 50 If we let Him alone, all men will believe on Him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. 49. And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all. 50. Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not."

Hebrews 12:17 "For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears."

Matthew 27:5 "And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself."

Hebrews 6:1 – 6 "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. 2. Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3. And this will we do, if God permit. 4. For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5. And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6. If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame."

The PLACE of REPENTANCE is JESUS CHRIST! The CRUCIFIED CHRIST!

2 Corinthians 1:10 "Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that He will yet deliver us;"

Romans 2:3 – 4 "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? 4. Or despises thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"

The Lord Jesus Christ, Crucified and Risen, Seated on the Right Hand of God on the Throne, **Himself** is the Goodness of God.

"the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance." It has to be true and godly repentance, the kind that delivers a complete change in the life of the repentant one.

Not as Esau nor Judas Iscariot; nor as those who come to Christ and think they can then continue to live their own life because, after all, their sins have all been forgiven! This doctrine of compromise and living in two worlds is said to have come out of the influence of Nicolas, one of the seven deacons chosen to administer care for the Grecian widows in the Church.

Acts 6:5 "And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose ... and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:"

He had already changed his religion in becoming a Jew, and then he was counted among those who had been converted to Christ, baptised in water and in the Holy Ghost. But somewhere along the line it came into his head that it wasn't all that important to live a separated life unto Christ, going against all the teachings of Scripture, not only in the New Testament, but also in the Old! It was a reprove against Amaziah, king of Judah, that it was written of him, *"And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a perfect heart"* [2 Chronicles 25:2].

Twice in the Lord's messages to the seven churches in chapters 2 and 3 of the *Book of Revelation*, 2:6 and 2:15, He speaks of the doctrine or deeds *"of the Nicolaitanes"*

2:6 [to Ephesus] "But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate."

2:15 [to Pergamos] "So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate."

The Lord emphasised His hatred for compromise in the believer's life in the seventh letter to the pastor of the church at Laodicea.

3:15 - 16 "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth."

"out of My mouth". So the pastor had been "in Christ"! As the Lord Jesus prayed to the Father,

John 17:23 "I **in them**, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in **One**..."

And Paul, by the Holy Spirit, explained the new birth:

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man be **in Christ**, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

"*in Christ*". So the pastor had to repent from all the things in his life that were not compatible with a life with Christ **in** it.

Then he could lead his church into a new chapter in which they would reflect the glory of their Saviour and Lord in a full Holy Ghost-filled way!

For the "*goodness of God*" came down to be our Way back to God through His perfect and loving Obedience unto death. We must respond fully to His Giving with true repentance – a complete and permanent turnaround from our previous lives which had no thought of Jesus Christ in them!

May the revelations in these Scriptures fill your heart with a longing to live your life to the fullest extent in harmony and peace with God your Heavenly Father. That you may always be in that State of Repentance. For the poured out Blood of Christ avails for sin forever! Amen.

Given to the members of the Free Pentecostal Church of Acton, London, UK
Edited and expounded by [Basar Blessings](#), Bournemouth, Dorset, UK
Scripture references in **bold** are from the original study, 7 September 1973