



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

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### Repent Every One of You!

**Scripture:** Acts 17:30 – . . . but now commandeth all men every where to repent.

John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus, and prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance *“in the wilderness of Judaea, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”* (Matthew 3:2). The prophet quoted is Isaiah (40:3), *“The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight”* (Matthew 3:3). John the Baptist theme was **“Repent!”** The apostles’ call to salvation included repentance—acknowledging personal sin and turning away from it.

Repentance means doing an about-face—a 180-degree turn—from the kind of self-centeredness that leads to wrong actions such as lying, cheating, stealing, gossiping, revenge, abuse, and sexual immorality. **True repentance is more than talk—it is a changing behavior and living a life of obedience to God’s Word.** A person who repents stops rebelling and begins following God’s way of living prescribed in His Word. The first step in turning to God is to admit your sin. Then God will receive you and help you live the way he wants you to. Remember that only God can get rid of sin. He doesn’t expect us to clean up our lives before we come to Him. **Many people want the benefits of being identified with Christ without turning from sin and acknowledging their own disobedience.**

Repentance may at first seem painful because it is hard to give up certain sins. But God will give you a better way. You can begin by faith, trusting in His power to change your heart and mind. *“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness”* (Ephesians 4:22-24). **Do you feel a need to be refreshed?** It is easy to mistake God’s patience for approval of the wrong way we are living. Self-evaluation is difficult, and it is even more difficult to expose our conduct to God and let Him tell us where we need to change. But as people of God, we must pray constantly that God will point out our sins, so that He can heal them.

It is important for each repentant person to desire a change in life. This is God’s work for us and not something we can do for ourselves. The Holy Spirit does it, *“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit”* (Psalm 51:10-12). God certainly has called us to separate ourselves from sin, and He has admonished us not to continue in sin to demonstrate the power of His grace. With our fallen, sinful nature, however, which constantly battles against the Word and ways of God, repentance is a necessary, ongoing part of life for the victorious believer. **That makes Psalm 51 and its pattern for godly repentance a great treasure in our lives.** The Scriptures paint a vivid contrast between the downward spiral of sin and the upward path of redemption.

The first step to being forgiven is to confess your sin and turn from it. *“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”* (Acts 2:38). Salvation symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The sinful nature is put to death in repentance and buried through water baptism in the name of Jesus. Moreover, we arise from the water to walk in a new life—as we receive the Holy Ghost and symbolically experience the resurrection of Jesus. When we repent, God promises not only to wipe away our sin, but to bring spiritual refreshment.

God promise He will answer their prayers, *“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); and Isaiah 55:7 says if, *“the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”*

God has made the requirement clear, but He has left the choice for relationship to mankind; it is up to us. As it was with God’s people of old—the people of Israel—so it is with believers; we must be a separated people. We are to separate from sin and commit ourselves unto God.