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Repentance

**THE TIME IS FULFILLED,
AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND.
REPENT,
AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL.
Mark 1:15**

Have you ever asked as David did, “Why do you stand afar off, O LORD? (Ps.10) The answer to this question is given in Isaiah 59:2, Psalm 66:18 and elsewhere—we are separated from God by our iniquities. Until our iniquity is accounted for, we remain separated no matter what else we do.

Why do the wicked renounce God?

**He (with iniquity) has said in his heart,
“You (God) will not require an account.”**

**But You have seen it,
For You observe trouble and grief,
To repay it by Your hand.**

Ps. 10:13,14

We cannot draw any closer to the Lord with iniquity unaccounted for. One of the ways we must give account is by confession and repentance.

But you may ask, "Why doesn't God just wipe the slate clean when I confess my sins, ask forgiveness, and change my ways? I thought if I believed in Jesus, all my trespasses were forgiven." By these things you are indeed forgiven and reconciled with the Father, and may thereby receive "everlasting life" (John 3:16) and entrance to the "kingdom of heaven." But by these things the desires of your heart are not changed (In the Iniquity List in the Appendix is a list of 1,700 desires, any one of which could keep you out of the "kingdom of God."). Such desires are forgiven by your belief, but not removed. And if you have ever at any time manifested one of the traits of this list, it is because that desire is there. Therefore, by your own desires, the slate is not wiped clean. God does not give you what you do not want. You will receive everlasting life in the place that matches your desires. If you are full of self-pity, God will send you to a place where you can feel sorry for yourself and be miserable and bitter towards others because they don't treat you right. If strife and contention are in your life now, God will send you to a place of strife and contention. If anger manifests under certain conditions, you will go to the place of that anger. And so on down the list. God will not force you to go to a place of holiness because you would be miserable there. You may say with your mind that you want to go there, but God listens to what you say with your heart.

However, if you seek entrance to the kingdom of God, and "eternal life," then you must cleanse yourself of every ungodly desire. This is done only by repentance with godly sorrow. There is no other way to get rid of your unholy desires. Eternal life is with God in eternity, whereas everlasting life is yet restricted by space and time. Eternal life (Jo.17:3) is a spiritual condition before God forever, and everlasting life (Jo.3:16) is a place forever.

All the works of faith that you may do are incomplete without repentance. Repentance begins with the baptism of water. John the Baptist brought the baptism of water preaching, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance... M't.3:11

The baptism of water that John brought is actually a "shadow and type" of the repentance of godly sorrow. It shows you that you must be bathed in tears from godly sorrow in your heart before repentance comes (Pr.15:13b). The fruit of godly sorrow is repentance, and the fruit of repentance is salvation (2Co.7:10). The fruits worthy of repentance (M't.3:7,8) are tears, confession, brokenness, sorrow, etc.

The water baptism demonstrates God's teaching that we must begin by godly sorrow. John taught this by immersing the body in water, just as our heart is immersed in sorrow as we repent. The water baptism is symbolic of the tears of repentance. It stands for the cleansing waters that flow out of our heart when we weep with godly sorrow. It shows our desire to relinquish our heart and enter into Christ's death and resurrection.

**For observe this very thing,
that you sorrowed in a godly manner:**

- (1) What diligence it produced in you,**
- (2) What clearing of yourselves,**
- (3) What indignation,**
- (4) What fear,**
- (5) What vehement desire,**
- (6) What zeal,**
- (7) What vindication!**

2Co.7:11

In Psalm 32 we see that repentance comes before deliverance. In this psalm we see a series of things leading to deliverance. First there is acknowledgment of sin, then there is confession, then there is repentance which is called a "flood of great waters". These are tears (La.3:48). Then after repentance the Lord will deliver us. Until there is repentance with godly sorrow, deliverance is not yet underway.

**I acknowledged my sin to You,
And my iniquity I have not hidden.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You
In a time when You may be found;
Surely in a flood of great waters
They shall not come near him.
You are my hiding place;
You shall preserve me from trouble;
You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.**

Ps.32:5-7

CONFESSION

Confession is the beginning of repentance. Without confession, the Lord does not deliver us from the enemy. He leaves us captive to the enemy to waste away in our own iniquity. What is here stated in the Old Testament in the physical is just as true in the spiritual for us today.

**And those of you who are left
shall waste away in their iniquity
in your enemies' lands;
also in their fathers' iniquities,
which are with them,
they shall waste away.**

**But if they confess their iniquity
and the iniquity of their fathers,
with their unfaithfulness
in which they were unfaithful to Me,
and that they also have walked contrary to Me,**

**and that I also have walked contrary to them
and have brought them into the land of their enemies;**

**if their uncircumcised hearts are humbled,
and they accept their guilt--**

**then I will remember My covenant with Jacob,
and My covenant with Isaac,
and My covenant with Abraham I will remember;
I will remember the land.**

Le.26:39-43

(the promised land in yourself to be cleansed)

When you confess to God, put your face to the floor and begin telling Him aloud all that you have done wrong and seek His forgiveness. Expose all the dark secrets and hidden places in your heart. Tell Him where it hurts. Tell Him what gives you grief and pain. Confess the areas He reminds you of by the Spirit. Confess the things He has revealed to you in dreams. Examine your heart and search your soul, going deeper and deeper into your life.

**The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD,
Searching all the inner depths of his heart.**

Pr.20:27

As you search out the inner depths of your heart, turn from your fallen state to the Lord.

**Let us search out and examine our ways,
And turn back to the LORD;
Let us lift our hearts and hands
To God in heaven.
We have transgressed and rebelled
You have not pardoned.**

La.3:40-42

As you search out your ways, He is going to reveal transgressions, abominations, old sins and iniquities to you one by one. Confess each of them aloud, one by one, thoroughly. Tell God everything you have in your heart because each area that you confess will be exposed to the light, and Satan cannot dwell in the light.

**But if we walk in the light as He is in the light...
the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son,
cleanses us from all sin.**

**If we confess our sins,
He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (iniquity). 1Jo.1:7,9**

To “confess” means to declare our sin from God’s viewpoint. God’s viewpoint is absolute. You are guilty of sin against Him according to His laws (1Jo.1:8,10). If you do not confess it as truth, then you do not walk in the truth and you practice a lie. Therefore, you have no fellowship with God.

When you confess you must state the facts of the case as in a court of law. You bring things to the light as God would bring them to the light. You align your spirit with God’s Spirit and declare the sin in your body as something separate, and testify according to His law. To “confess” (homologeō) thus means to line up your spirit to correspond with the word of God as you speak forth your guilt.

Therefore, if you get on God’s side and declare your sins as He sees them, then you practice the truth and come to the light. Then He is faithful and just to forgive your sins and cleanse you of unrighteousness in the blood of His Son Jesus Christ. Then you are no longer a sinner. Then you have fellowship with God and His truth is in you.

Anything known, seen, or revealed that you do not confess will remain in darkness within you until you die. It will still be with you when you face judgment and you will be judged accordingly,

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin.
For I acknowledge my transgression,
And my sin is ever before me.**

Ps.51:2,3

With confession you may push things out of your mind, but they will still be there in your heart. And God judges you by your heart (Ps.15:1-2). He judges not by the defilement of your body, but by the defilement of your spirit.

**He who covers his sins will not prosper,
But whoever confesses and forsakes them
will have mercy.**

Pr.28:13

When you confess out of your mouth, Satan hears it, and it is no longer in darkness. It is in the light, and covered by the light, and the light overcomes the darkness, and the darkness comprehends it not, and the darkness flees; and then you have peace. The light is the truth that will expose your heart.

**But all things that are exposed
Are made manifest by the light,
For whatever makes manifest is light.**

Eph. 5:13

**And have no fellowship
With the unfruitful works of darkness,
But rather expose them.**

Eph.5:11

**If we say that we have fellowship with Him,
and walk in darkness,
we lie and do not practice the truth.**

1Jo. 1:6

We must confess also the iniquity inherited from our forefathers (Le.26:40). Our forefathers are those mentioned in Scripture such as King Saul, David, Jeroboam, King Herod, Cain, Esau, Job, Jezebel, Adam, etc. Each person given in the Scriptures is a spiritual example that we may learn from: King Herod took God's glory in his heart for himself, Job was self-righteous, Jeroboam rebelled, Jezebel rose up to be a queen and rule over her husband, Cain envied his brother, etc. Each is profoundly illustrative of an area of iniquity. If we find that we have the flaw of Jezebel or King Herod we must confess that iniquity. We must search out our progenitors and declare them, though the iniquity within may not be easily seen.

GODLY SORROW

The next area of repentance is godly sorrow. This is the "flood of great waters" that cleanses the soul referred to in Psalm 32. Without godly sorrow, how can we have salvation?

**For godly sorrow produces repentance to salvation,
Not to be regretted;**

but the sorrow of the world produces death.

2Co.7:10

In worldly sorrow we weep for ourselves because we do not have what we want, or because we hurt, or because of false burdens, etc. In godly sorrow unto repentance, we weep for the way we have hurt God. We weep as we would if we realized we had done nothing but evil against our earthly father, a father who had loved us and cared for us, even in our rebellion, and sought to give us everything. Godly sorrow comes about when we desire and seek to see the abominations which we have done against our Heavenly Father who has loved us with such a great love. When these abominations are exposed it breaks our hearts with sorrow and regret, thus repentance.

**Or do you despise the riches of His goodness,
forbearance, and longsuffering,
not knowing that the goodness of God
leads you to repentance?**

Ro.2:4

Repentance results from godly sorrow, and godly sorrow begins when we are convicted of the truth of the word. When the word of God reaches our heart, we understand that we are in sin and have evil in our intents. We begin to see that the evil and wrong that we have done, we have done against the Almighty God (Ps.51:4). It was against our Creator, who loved us. When we begin to know how God sorrows for us, then we can begin to have godly sorrow. It is therefore Jesus Christ, the Word, that brings us to repentance unto salvation.

**Him God has exalted to His right hand
to be Prince and Savior,
to give repentance to Israel
and forgiveness of sins.**

Ac.5:31

We know that reading and hearing the word brings faith (Ro.10:17). Therefore faith in the truth of the word brings about godly sorrow. And godly sorrow brings repentance. And repentance brings salvation. Since every man is granted enough faith for salvation then each man is given enough faith to bring him to godly sorrow. When the Lord reveals Himself and you can say in your heart, "Truly You are Lord!" and you know you were created by Him from the dust of the earth, then repentance with godly sorrow begins. In the Book of Job, we see that Job did not have repentance until chapter 42, after God had revealed to him who He, God, was and put the question before Job, "Where were you, O man, Job, when I made all things?"

When we truly know that God is God, and He is right and we are wrong, then we are sorry.

**Against You, You only, have I sinned,
And done this evil in Your sight—**

**That You may be found just when You speak,
And blameless when You judge.**

Ps.51:4

When we are so sorry that we have done evil in God's sight that we travail in our heart, we have godly sorrow. If it hurts because we see that God loved us and wanted to give us life, and we threw away the truth to live a lie, and if it hurts to see we chose to hate and do evil because we wanted to, then we may have godly sorrow. If it hurts enough, we will weep uncontrollably. This is the baptism of tears that purges the heart into repentance. There is no greater blessing than these tears. Seek them with all your heart. Cry out for them. Pray for them. This is the fountain of waters that truly cleanses the soul (Ps.114:8;Zech.13:1). When it hurts this way, our heart changes, and we do not want to return to our old way. Thus godly sorrow causes us to change our desires from our heart rather than from our mind. This is true repentance.

DELIVERANCE

It means little to repent unless we change our life at the same time. To repent means to change from evil ways to good ways. So, if we truly repent, we turn from our old ways and begin to practice new godly ways. If we do not change our ways, our heart has not really changed. If our heart has not changed then there are still lies and lusts within it. As long as there is evil and darkness in our heart, evil spirits can dwell within us. Therefore, deliverance cannot occur unless we are willing to change our heart.

For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings...If you do not walk after other gods to your hurt, then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.

Jer.7:5-7

This "Land" is in our heart (Eze.11:17-19). God will change our heart, if we change our ways. And if we allow God to

change our heart, our repentance will be final. Thus we will not return to old ways once we have truly found godly repentance. Then we shall be “surrounded by songs of deliverance.” These are songs of joy and love we sing unrehearsed from our heart unto our loving Father in heaven just because we are so full of thanks and joy. God inhabits the praises of His people.

Christ cannot enter our heart until our heart has been opened. We cannot get our heart open until we see that we did wrong because we chose to do wrong, and that it is not anyone’s fault but our own. Therefore, we must understand that in the events of our life God has been dealing with us alone. When we think that someone else is the problem, or that something else is the cause, we are avoiding the real issue. All things are in God’s hands (Ec.3:14; La.3:38). Therefore, if we blame anything else, we are blaming God.

**If we say that we have not sinned,
we make Him a liar,
and His word is not in us.**

1Jo.1:10

If you acknowledge only with your mind that you were wrong, while in your heart you still think you were justified and not really responsible, and you think that someone or something else caused the problem, then you are deceived and have not found repentance.

**If we say that we have no sin,
We deceive ourselves,
And the truth is not in us.**

1Jo.1:8

You must know with your heart that you have done wrong. When you know it in your heart, you will want to change. Otherwise, you will not want to change. You will want to keep the old personality, and the old lusts and the old lies. You will not want to let them go. If you have evil in your heart, it is because you want it there. The only way to get it out is to want it out. You must repent because you want to repent. If your heart does not want to repent, pray for the desire to repent, and the desire to change. Will yourself to repent, saying, “I will repent.”, “I will to change.”, “I command my heart to obey.” Your only hope may be to re-program your heart with the word in order to bring you to repentance.

There are deeper and deeper levels of repentance. In repentance unto salvation you may begin by saying, “God, I am sorry for what I did”, and “Jesus, would You take my sins?” (Acknowledgement of sin, Ps.32). A deeper level of repentance

is toward the point where you will have no imperfections and can come into the presence of God the Father.

Repentance at each level produces more cleansing and requires a more broken and contrite spirit.

**The sacrifices of God are broken spirit,
A broken and a contrite heart—
These, O God, You will not despise.**

Ps.51:17

But at each level the door opens to a deeper walk with the Lord. The key to the door is a broken and a contrite spirit. This is the “Key of David” (Re.3:7). Whenever David found he had done something wrong, he got on his knees and said, “O God, forgive me!”, and repented with tears. The key is in your heart. But you must find it.

You know very little of God until you have undergone cleansing and repentance.

But your iniquities have separated you from your God;

Isa.59:2

As you repent and give yourself up, you begin to understand Him and know who He is. When you truly repent, you give your heart over to the Lord. You surrender yourself to whatever obedience He requires of you. This is being broken. You have total faith and trust that He will bring to pass all things, and you are no longer fending for yourself and your own desires. You are not worrying about what is going to happen, or fighting battles or carrying unnecessary burdens. You are not making whimsical and arbitrary decisions and taking stands based on petty personal preference, prejudice, old memories, old programs, and old iniquity. You are yielding to God and seeking the answer of His Spirit in all situations. When you do this, you will allow the Truth to enter your heart. Then you will have rest.

**Come to Me, all you who labor
and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.**

**Take My yoke upon you
and learn from Me,
for I am gentle and lowly in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.**

M't. 11:28,29

Seek repentance daily. Repent over the iniquities that the Holy Spirit reveals to you. The moment an area of evil comes up in your spirit, get on your face and knees and

weep about the way you have come against God's creation. If you don't repent with godly sorrow on a moment by moment basis as iniquities are exposed, you don't have the way to the Holy City (Jer.30:17).

**With continual weeping they shall come,
And seek the LORD their God.
They shall ask the way to Zion,
With their faces toward it, saying,
"Come and let us join ourselves to the LORD
In a perpetual covenant that will not be forgotten."**

Jer.50:4,5

If an iniquity has been pointed out by the Spirit, but you cannot see it, go ahead and confess it on faith. Then ask God to remove His hand from you so it may manifest in your life. Pray for the Spirit of truth to reveal it to you, then wait, and it will begin to manifest if you have asked sincerely. If then disaster comes to your heart or calamity comes to your thoughts, remain steadfast in the word and repent of the evil that has been revealed. Then give thanksgiving and praise to God, because each revelation of where you are wrong puts you one step closer to the "face of God".

**As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.
Therefore be zealous and repent.**

Re.3:19

There are many instructive examples of confession, godly sorrow, and repentance in the Bible. The repentance of David in the Book of Psalms, the afflictions and repentance of Job, Jonah, and Hezekiah, are a few good examples. Each will guide you through prayers unto repentance. Search them out.

Judgment is not complete for a sin or iniquity until there has been sorrowful repentance. But after each repentance comes joy. The iniquity is gone! However, each and every area of iniquity and old sin must have repentance for total cleansing and judgment. This thorough repentance may take years, as it did with Paul (Ro.6:7,8).

**Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel!
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!**

**The LORD has taken away your judgments,
He has cast out your enemy.**

**The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; (heart)
You shall see disaster no more.**

Zep.3:14,15

When you have declared your iniquity to God and truly repented, then it is gone. Paul had killed many Christians, yet he said he had done no wrong, because he had truly repented. He knew he had been forgiven and cleansed through his repentance. After each repentance, peace is in your heart because it is clean and right. You do not have to go back and “repent over the same dead works” (Heb.6:1).

**Therefore they shall come
And sing in the height of Zion,
Streaming to the goodness of the LORD-**

**For wheat and new wine and oil, (the spirits of the Lord)
For the young of the flock and the herd;**

**Their souls shall be like a well-watered garden,
And they shall sorrow no more at all.**

Jer.31:12