

Seeker Study 6 | Repentance

Purpose: *After believing grace, the biblical response is to repent and be baptised for forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:36-38). Repentance, however, is a powerful blessing from God that has been stripped of its potency. The Greek word for repentance is metanoia, meaning "after-mindset." With this gift of hindsight, we see clearly the path we were on, and can then start on the right path... the path of living for God rather than for self. Be careful not to present repentance as work that leads to salvation; instead, it is our awakening to come to our senses and live the way God has always intended for us. It is more a decision to adopt Jesus' worldview, which always results in a changed life.*

Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Q: Why does Peter call us to repent as a response to the cross?

Because we are convinced of Jesus' love for us through the cross. His love motivates us to repent; that is, to live for Him rather than for ourselves. Jesus' resurrection opens our eyes to look beyond the earthly realm. The old is gone, the new has come!

Q: What does the new life look like?

Q: How do we view people through our new, repentant eyes?

Luke 3:7-14 *The fruit of repentance is the evidence of a changed mindset. John the Baptist insisted on repentance before baptism.*

Q: If you were to ask John, "What should I do?", how would he respond to you?

Notice that he directs no one to pray and weep to God, confessing how guilty they feel about their sins, which is what many people today confuse for repentance.

Luke 13:1-5, Luke 6-9 *Jesus preaches that without repentance, we will all perish. He expects to find fruit every time there is true repentance.*

Acts 26:15-21 *Jesus gives Paul the charge to "open their eyes" (e.g. "red pill" of the Matrix, the Christmas ghosts for Scrooge, or "wake up call") so that they may turn and prove repentance by their deeds. Repentance involves a new perspective, a turning of allegiance, and fruit.*

2 Corinthians 7:8-11 *Beware of worldly sorrow. Worldly sorrow leads us to feel guilt, shame, and a disconnect from God. Godly sorrow however, leads us to grace and closer to the Father.*

Q: Have you previously confused sorrow(s) with true repentance?

Thoroughly examine godly sorrow, because it leads to repentance and salvation.

Acts 3:19 *Repentance results in both a changed life and a refreshed life.*

Q: What would your life look like if you have completely turned to God?

Q: Have you ever felt refreshed? What did that feel like?

Refreshment is a great indicator for the joy that accompanies a changed life.

Additional Scriptures: *Luke 16:19-31, Timothy 2:24-26, Acts 28:25-28, Romans 12:1-2, Romans 2:4, Acts 5:30-31/11:18, Luke 19:1-10 vs. Luke 18:18-30, Col. 2:20-23 vs. Titus 2:11-12, Luke 15:1-2/11-32*