

CONNECTING WITH GOD LESSON 3

REPENTANCE

Read

I John 1:7-9

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

DEFINITION

Webster defines repentance: “to feel sorry or self-reproachful for what one has or has not done; to feel so contrite over one’s sins as to change, or decide to change one’s ways”.

Repentance is used two ways in the New Testament:

1. **METAMELLOMAI** - _____.
2. **METANAEO** - _____.

II Corinthians 7:8-10 uses both terms.

8 For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season. 9 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Paul refers to a letter he wrote to the Corinthians telling them he did not have a change of mind (metanaeo) about the letter, although he regretted that he had to write it (metamellomai).

(Matthew 27:3 3 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,)
In **Genesis 6:6 (6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.)**

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

In *Matthew 3:2-9*

2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, 6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 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? 8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: 9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

John the Baptist acknowledges that the Pharisees were followers of the law; but just a semblance of Godliness was not enough. They had to repent and turn from their sin.

Repentance actually has three parts:

1. **A turning from sin:** _____
_____.
2. **A spirit of abhorrence to sin.** _____
_____.
3. **A spirit of honor toward God.** _____
_____.

Remember, only God can call to repentance!

1. **Romans 2:4 states that** _____ *4 or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*
2. **II Corinthians 7:10 also notes that** _____ *10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.*
3. **John 6:44, 45, 65 says** _____ *, except the Father...draw him...Every man therefore that hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. No man can come unto me, except it were given him of my Father.*

Repentance must be both an _____ (**Romans 10:10** ¹⁰ *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*).

The Jews, the Gentiles, and the rest of the world must repent through the name of Jesus.

Acts 5:31 ³¹ *Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.*

Acts 11:18 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 24:47 ⁴⁷ *And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

WHAT ABOUT SIN?

1. **James 1:15** ¹⁵ *Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*
2. **Romans 6:23** ²³ *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
3. **Hebrews 9:14** ¹⁴ *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

4. Galatians 5:16-21

¹⁶ *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. ¹⁸ But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Sin not only brings about physical death, but spiritual death as well. Jesus said: I have come that ye might have life, and that more abundantly. Spiritual death is eternal separation from God.

EXAMPLES

JACOB -In his return to Bethel (House of God), Jacob commanded the members of his household to do three things:

1. _____ . This is a type of removing anything from your life that separates you from God. **Judges 10:15-16** ¹⁵ *And the children of Israel said unto the LORD, We have sinned: do thou unto us whatsoever seemeth good unto thee; deliver us only, we pray thee, this day. ¹⁶ And they put away the strange gods from among them, and served the LORD: and his soul was grieved for the misery of Israel.*

Be clean. This is a type of cleansing ourselves from the filthiness of the flesh and spirit (**2 Corinthians 7:1** ¹ *Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*).

2. _____ (**Psalm 119:9** ⁹ *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. **John 15:3** ³ Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*).

3. _____ This is a type of laying aside the garments of sin and being clothed with salvation.

Isaiah 61:10 ¹⁰ *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.*

Job 3:5-10 ⁵ *Let darkness and the shadow of death stain it; let a cloud dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it. ⁶ As for that night, let darkness seize upon it; let it not be joined unto the days of the year, let it not come into the number of the months. ⁷ Lo, let that night be solitary, let no joyful voice come therein. ⁸ Let them curse it that curse the day, who are ready to raise up their mourning. ⁹ Let the stars of the twilight thereof be dark; let it look for light, but have none; neither let it see the dawning of the day: ¹⁰ Because it shut not up the doors of my mother's womb, nor hid sorrow from mine eyes.*

Revelation 3:18 ¹⁸ *I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.*

Revelation 15:6 ⁶ *And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.*

I Peter 5:5 ⁵ *Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

NINEVAH - This vast city in the country of Assyria repented at the preaching of Jonah the prophet.

Jonah 3:5-10 ⁵ *So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. ⁶ For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷ And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: ⁸ But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. ⁹ Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? ¹⁰ And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.)*

Matthew 12:41 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.*

1. _____: Both man and beast did without food for three days.
2. _____: Only in this way can we find true repentance.
3. _____: God saw that they had the right spirit within and spared them.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR - Daniel gives an answer to this king on the true repentance

Daniel 4:27 ²⁷ *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 tranquility.*

1. _____: Replace your sins by doing right.
2. _____: Stop your inward sins and do outward good.
3. _____: Life and peace lengthened.

ISAIAH - One of Israel's greatest prophets gives real insight into true repentance

Isaiah 55:6-7 ⁶ *Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: ⁷ Let 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.*

1. _____.
2. _____.
3. _____.
4. _____.

The results of this type repentance is contained in verse 7 of Isaiah 55:7 "...God...will abundantly pardon".

WORKS MEET FOR REPENTANCE:

Matthew 3:8, Acts 26:20 and Luke 3:8 give us some things that a person must do to prove that he has truly repented.

1. **Matthew 3:8** ⁸ *Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:*
2. **Acts 26:20** ²⁰ *...they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.*
3. **Luke 3:8** ⁸ *Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, ...*

MEET or **WORTHY** means suitable, proper, fitting, appropriate, becoming. One of the greatest tokens of true repentance is restitution (i.e. restoring things taken or damaged).

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE ON REPENTANCE

1. **Mark 1:14-15** ¹⁴ *Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,* ¹⁵ *... repent ye, and believe the gospel.*
2. **II Peter 3:9** ⁹ *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*
3. **Acts 17:30** ³⁰ *And the times ... but now commandeth all men every where to repent:*
4. **Luke 13:3** ³ *I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*
5. **II Corinthians 7:10** ¹⁰ *“For godly sorrow worketh repentance ...”*
6. **Acts 2:38** ³⁸ *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every ...”*
7. **Mark 2:17** ¹⁷ *When Jesus heard it, he saith ...I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*
8. **Luke 24:47** ⁴⁷ *And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*
9. **Acts 3:19** ¹⁹ *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;*

THE RESULTS OF REPENTANCE

The Word of God is very clear about repentance. When we repent as we have discussed above, we get results! God forgives!

1. **Ephesians 4:32** ³² *“... God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”*
2. **Colossians 2:13** ¹³ *“... forgiven you all trespasses;”*
3. **Acts 5:31** ³¹ *“... Savior, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”*
4. **Colossians 1:14** ¹⁴ *“In whom ... even the forgiveness of sins:”*

SEVEN WORKS OF REPENTANCE

Here are seven works of repentance according to **II Corinthians 7:9-16**.

⁹ "Now ... ¹¹ For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort. What carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! ..."

1. _____ - a watchfulness lest you sin.
2. _____ - of yourself of guilt.
3. _____ - a hatred of sin.
4. _____ - of God and sin's results.
5. _____ - to be righteous and obey God.
6. _____ - in working for God and his cause.
7. _____ - used in the sense of giving justice and the punishment of sin.

PARABLES

Look at these three parables. Notice the different lessons on repentance in each.

1. Parable of the two sons

Matthew 21:28-32 ²⁸ But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. ²⁹ He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. ³⁰ And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. ³¹ Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

2. Parable of the lost sheep

Luke 15:1-7 ¹ Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. ³ And he spake this parable unto them, saying, ⁴ 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? ⁵ And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And 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. 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.

3. Parable of the prodigal son

Luke 15:11-32 ¹¹ And he said, A certain man had two sons: ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. ¹⁵ And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. ¹⁷ 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! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, ¹⁹ And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. ²⁰ And 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. ²¹ 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. ²² 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: ²³ And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. ²⁵ Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. ²⁸ And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. ²⁹ And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: ³⁰ But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. ³¹ And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. ³² It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

Repentance is not the final act of the sinner, one must go on to water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ, and receive the Holy Spirit in his life (**Acts 2:38** ³⁸ 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.**).

REPENTANCE FOR THE SAVED

1. When Job prayed for his friend, God turned his captivity.

Job 42:1-10 ¹ Then Job answered the Lord, and said, ² I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. ³ Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. ⁴ Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. ⁵ 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. ⁷ And it was so, that after the Lord had spoken these words unto Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath. ⁸ Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job. ⁹ So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the Lord commanded them: the Lord also accepted Job. ¹⁰ And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.

2. There are ways to be reconciled to our brother.

Matthew 5:23-24 ²³ Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; ²⁴ Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

3. We can learn how to handle trespasses against us.

Matthew 18:15-17 ¹⁵ Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. ¹⁶ But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. ¹⁷ And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

4. When we confess our sins He forgives and cleanses us.

1 John 1:7-9 ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of

Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

5. Confession and forsaking of sin brings mercy.

Proverbs 28:13 ¹³ *He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*

6. If we sin we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous

I John 2:1-2 ¹ *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: ² And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

7. In prayer we are to ask for forgiveness

Matthew 6:5-15 ⁵ *And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ⁶ But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. ⁷ But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. ⁸ Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. ⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. ¹⁴ For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: ¹⁵ But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

In search for the fullness of truth regarding salvation, the fact remains, we must repent. Nothing can supersede, or replace repentance in our lives. It is God's command, our duty, and thank God, our privilege to come to him in genuine repentance. Joy comes to the heart of the repentant, to the life of the observers, and to the angels in heaven (**Luke 15:7** 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.*)