

REPENTANCE

Repentance is a very important principle that is greatly misunderstood and therefore, greatly abused. Repentance is not just confessing or acknowledging you were wrong (I'm sorry is not good enough). It is a deep regret for what you have done; a realization you have been wrong before God and may have hurt others. As a result, there is a heartfelt commitment not to continue or repeat the sin or action.

It follows, then, that you won't rationalize what you did or in any way blame others for your sin. It also follows that you will do what ever it takes to get right with God and make it right with others, especially if you have hurt or offended them.

Psalm 51:17

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.”

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

“I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to {the point of} repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to {the will of} God, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

For the sorrow that is according to {the will of} God produces a repentance without regret, {leading} to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”

The word for repentance in the Greek is *metanoia*, which means a change of mind (heart), a reversal, to think differently. So, repentance is a brokenness of heart that brings about an outward change in attitude and action. That's why John the Baptist said in Luke 3:8 to bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance.

There can be a confession without repentance that can be deceiving, since there may be an outward appearance of contrition. However, the real test is whether the person has actually changed and no longer exhibits the sinful behavior, or at least is actively engaged in battling to overcome it.

A truly repentant person admits wrongdoing regardless of the situation. There is no hedging by blaming others or justifying themselves in any way. They are not concerned what people think, so they will do whatever is necessary to rectify the problem or make restitution, if the situation calls for that.

We can't sin intentionally and presume on the kindness of God to grant us repentance (Romans 2:4). Esau sought repentance with tears and didn't receive it.

Hebrews 12:17

“For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.”