

A Study On Repent And Repentance

1) Where was repent spoken first in the New Testament? 2) In what other scripture is repentance commanded? 3) What is the definition of repent or repentance? 4) Does true repentance have fruits? 5) Is there joy in heaven over those who repent? 6) What is **NOT** repentance? 7) Can we be born again without repentance? 8) What is our first step after we confess Jesus as our Lord? 9) Can we afford to follow man's denomination for salvation? 10) Without repentance does God answer our prayers and what are our symptoms?

Let us now turn to the Word of God for answers, for the Word is truth and when we find the truth of the Word we will have love upon obedience to the truth. It is only with truth and love that Christ is within us.

1) Where was repent spoken first in the New Testament?

Repent is the first word spoken in the ministry of John the Baptist. *Matthew 3:1-2* **1** *In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (KJV)*

Repent is the first word Jesus Christ spoke after his water baptism by John the Baptist, his receiving the Spirit of God (The Holy Spirit) and being sent by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness for forty days to be tempted by the Devil. *Matthew 4:17* **17** *From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (KJV)*

2) In what other scripture is repentance commanded?

As The disciples taught repentance, *Mark 6:12* **12** *And they went out, and preached that men should repent. (KJV)*

Repentance is to be preached to all, *Luke 24:47* **47** *And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (KJV)*

Peter declared all to repent at Pentecost, *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. (KJV)*

Paul preached the foundation of repentance, *Acts 26:20* **20** *But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance. (KJV)*

God command all men everywhere to repent, *Acts 17:30* **30** *And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: (KJV)*

It is God's desire for all to repent, **2 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. (KJV)*

Christ came to call men to repentance, **Luke 5:32** ³² *I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*

3) What is the definition of repent or repentance?

The definition of repent is: **Strong's Greek Number 3340.** **Greek word:** metanoeo met-an-o-eh'-o **Root:** from 3326 and 3539. **Vine's Word(s):** Repent, Repentance **Usage Notes:** 1) to change one's mind, i.e. to repent 2) to change one's mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins.

Webster's dictionary is: 3) to feel so contrite over one's sins as to change, or decide to change, one's ways).

True repentance involves two factors. On the negative side it is repentance from sin and on the positive side, faith towards God. It is the first step in being born again.

As Jesus spoke in **John 3:3** ³ *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (KJV)*

4) Does true repentance have fruits?

The mind, emotions and will are all involved in repentance. There must be a change of mind, genuine sorrow for sin, and an act of the will to turn from sin unto God. Therefore true repentance must bear fruit or have fruits, **Luke 3:8** ⁸ *Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin 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. (KJV)*

These fruits manifest in—Godly sorrow for sin, **2 Corinthians 7:9-11** 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. 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! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter. (KJV)*

Abhorrence of self and humiliations of soul, **Job 42:5-6** ⁵ *"I had heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. ⁶ I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance."* (NLT), **Luke 10:13** ¹³ *"What horrors await you, Korazin and Bethsaida! For if the miracles I*

did in you had been done in wicked Tyre and Sidon, their people would have sat in deep repentance long ago, clothed in sackcloth and throwing ashes on their heads to show their remorse. (NLT), Luke 18:13 **13** *And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. (KJV)*

Confession of sins and cry for mercy, 1 John 1:9 **9** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (KJV), Psalms 32:1-5* **1** *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. 3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. 4 For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. 5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. (KJV), Psalms 51:1-4* **1** *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. (KJV), Luke 15:21* **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. (KJV)*

Turning from and forsaking of sin, Matthew 12:41 **41** *The people of Nineveh will rise up against this generation on judgment day and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah. And now someone greater than Jonah is here--and you refuse to repent. (NLT), Ezekiel 18:30* **30** *Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. (KJV), Isaiah 55:7* **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. (KJV), Jonah 3:5-8* **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. (KJV) Godly hatred of sin, Ezekiel 36:31-33 **31** Then you will remember your past sins and hate yourselves for all the evil things you did. **32** But remember, says the Sovereign LORD, I am not doing this because you deserve it. O my people of Israel, you should be utterly ashamed of all you have done! **33** "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: When I cleanse you from your sins, I will bring people to live in your cities, and the ruins will be rebuilt. (NLT), **1 Peter 4:1** **1** So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you are willing to suffer for Christ, you have decided to stop sinning. (NLT).

Turning to the Lord in faith, Acts 26:20 **20** But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance. (KJV), **1 Thessalonians 1:9** **9** for they themselves keep talking about the wonderful welcome you gave us and how you turned away from idols to serve the true and living God. (NLT)

Restitution where possible Luke 19:8 **8** Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have overcharged people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"(NLT)

5) Is there joy in heaven over those who repent?

Yes there is joy in heaven over those who repent, **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.* (KJV), **Luke 15:10** **10** *Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.* (KJV).

6) What is NOT repentance?

It is important to understand what repentance is **NOT**, for there are many false concepts of repentance today taught by the Church. It is not conviction of sin. Conviction precedes repentance, but not all who are convicted repent, **Acts 24:24-25** **24** And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. **25** And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. (KJV)

It is not worldly sorrow. Worldly sorrow is simply sorry for getting caught but not for the crime committed, **2 Corinthians 7:10** **10** For God can use sorrow in our lives to help us turn away from sin and seek salvation. We will never regret

that kind of sorrow. But sorrow without repentance is the kind that results in death.(NLT)

It is not reformation (a reforming or being reformed). Reformation is ‘turning over a new leaf’ but not genuine repentance. It is not being religious. The Pharisees in Christ’s time were extremely religious but they were hypocrites. They did not know Christ, Matthew 5:20 20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. (KJV) Matthew 3:7-8 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: (KJV)

It is not ‘only believe-ism’ or mental faith. Mental faith is merely a mental acceptance and assent to a set of creeds or doctrines without any change in the life. It is dead faith, James 2:19-20 19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? (KJV)

7) Can we be born again without repentance?

The answer is no. Repentance is necessary for salvation from damnation, Luke 13:3, 5 3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. (KJV)

The Churches are called to repent and maintain this state before the Lord, **Revelation chapters 1, 2, and 3.** To repent, there must be **BOTH** the *internal* as well as the *external* change. If there is the former, there will be the latter. Although one can have the latter without the former. It also signifies a “change of heart”. It means quit sinning (with genuine sorrow) and running from God, but to be transformed of the mind and body by an act of our will running towards God seeking his perfect will. Repentance is brought about by the Holy Spirit, 2 Timothy 2:25 25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; (KJV), Acts 3:26 26 When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you people of Israel, to bless you by turning each of you back from your sinful ways." (NLT), Acts 5:30-31 30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.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. (KJV), John 16:9-16 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. 12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into

all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. 15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you. 16 A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father. (KJV)

Repentance is also man's response to the conviction of the Spirit, *Luke 15:18-20 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. (KJV), Romans 2:4 4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? (KJV), Revelation 3:19 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. (KJV)*

Peter said repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. We cannot be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ without being saved and being saved is confessing Jesus Christ with repentance and by faith. There are three steps required by the Word to be added unto the church as demonstrated by Peter in Acts and the command given by Jesus in John. According to the Word there is no salvation unless these three steps are taken. *John 3:3 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (KJV) John 3:5 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (KJV) Acts 2:38-41 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. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. (KJV)*

8) What is the first step when we confess Jesus as our Lord? The first step in all things Christ has to give us begins with repentance. Do not be misled by what repentance is **NOT**. Be a student in the Word. If you follow the three steps, repent, be water baptized and receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. *John 3:3,5 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a*

man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. **5** Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (KJV)

Then the Spirit can teach you in all things, **John 16:13-15** **13** Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. **14** He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. **15** All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you. (KJV).

For the road to salvation is narrow and few find it, **Matthew 7:13-14** **13** Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: **14** Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. (KJV)

Do not be mislead about your salvation by false teaching. For who wants to hear on the day of salvation, **Matthew 7:21-23** **21** Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. **22** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? **23** And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (KJV).

But let us do the will of God so we may abide forever, **1 John 2:17** **17** And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. (KJV).

The will of God is being obedient to His Word in truth and love, the truth being His Word. We must follow the example set by Jesus as He walked the earth as a man. **Hebrews 5:7-8** **7** While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could deliver him out of death. And God heard his prayers because of his reverence for God.**8** So even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. (NLT)

9) Can we afford to follow man's denomination for salvation?,

Matthew 5:17-20 **17** Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. **18** For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. **19** Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. **20** For I say unto you, That except your righteousness

shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. (KJV).

The church cannot save you, your friends cannot save you, a pastor cannot save you, your job cannot save you, works cannot save you, and your finances cannot save you. The church, your friends and a pastor can only show you the way to salvation. The choice for salvation is yours only and after salvation the Word of God is your road map to maturity as a Christian. Do not be misled by false teachers or a church denomination, **it is your responsibly** to study and know the Word of God. Without knowledge of the truth many fall into the ditch and die.

10) If we chose or refuse to repent, does God answer our prayers and what are our symptoms?

Proverbs 28:9 9 The prayers of a person who ignores the law are despised. (NLT) Psalms 66:18-19 18 If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, my Lord would not have listened. 19 But God did listen! He paid attention to my prayer. (NLT) Proverbs 28:13 13 People who cover over their sins will not prosper. But if they confess and forsake them, they will receive mercy. (NLT) Psalms 32:3-6 3 When I refused to confess my sin, I was weak and miserable, and I groaned all day long. 4 Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. 5 Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. 6 Therefore, let all the godly confess their rebellion to you while there is time, that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment. (NLT) Psalms 38:1-8 1 O LORD, don't rebuke me in your anger! Don't discipline me in your rage! 2 Your arrows have struck deep, and your blows are crushing me. 3 Because of your anger, my whole body is sick; my health is broken because of my sins. 4 My guilt overwhelms me-- it is a burden too heavy to bear. 5 My wounds fester and stink because of my foolish sins. 6 I am bent over and racked with pain. My days are filled with grief. 7 A raging fever burns within me, and my health is broken. 8 I am exhausted and completely crushed. My groans come from an anguished heart. (NLT) Psalms 7:12-16 12 If a person does not repent, God will sharpen his sword; he will bend and string his bow. 13 He will prepare his deadly weapons and ignite his flaming arrows. 14 The wicked conceive evil; they are pregnant with trouble and give birth to lies. 15 They dig a pit to trap others and then fall into it themselves. 16 They make trouble, but it backfires on them. They plan violence for others, but it falls on their own heads. (NLT)

In closing fear (worship and give reverence to) God. *Hebrews 5:7-8 7 While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and*

tears, to the one who could deliver him out of death. And God heard his prayers because of his reverence for God. **8** So even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. (NLT)

Repent, be water baptized, receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, obey all of the Word of God and be ready for your salvation with the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with love, peace and joy in you heart. **Luke 21:36** **36** *Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.* (KJV). **Luke 21:27-28** **27** *Then everyone will see the Son of Man arrive on the clouds with power and great glory.* **28** *So when all these things begin to happen, stand straight and look up, for your salvation is near!"* (NLT)

Only by faith is there salvation until the King of kings and the Lord of lords sets up His Kingdom for one thousand years on earth. For our Lord Jesus Christ said, **Revelation 3:19-22** **19** *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.* **20** *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.* **21** *To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.* **22** *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.* (KJV)

In verse 21 'him that overcometh' means we have repented and become disciples of Jesus by obeying His teachings. Amen.

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