

Acts 3:19

“The Purpose & Power of Repentance”

I. The purpose of repentance

A. Repent = (Gr.)to think differently; to change one’s mind or purpose; a shift or reversal of thought; to move back to the point of departure; a deeply seated & thorough turning from self to God – Mal. 3:7 – *“Return to Me and I will return to you”*.

- 1.) Importance of repentance: Acts 2:38 – Peter; Matt. 3:1-2 – John the Baptist; Matt. 4:17 – Jesus; Acts 26:20 – Paul speaking to King Agrippa.
- 2.) Salvation/forgiveness isn’t possible until repentance is accomplished.
- 3.) Repentance isn’t possible until we acknowledge our sin. There can be no true conversion without conviction = *“Repent therefore”*.
 - a.) V.13-15 – Peter identified/reminded them not only of their sin, but the severity & depravity of their sin:
 - i.) Delivered up God’s servant, Jesus (through false testimony & lies – Matt. 26:59-60; Mark 14:55-56).
 - ii.) Denied Jesus, the Holy One & the Just.
 - iii.) Accepted a murderer in his place.
 - iv.) Became murderers themselves by killing the Prince of Life.
 - b.) *Many times we don’t repent not b/c we think we’re perfect, but b/c we don’t think we’re as sinful as God tells us we are (Overall and in specific situations).*
 - i.) Gen. 8:21; Jer. 17:9; Is. 64:6; Rom. 7:18 (Is. 6:5); 1 Cor. 10:12
 - c.) *Until we come to grips with the reality of who/what we truly are in God’s eyes, we won’t understand, acknowledge & accept the necessity of God’s grace.*
 - d.) *When we don’t understand the need for God’s grace, we won’t repent.*
 - e.) *When we don’t repent, there’s no true conversion...*

B. Conversion = (Gr.)to revert or turn about

- 1.) *So many complain b/c our circumstances never change, when what really needs to change is us. What God wants is for us to change in the midst of our circumstances rather than standing around/digging in waiting for our circumstances to align with our own desires or comfort level.*
- 2.) *Human beings DO NOT like change! But we fail to realize if God was content with where/what/who we are, He wouldn’t have caused/allowed the change to begin with!*
 - a.) Ez. 18:19-32; 33:11; 36:26-27; Matt. 3:8; **Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; 7:10; Col. 3:1-17**

- 3.) *Just like you know a child is growing by the change in their physical appearance, you will also know if you're growing in the Lord through change in your spiritual appearance. If you're still the same size spiritually you were 5 yrs., 5 months, 5 weeks, 5 days, 5 hours, 5 minutes ago, you've become stunted in your spiritual growth – **Heb. 5:12-6:2.***
- 4.) *Conversion/transformation is evidence you're not only growing closer to God, but you're taking on His image! If you're not changing, you're not growing!*
 - a.) ***“Most likely you've adopted a program, plan, theory or opinion instead of a personal pursuit of Jesus.” – Tony Evans***

C. Sins to be blotted out = (Gr.) to erase; wipe or wash away completely; obliterate.

- 1.) **Ps. 51:1-2,9; Is. 1:18; 43:25; 44:22; Col. 2:13-14; 1 John 1:7,9; Rev. 1:5; 3:5; 7:14**
 - a.) *God stands ready to wash away, permanently remove & completely obliterate our sins & its consequences, but we have to have a complete change of mind & turn to Him through sincere repentance.*

II. The power of repentance

A. Times of refreshing = (Gr.) to make new; a recovering of breath; revival.

- 1.) *Refreshing/renewal of our mind (Rom. 12:2); heart (Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:26); soul; body; marriage/family; relationships; churches; nation; circumstances.*
- 2.) *Unconfessed, unrepentant sin creates “staleness” in our lives. It burdens, decays, rots, mildews, weakens.*
- 3.) ***If there is an area(s) of staleness/rottenness in your life/walk with God & others, there's a good chance there's unconfessed sin in your heart.***

B. The presence of God.

- 1.) *Unconfessed/unrepentant sin, barricades us from God's presence – **Deut. 31:16-18; Is. 59:2; Micah 3:4; Ps. 66:18.***
- 2.) *The lack of His presence, caused by our sin, is the main cause of our “staleness”.*
- 3.) ***God's presence is the key to us being “refreshed”.***
 - a.) ***Many Christians are frustrated by a stagnant prayer life, walk with God, Bible knowledge & don't realize the cause isn't the world, other people, their difficulties or circumstances.***
 - b.) ***The cause is our own unconfessed, sinful lifestyles & patterns, many of which have existed for so long in our lives we've grown callous to their existence & have accepted/condoned their presence – Ps. 19:12; 78:41; 1 Thess. 5:19; Eph. 4:30; 1 Tim. 4:1-2.***

C. God's freedom from sin.

- 1.) *Just like the bars of a prison cell barricade you from other people, your loved ones & the typical freedoms of society, sin barricades us from the freedom of Godly repentance which frees us from our sin:*

a.) **Romans 6:16-18** – *“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that ones slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”*

2.) Experience the freedom of repentance today!!!