

UNDERSTANDING REPENTANCE

- I. Acts 3:19 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;
- A. The scriptures give a promise to all mankind: that they may experience times of refreshing from the presence of The Lord”
 1. **Def Refreshing**: recovery of breath, revival
 2. Note what brings this refreshing, this recovery of breath & revival into our life:
 - a. **the presence of the Lord**
 3. Do we understand that sin hinders the presence of the Lord from manifesting in our life & on our behalf
 - a. Do we grasp that ungodly habits & walking / yielding to the lusts of our flesh hinder the presence of the Lord?
 - (1) **1Th. 5:19 Quench** not the Spirit.
 - (a) **Def Quench**: to extinguish, literally means to cause the fire to go out
 - (2) **Eph. 4:30** And **grieve** not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
 - (a) **Def Grieve**: to distress, to be in heaviness to make sorry
 - (3) We see example of mankind living a life of sin to the point it quenched and grieved the very heart of God in:
 - (a) **Gen. 6:6** ¶ And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.
 - (4) We also see an example in the life of King Saul who was called and anointed of God who due to his sin & disobedience grieved the heart of God to the point that The Lord was sorry He ever placed His Spirit upon his life:
 - (a) **1Sam. 15:10** ¶ Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying,
1Sam. 15:11 It **repenteth** (to be made sorry / grieved) me that I have set up Saul *to be* king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.
 - (1) If you have been Born Again you have been made a King & Priest thru the power of the shed blood of Jesus Christ Rev. 1:6
 - (2) I pray that Saul’s testimony is not your testimony:
 - (a) where The Lord is sorry that He has set us up as a King within

the Kingdom of God

(b) due to disobedience to the Word of God & the life we live
quenching & grieving the Holy Spirit

(3) Would you not rather be a vessel of God yielded & surrendered to
the Holy Spirit experiencing His refreshing presence in your life?

4. Before we can experience this refreshing from God's presence
manifesting in our life, the bible instructs us that we must first repent:
- a. Also it is important that we understand that there are **two types
repentance:**

B. #1 Repentance from sin:

1. This is turning away from all known sins. To repent means to turn and
go in another direction

a. The bible calls it being **Born Again**

(a) Eph. 2:1 ¶ And you hath he **quicken**ed (made alive), who were
dead in trespasses and sins;

2. When Born Again the **sin nature has been taken out of our spirit
man:** which in turn brings a change/ new direction in our walk, life
style:

a. Acts 3:19 "that your **sins may be blotted out**"

(1) At the New Birth our spirit man is freed from the sin nature and
then we are able to put to death the sins of our body & soul by the
Blood of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit

b. Eph. 2:2 Wherein **in time past** (before saved) ye walked according
to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of
the air, the spirit (the devil) that now worketh in the children of
disobedience:

(1) But once we have been saved & forgiven we no longer walk the
course / the path / of the world & yield to the spirit of the devil by
living life style of sin

(2) Instead we now walk a new course ... a new road / highway:
the Highway of Holiness Isa 35:8

C. #2 Repentance from dead works:

1. Heb. 6:1-2 lists a progression of beliefs in the life of a growing /
maturing believer:

a. Therefore leaving the principles (basic beliefs of Christianity) of the
doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the
foundation of **repentance from dead works**, and of faith toward
God,

2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of

resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

b. vs 1 “Repentance from dead works”: is speaking of the Born Again believer turning away from all things that are not profitable / pleasing to God ... habits & other works of the flesh

(1) we **repent of sin habits** that remain in the realm of our body & soul that “grieve the Holy Spirit & quench the Holy Spirit from bring the “times of refreshing from the presence of The Lord” into our life according to Eph 4:30 & 1 Thess 5:19

2. Acts 3:19 “Repent therefore and **RETURN**” (Def:converted, change in form & character)

a. In this stage of your walk with God you are not trying to see how much you can get away with in your walk with God Rather you want Jesus to be Lord of all in your life ... becoming a vessel of honor , meet for the masters use 2 Tim 2:20-21

b. 1Cor. 10:23 ¶ All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient(appropriate): all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

(1) Our willingness to let go of all lawful things of the earth to seek only the profitable things of the Holy Spirit that is repentance from dead works

(a) In this stage in your walk with God you are not:

(1) trying to see how lukewarm you can get without ending up in hell

(2) how much can I get away with not reading my bible and not praying and unfaithful in attending the house of God ... keeping certain & still keep heaven as my eternal

(3) What habits can I keep & still keep my salvation

(a) be a sipping saint but not getting drunk

(b) smoke & not care if it hinders your testimony

(c) not tithe & still hope no curse comes my way

(d) how much porn can I watch & not lose my salvation

(1) the list can go on & on

(2) or you can Repent & truly return to The Lord

3. There are a number of examples of God’s people in the bible who mistakenly thought they could play with sin & maintain a lukewarm relationship with The Lord and not lose out in their relationship with God:

a. **Sampson:** Thought he could play around with Delilah & maintain

his calling & anointing:

(1) **Judg. 16:20** And she said, The Philistines *be* upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was **departed** from him.

Judg. 16:21 But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.

(a) A type & shadow of a child of God playing with sin & being taken captive by the powers of darkness

(b) “Put out his eyes” type of spiritual blindness

(c) “fetters of brass” type of spiritual strongholds

(d) prison house: type of being a prisoner in the devils house / the kingdom / house of spiritual darkness

b. **Foolish Virgins:** thought they could live lukewarm lives & still be ready for the return of The Lord

(1) **Matt. 25:8** And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

Matt. 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Matt. 25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

Matt. 25:12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

(a) This passage of scripture is a prophetic picture of the return of Our Lord Jesus Christ and lukewarm believers not ready for His return

(1) Is their oil in your lamp / life

(2) Is the Light of Jesus Christ shining brightly thru your lamp

(3) Do you have fresh oil / fresh anointing oil in your lamp

(4) Are you ready for the Bride Groom / Jesus Christ when He comes for His bride / His church

4. **Repentance from dead works** also includes repenting of / giving up all religious works & traditions of man that we believe & do in attempts to be accepted by God and learn to live by faith by trusting in the finished work of Jesus Christ upon Calvary's Cross & promises of the Word of God

a. Keeping the feast will not save you nor make you holy

b. wearing a prayer shawl does not make your prayers acceptable & heard by The Lord

- c. making sign of the cross or having a picture of Jesus in your car will not keep you safe
- d. lighting candles ... saying the rosary etc....
- (a) Hab. 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the **just shall live by his faith.**

D. We see a prophetic picture of Repentance from sin and repentance from dead works in the ministry of Jesus Christ:

1. We see the **first cleansing** of the Temple in the **early stages** of the ministry of Jesus: which is a **Prophetic Picture of our life when we repent of our sin & become Born Again** ... become the Temple of The Holy Spirit: 1 Cor 6:19

- (a) John 2:14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:
John 2:15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;
John 2:16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.
John 2:17 And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

2. The **second cleaning** of the temple which took place in the **latter stages** of Jesus ministry ... **is a Prophetic Picture of Repentance from dead works**

- a. Matt. 21:12 And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves,
13 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

(1) This second cleansing helps us walk with Jesus in intimacy

II. Jesus said in Luke 3:8 that we are to: "Bring forth therefore **fruits worthy of repentance**,.."

A. PRINCIPLES OF REPENTANCE: Repentance of Sin effects **four areas** of our life. Three of these are seen in as the Parable of the Parodical son:

1. REPENTANCE IS **COMING TO OUR SENSES:**

- a. Luke 15:17 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!
- (1) There is no repentance, no deliverance, no restoration until the person "came to himself" and acknowledges their true spiritual condition
- (a) Tim. 2:25 In meekness **instructing** those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the **acknowledging of the truth**;
- 26 And that they **may recover themselves** out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.
- (1) Our role is to instruct those who live a life that is opposing to the truth of God's word
- (a) we cannot save them ... cannot make up their mind for them ... cannot live it for them
- (2) "They ... they ... they must "acknowledge the truth" of God's Word ... and then they must "**recover themselves** out of the snare of the devil " in other words" come to their senses
2. Repentance is: **COMING BACK TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER**
- a. Luke 15:18 "I will arise and **go to my father**,.."
- (1) He humbled himself & came back on the Father's terms ... not his
- (a) Luke 15:19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.
- (2) no excuses ... rather godly sorrow that works repentance:
- (a) Lk 15:18 "I have sinned"
3. Repentance is : **COMING BACK TO THE FATHER'S HOUSE**
- a. Luke 15:18 **I will arise and go**" Where did he go? Back to Father's House
- (1) A Prophetic Picture of **coming back to the House of God / Local Church**
- (a) Remember what Jesus said in Lk 34:8 "Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance..."
- (1) Faithfully coming to the House of God is one of those fruits of repentance
- (a) Heb 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together"
- (2) Connecting to the family of God thru a local church
- (1) Ps 68:6 "God setteth the solitary in families"
- (3) becoming accountable for the life you live by placing you life under the spiritual covering of a pastor

- (a) **Heb. 13:7** Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation.

4. Understand that Repentance is a **PREREQUISITE FOR POSSESSING INHERITANCE:**

- a. Heb. 12:16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his **birthright. (inheritance)**

17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have **inherited the blessing**, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

- (1) Esau sold his birthright, inheritance for a bowl of until beans

(a) sold his inheritance for something the world had to offer ... that would only temporarily satisfy his hunger

(b) Have you in the midst of your hunger, desperation sold your God given birth right ... sold your inheritance ... sold your destiny for something the world has to offer

(1) that will only temporally satisfy the hunger of your flesh

(2) but has no true long lasting ability to satisfy the hunger of your heart?

- (2) Afterwards ..Esau had the **emotions and tears** flowing at the altar but his repentance did not move God

(a) God sees and knows the heart God knew their was no repentance that was going to bring forth any fruit

(1) he lost his blessing / lost his birthright / lost his destiny, inheritance

(2) and the same applies to every person who responds to an altar call.

says the sinner prayer

maybe even sheds some tears

but walks out the door of the church and fails to bring forth fruit worthy of repentance

- b. When we walk in true repentance and live in the Holy Ghost & walk by faith, God will take us across the river Jordan to possess our inheritance / blessing / destiny as seen with Joshua & the nation of Israel

(1) Josh. 5:2 At that time the LORD said unto Joshua, Make thee sharp knives, and circumcise again the children of Israel the second time.

3 And Joshua made him sharp knives, and circumcised the children of Israel at the hill of the foreskins.

Josh. 5:7 And their children, whom he raised up in their stead, them Joshua circumcised: for they were uncircumcised, because they had not circumcised them by the way.

8 And it came to pass, when they had done circumcising all the people, that they abode in their places in the camp, till they were whole.

- (a) **Circumcision** in scripture is a type and shadow of the cutting away of the works of the flesh in the life of the believer ... a type of true repentance that brings forth Godly sorrow & fruits of true repentance
- (b) We like Israel cannot enter into our inheritance, destiny, promise land, blessing unless we have a repentant heart that in turn allows the Holy Spirit to circumcise our heart:
 - (1) Then we cross over into our inheritance both in this world & eternity
 - (a) Ex 4 **Moses** had to circumcise his sons before he could enter his ministry & destiny
 - (b) **Abraham** Rom 4:11-12 had to enter the covenant of circumcision with God before he could become the father of faith
 - (c) **Joshua** 5 Israel had to be circumcised before they could enter the promise land
 - (d) Lk 2 **Jesus** had to first be circumcised in the temple before He “grew, waxed strong in the spirit, filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him”
 - (e) Phil. 3:3 **For we are the circumcision**, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.
 - (1) What does it mean... “we are the circumcision”? the answer is revealed in:
 - (a) Col. 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:
 - (1) Speaking of having a circumcised heart a heart of repentance ... yielded & surrendered to the Word of God & Holy Spirit
- c. We see Israel being robbed a second time of their inheritance in Acts 7:51 due to not having a heart of repentance:
 - (1) Acts 7:51 ¶ Ye stiffnecked and **uncircumcised in heart** and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

(a) Don't allow sin & flesh to rob you of your inheritance

III. Repentance: is more than just words rather it is a heart condition described in:

A. Luke 3:8 Bring forth therefore **fruits worthy of repentance**,

1. Take a look at your life ... your heart....

a. is it bringing forth fruits worthy of repentance

2. Have you yielded to the **first cleansing** of the temple by repenting of your sin and accepting Jesus Christ as Your savior

3. Have you yielded to the **second cleansing** of the temple ... your heart by repenting of the sin habits

a. no longer quenching & grieving the Holy Spirit

b. no longer walking in the flesh, rather: walking in the Spirit Gal 5:16

4. God desires to bring you into the destiny / inheritance He has prepared for your life in this world

a. The blessings He has in store for you

b. the spouse, career, ministry, provisions He has for you

(1) But it requires a understanding repentance developing a heart of repentance, a heart that has been circumcised surrendered

B. There is no greater example in the bible of true repentance than King David

1. God said that David was a man after His own heart Acts 13:22

a. The reason The Lord could say this could David is:

(1) not because he was perfect

(2) But David would **yield to the conviction** of the Holy Spirit

(a) Ps 5:3 "my sin is ever before me"

(3) David **would not make an excuse** for his sin:

(a) Ps 51:3 "For I acknowledge my transgression.."

(4) David had **heart felt repentance** and **changed his ways**

(a) Ps 51:9 "Create in me a clean heart; and renew a right spirit within me