

# Repentance

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## Purpose

After believing grace, the biblical response is to repent and be baptized for forgiveness of sins (*Acts 2:36-38*). Repentance, however, is a powerful blessing from God that has been stripped of its potency. The Greek word for repentance, *metanoia*, means “after – mindset.” With this gift of ‘hindsight,’ we see clearly to take the right path... the path of living for God rather than for self. Be careful not to present repentance as a work that leads to salvation; rather, it is our awakening to come to our senses and live the way God had always intended for us. It is more than a decision; it is God granting us a new worldview, which must always result in a changed life.

- **2nd Corinthians 5:14-21.** Why does Peter call us to repent as a response to the cross (*Acts 2:38*)? Because we are convinced of Jesus’ love for us through the cross. His love motivates us to repent; that is, to live for Him rather than for ourselves. Jesus’ resurrection opens our eyes to look beyond the earthly realm. The old is gone, the new has come! What does the new life look like?
- **Luke 3:7-14.** The fruit of repentance is the evidence of a changed mindset. John the Baptist insisted on repentance before baptism. If you were to ask John, “What should I do?” – how would he respond to you? (Notice that he directs no one to pray and weep before God, confessing how bad he or she feels about his or her sins – which most people today confuse for repentance.)
- **Luke 13:1-5, 6-9.** Jesus preaches that without repentance, we will all perish. He likewise expects to find fruit every time there is true repentance.
- **Luke 15:1-2, 11-32.** Both the prodigal younger son and the prideful older son must repent. The younger son does so as he “comes to his senses,” thinks clearly, and returns to the Father. Pride prevents the older son from enjoying the celebration of true repentance.
- **Acts 26:15-21.** Jesus gives Paul the charge to “open their eyes” so that “they may turn” and prove their repentance by their deeds. Notice which group persecutes Paul for preaching true repentance.
- **2 Corinthians 7:8-11.** Beware of worldly sorrow. Thoroughly examine godly sorrow, because it leads to repentance and salvation.
- **2nd Timothy 2:24-26.** Pray for God to open your eyes (“grant you repentance”), to know the truth, and to escape the snare of the devil.

- Additional Helpful Scriptures:**
- Luke 16:19-31
  - Acts 3:19-20
  - Acts 28:25-28
  - Hebrews 12:1-2
  - Romans 2:4
  - Acts 5:30-31; 11:18
  - Luke 19:1-10 vs. Luke 18:18-30
  - Col 2:20-23 v. Titus 2:11-12

