

Introduction:

- Following up with last Tuesday night in the presence of a jealous God.
- Why is repentance a necessary part of our daily walk with God?
- Repentance is not a sin consciousness as many people think. It is a God consciousness that is so sensitive to Him that every glimpse of His holiness do not bring shame but transformation in that I am given opportunity to go deeper in Him.
- Repent - is the preparation for the Lord's coming. "prepare the way for the Lords coming." JTB

I. Repentance Understood

- A. Repentance - Basically has four parts: (1) Godly sorrow/conviction; (2) A change of course/direction. Literally a change of thought/mind; (3) A turning to God; (4) A walking with a mindset that leads to Godly actions. Change of mind that brings change of action.
1. νοιεω - to direct ones mind to.
 2. μετανοιεω - means to change ones mind. To changes ones understanding.
 3. If it sees that the former understanding was wrong it means to regret the former thought and to have remorse/pain associated with it. Therefore change to a new understanding.
 4. To not want to repent is pride and selfishness. To remain there will keep you from being able to travail over your family, a city, a state and nation. You will be calloused unable to sense the heart of God.
- B. Repentance is a turning to God as God is turning to us.
1. John the Baptist and Jesus both preached this as an imperative command!
 2. It is not a suggestion or a partial entry. It is an unconditional decision, a once-for-all turning to God in total obedience.
- C. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin. *"And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment."* (John 16:8, NLT)
1. convict - Gr. it means "to show people their sins and summon them to repentance," either privately (Mt. 18:15) or congregationally (1 Tim. 5:20). Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT (p. 222). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
 2. To shine the light upon sin. Making it visible thereby calling men to repent. Conviction happens when:
 - a) Under the prophetic call/spotlight. Mt 3:19; Is 6 Woe is me.
 - b) Under the word or law or divine instruction Heb 12:5, James 2:9
- D. The Gate To Christ
1. It was John Wesley who wrote: *"It is generally supposed, that repentance and faith are the one gate of religion (Salvation); that they are necessary only at the beginning of our Christian course, when we are setting out in the way to the kingdom."*
 - a) It is true that salvation comes through repentance and faith. We repent of trusting in ourselves or the gods we had worshipped and we turn to the living God. We put our faith in Him and we are saved by grace. The proof of our salvation are the works that follow having put our faith in Him.
 - b) This is how repentance is preached and mostly understood in the body of Christ. But that is as Wesley said, "Only the beginning." Most people enter at the beginning and

really do not think about repentance again until they need some really 'big forgiveness.'

c) But Hebrew 6:1 refers to moving beyond the foundation of repentance.

II. The Continuing Gate

- A. Wesley went on to say: *"And this repentance and faith are full as necessary, in order to our continuance and growth in grace, as the former faith and repentance were, in order to our entering into the kingdom of God.* Each time we enter the presence of our holy God, the fear of the Lord calls us into a place soul searching. IE. John in Revelation fell overcome by God's holy presence.
1. Isaiah was another one who fell before a holy God crying out for cleansing.
 2. The closer we get to God, the deeper our relationship goes the more we need the Spirit to lead us into an ever deepening place of repentance.
- B. I refer to this repentance as a Spirit of repentance because it is the Holy Spirit that is doing the work. *"The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing."* (1 Corinthians 12:9, NLT) I am praying...Fill me Lord with the Spirit of Repentance so that I can truly repent and deeply Know You in the Mighty Name of Jesus...
1. Look at the 7 churches of Revelation. Five of them were in need of repentance. Somewhere along the way they lost the desire of intimacy with God.
 2. Therefore 5 of 7 churches are called to repentance. If we just sit ourselves among most any church group today and see if we get a sense of the Spirit of Repentance among the people I think we will find very little. We will find declarations, spiritual pride, strength in understanding, but very little brokenness and weeping.
 3. I am not referring here to have a sin consciousness. Rather the opposite. It is an extreme God consciousness that weeps over sin, whether our own or that of our nation.
 - a) In Joel 2:12-13, the Lord calls to Israel, *"return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments."*
 - b) David reminds us that God does not delight so much in the outward signs of repentance (which included making a sacrifice), but *"the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise"* (PS 51:17).
 - c) We're not talking about the shame and condemnation the enemy wants to heap on us, but a godly grief. Does your repentance look like a heart that has been rent like a garment, broken and contrite as it beats before God?
 - d) This attitude is missing from most repentance, and it's the very thing God is trying to teach us!
- C. To not walk in a spirit of repentance is to take one's sin lightly. This is the danger of hyper grace. This is the danger of the 5 of 7 churches in Revelation 2 and 3.

III. Obtaining a Spirit of Repentance

- A. First, we simply need to ask for it. True repentance is from God that we might know truth. (2 Tim 2:25). So we simply ask God grant to us true repentance.

- B. Second ask for more genuine glimpses of His glory. The more we have the less we will scorn that glory. When I encounter His glory I want more.
- C. We must also be aware of one of the biggest hindrances to obtaining a broken heart: our neglect of the relational aspect of sinning.
 - 1. By this, I mean that we can view sin as a failure of performance rather than a failure of intimacy.
 - 2. The only grief we experience is disappointment in our inability to do what is right, and not that we have "despised" the living God (2 Sam 12:9).
- D. Third, true repentance comes not merely by understanding the relational aspect of sin, but by understanding the nature of the One with whom we are in relationship.
 - 1. In other words, the more we see God as glorious and holy, the more we will see sin as something to weep over.
 - 2. Repentance is less about feeling bad over behavior, and more about feeling awe and delight towards God. Again, the more glimpses we have of the glory of God, the more we mourn for scorning that glory.

Conclusion:

- What is the difference between guilt and repentance? Feeling bad (guilt) does not change anything. Repentance does! It changes our heart, our actions and our view to see as God sees.
- Therefore I cry out to the Lord to grant me the Spirit of Repentance and the Spirit of Intercession so that I can repent, truly repent from my heart, from the things in me which the Lord is showing me that I needed to be repenting from—the things in me that were not pleasing to Him that He was bringing to my attention...This is a Spirit of repentance.