

God's Call to Repentance, Part 1



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

KEY WORDS: *repent, repentance, godly sorrow, repenting of what we are, sin defined.*

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Summary for part 1: *Have you and I really repented? Are you certain? All who won't repent fully will perish, Jesus said. Will you join me in this quest to answer God's call for us all to come to full, true, deep repentance? We'll define repentance, what we repent of, how often we must repent, what sin really is, and how we change for real. May God anoint your listening and lead you to full, true repentance.*

Hello everyone. I really appreciate you coming to our site. And those of you who let others know about our Light on the Rock site.

Have you deeply and truly repented of all your sins in a godly repentance? If we don't correctly repent, then our sins aren't forgiven and we will perish. But if we do truly repent, our future is BRIGHT.

John the Baptist's ministry began with a message of deep repentance. And Jesus/Yeshua preached repentance when he began his ministry and all the way to the end, repentance was a major topic, along with the kingdom of God.

Matthew 4:17

"From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**"

You may feel you've repented but I hope you'll listen to this anyway. I'm confident you'll hear a few things that will prick your heart too. This started as a topic for ME first, some months ago and I learned a lot.

When Jesus was criticized for eating and fellowshiping with known sinners – yes, that's what our Savior did, He spent time with known "bad people". Imagine that. Holy Son of God with sinners. He defined his purpose:

Matthew 9:12-13

When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' **For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**"

When I was in working my way through College in England as a painter, we used to say to one another "Repaint, you thinner". So that was a joke, but repentance is no joke.

And if we all don't repent, we will ALL perish (Luke 13:1-5), Jesus said. ALL of us must repent, or perish. So it's very serious.

Why is that? If we don't repent, that means we're not acknowledging our sins or accepting Christ as our Redeemer, and we're still in our sins and must pay the death penalty.

Christ's blood will cover only sins that have been repented of in a godly repentance, which I'll define later in this sermon. Sins repented of in a worldly repentance will not be seen as repentance.

Godly repentance leads to salvation but worldly sorrow leads only to death (2 Cor. 7:10-11). So we gotta get this right. Remorse by itself will not be seen as true repentance.

Welcome brothers and sisters. I'm Philip, a repentant reforming sinner, now God's son, who really wants to live God's way, but like YOU, I still battle the carnal nature I still have – even though God's given you and me his very own divine nature as well (2 Peter 1:4).

We CAN defeat the carnal nature we still have and bear much righteous fruit if we keep in constant contact with our King Jesus the Messiah (Gal. 5:16). I'll really go into that in our Part 2 on Repentance. WE all still sin even after repentance, as I'll show you.

Jesus continued to make repentance a top topic even after his resurrection:

Luke 24:46-47

Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that REPENTANCE and remission of sins should be preached in His name to ALL nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Of course after preaching about Jesus on the day of Pentecost, when the crowd was pricked to their heart by hearing they had killed the Messiah and asked what they can do, Peter said this:

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, "REPENT, and let every one of you be baptized **in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."**

Notice Peter does not say "be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit". Some words were added by Constantine to **Matthew 28:19**. You may want to hear my sermon "Into whom were you baptized?" in every single case of baptism recorded in the New Testament, they always baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Every single time.

And if you look up the word "repent" and "repentance", you'll see how this topic came up a lot in the early church's preaching.

Peter explained that GOD wants to *GIVE REPENTANCE* to us. **GIVE repentance, not just forgiveness. Romans 2:4 also says that GOD is the one who**

leads us to repentance. So our very ability to repent is from our loving God. Here's what Peter said to the council of priests:

Acts 5:30-31

"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. 31 Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to **GIVE repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins**".

So God actually gives repentance. Even when God had Peter preach and baptize the Gentile centurion CORNELIUS, it was such a big deal that Gentiles received the Holy Spirit as well, that the early believers said this upon hearing Peter's testimony:

Acts 11:18

When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then **God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to LIFE.**"

Remember, God does not delight in punishing us. So he leads us to what we need to do—really repent – and then grants us true repentance as we respond – opening the door to his Spirit and into his kingdom. Repentance is a wonderful thing. Repentance is beautiful to God. It's not at all a negative. It restores relationship with God. The sin is repugnant, but repentance is wonderful to God.

2 Peter 3:9 Intl Standard Version

"The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some people understand slowness, but is being patient with you. He does not want ANYONE to perish, but **wants EVERYONE to repent.**"

Some of you feel very bad for the very evil things you've done. You could start assuming God wouldn't want you in his kingdom. Remember he grants repentance, and LEADS us to repentance. **NO MATTER HOW BAD you've been, he loves you and wants you in his kingdom -- IF You TRULY REPENT first.** No matter how bad your sins have been of the past, you are included in the "EVERYONE" whom God wants to repent. Be sure to study Part 2 of this sermon. But many of us would think of some names in history who WE decide are too bad to ever end up in God's kingdom.

God sees repentance as a very, very good thing. It opens the door to LIFE eternal with God, and it's the start of a wonderful relationship with Jesus and our Father. **He** wants everyone – you heard it – everyone to repent. **We** should want everyone to repent and be accepted too! But I'm sure there are some names through history many of us would prefer not to have to deal with in God's kingdom. That is not God's attitude.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "REPENT"?

REPENTANCE DEFINED in its SIMPLEST FORM: confessing YOUR SINS TO GOD and asking for His forgiveness. The Greek and Hebrew for "repent" **both have to do with TURNING around, turning back to God** and to start obeying him. And yes, there are verses that say to **confess** our sins or trespasses to God and one another also and that's tied to healing (**James 5:16**). But who's doing that? Who is confessing their sins to others? Catholics might, to their priests. But who else is doing this?

If we profess to be in Christ – we must stop walking in darkness.

1 John 1:6-9

“If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and *walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.* 7 But **if we walk in the light** as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from ALL sin.**

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness”.**

ALL our sin and evil you and I have ever done, *no matter how bad*, is all washed away when we deeply repent. People might not forgive you, but the One who counts, has forgiven. But we can't “walk in darkness” and profess to be in Christ (v 7). Big ugly sin has to stop. Forgiveness does not take away the consequences of sin, except the consequence of the penalty of death. David was spared death, but he had many other consequences.

If you continue reading into **1 John 2:1-2**, you'll see Yeshua/Jesus even comes to our defense as our advocate in heaven's courts when we sin. In the new covenant, when we sin after conversion, or if we go astray or get lost, our Savior comes looking for us finds us and celebrates. And if we sin, He defends us!

And remember **John 10:28-29** says that nobody can take us from God's hands once we're there. No one!

Then repentance does include being very SORRY for the sins committed, and we ask God to forgive us. Our hearts are rending. **Then we ask God to help us commit to change and to LIVE by HIS way, HIS righteousness going forward**, though we and He know we'll stumble.

So we pray, “Lead us not into temptation, *but deliver us from the evil one.*” *We need to ask God to help us defeat temptation. And we fill our minds with what's godly, like His Word.* We keep in constant contact with God – with short contacts 10-20-30 times a day opening the door to His presence. We ask Jesus to come into our hearts and lives. When we do we will not even have nearly the same unrighteous temptations happening. (More on the audio). If we let the world feed our minds with social media, sinful movies, etc. – then we're feeding evil and we'll sin! But feed on God's word and even spiritual songs and hymns instead.

Repenting is to TURN around and go back to God. It's the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-31) who brought his family name into the mud. He squandered everything he had. *The Prodigal son story is my story and if you're honest, probably your story too.* (More on the audio). Notice how HAPPY God was to have his shameful son back home again. I'm not sure all of the rest of us fathers would have been so happy and welcoming.

The song “**When God ran**” is so powerful. Please watch this 5 minute music video: [WHEN GOD RAN | MUSIC VIDEO | WITH LYRICS - Bing video](#)

END TIME people told to REPENT

JOEL 2: In **Joel 2**, look what God tells us about these end times we're in. A great army is attacking and sacking the whole area. God then tells his people...a great description of deep, heartfelt repentance. When was the last time you and I repented like this? Have you fasted in repentance?

Joel 2:12-14

"Now, therefore," says YHVH, "**TURN TO ME** with **all your heart**,
With FASTING, with WEEPING, and with mourning."

13 So REND YOUR HEART, and not your garments;

RETURN to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful,

Slow to anger, and of great kindness;

And He relents from doing harm.

14 Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him,

A grain offering and a drink offering for YHVH your God?

Joel 2:15-16

"Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a FAST, Call a sacred assembly;

16 Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders,

Gather the children and nursing babes;

Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, And the bride from her dressing room."

The message to us: "whatever you're doing now, STOP – and go repent. *Everyone*, go repent!" NOTHING is more important for you and me at this time, than to repent.

To the 7th church in Rev 2-3 – LAODICEA, Christ is pictured as having already arrived, already knocking on their DOOR. A very "end time" message. What was His message to that end time group? REPENT. Change and become ZEALOUS. That's probably spoken to us.

Revelation 3:18-21 (THIS IS FROM The SON OF GOD)

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be ZEALOUS and REPENT.

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

21 **To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."**

DOES A TRULY REPENTANT PERSON STILL SIN?

All my life I've heard ministers preach that if we are truly repentant, we stop sinning. One said, "repentance is a commitment to stop sinning". In a way it is, when we repent we are telling God we don't want to keep on sinning. But when someone does sin again, does that mean they hadn't really repented? Ponder that.

And yet I guarantee you that every single person on this planet, including the ministers who say "if you ever repeat a sin, you haven't repented of it" – every single one of them still sin! Including coveting, lying, sabbath breaking, etc. And you

still do, and I still do. And Paul says, in Romans 7 that *even he* still sinned! Are you more righteous than Paul?

The problem is that RARELY do I hear any minister admit that he still has to fight temptations and even sin or struggle with bad attitudes. I know people like to feel their preacher is far more righteous than they. But Paul was not above admitting he still sinned at times. And yet we know Paul also repented.

There's an interesting exchange between Peter and Yeshua. Peter asked how often he had to forgive a brother who kept sinning. Let's read this and WHY would Jesus give the answer he did?

Matthew 18:21-22

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, **but up to seventy times seven.**"

Luke 17:3-4

"Take heed to yourselves. **If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.** 4 And if he sins against you ***SEVEN times in a DAY, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him.***"

The Luke example is someone coming to you asking forgiveness seven times in ONE DAY. Jesus says: "Yes, forgive him". But many ministers would say that person clearly had NOT repented. They should take this up with Christ, I guess, because that clearly is not what Jesus Christ teaches.

WHY would Jesus say such a thing? I think it was because Jesus KNOWS HE has to forgive US over and over and over in our lifetimes too. Sometimes for the same things, so if we are in Christ, we must do the same to one another and not just accuse them of having NOT truly repented because they still kept sinning. You know YOU still sin even after repenting. We all do frankly. Though hopefully the worst and biggest sins become something in the past.

This notion which a few teach that a man or woman who claims to have repented, will never sin again, cannot be true. Even the father of the faithful -**Abraham** – gave up his wife to a king's harem not once but twice (Genesis 12:10-20 to Pharaoh, and in Genesis 20 to Abimelech). Sarah was with Abimelech for many weeks or months, as it took time to become apparent that none of Abimelech's wives could get pregnant (Gen 20:17-18). Sarah also lied.

Even super-righteous **Apostle Paul** admitted "that which I hate, I still do" – and he said it TWICE. (Romans 7:15-20).

Romans 7:15-20, especially v. 15, 19.

"For what I am doing, I do not understand. **For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.**

16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. 17 **But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.** 18 For I know that in me

(that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.

19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.”

Is it a **bit disappointing for Paul to say that? Or maybe it's reassuring that we're not so unusual?** As he goes on to say, if we are IN Christ, we are not condemned but are measured for salvation by the life of *Christ as HE is now our life (Col 3:3-4)*. Our faith is in HIM and his resurrection life being lived anew in us as Gal. 2:20 says. And yet we still also will be rewarded by our works. Reward is reward; not salvation. We're not saved by our works but by faith and grace (Eph 2:8-10), FOR good works.

I believe we should be asking forgiveness every day, because by God's standard, I'm sure we all fall short every day. “Forgive us our sins as we forgive our debtors” – in “the Lord's prayer. In the Old Covenant, they offered sacrifices twice a day too, which pictured repentance and asking forgiveness.

BUT having shown we still sin, sinning as our way OF LIFE must stop or we won't be in God's kingdom. Slip ups and so on do still happen, but they must be, at most, a slip up and not a way of life. Notice 1 Cor. 6. We have to become righteous, as our way of life, letting Christ live in us.

When we deeply repent we are washed, sanctified and justified in Jesus' name.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, **nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.**

11 And such WERE some of you. But you were WASHED, but you were SANCTIFIED, but you were JUSTIFIED in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

“Such WERE some of you”. We have to make our past way of life of sins – a *past* way of life. “Such WERE some of you...” or we just won't be in the kingdom of God. But just realize, even the righteous can still slip up.

Even **righteous LOT** got so drunk 2 nights in a row that he committed incest with his 2 daughters (**Gen 19:30-38**). He offered his daughters to the mob before that. But even then he was called “righteous Lot” (2 Peter 2:7).

God does not spare the heroes of the Bible. **Judah** had sex with a woman he thought was a whore, but it was his daughter-in-law Tamar (**Genesis 38:11-26**). I could go on and on forever with the reported sins of Samson, Gideon, Moses, Aaron, Miriam – on and on. **Peter** – many years after conversion – was a HYPOCRITE, Paul said, on the way he treated Gentiles at times (Galatians 2:11-13).

Jacob – Israel – summarized his life this way to Pharaoh:

Genesis 47:8-9

Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How old are you?"

9 And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years; **few *and evil* have been the days of the years of my life**, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage."

The one renamed "ISRAEL" – prince/overcomer with God – said his life was "evil". *Oh that the rest of us could be so honest. Why aren't we? ****
Yes, I – like Paul and so many others – still struggle with my carnal nature, and YOU do too. In Part 2 we will talk about the main way I've found in scripture that works, that when we do it, our carnal nature is subdued and our thoughts and actions on those days are righteous.

And the point is – our faith and trust must be in Christ, not in ourselves or in any man or woman. Men and women will fail us. We will find our carnal nature much more subdued when we practice "constant contact" with Christ, that I introduced a few months ago.

I would hope that the most serious of sins like murder, adultery, fornication, other sex sins, lying, stealing, idolatry, profanity, drunkenness, being a terrible gossip (saying and listening) which is murder or character assassination. I hope these and so many more cantotally stop.

I'll bet that we all have to admit we fall short, but our faith is in Christ and in his life covering us.

So in REPENTANCE we CONFESS, ACKNOWLEDGE our sins to God, and ask him to wash them away by the blood of Jesus, and ask Jesus to live more powerfully in us going forward – and all our sins are erased, atoned for, and cleansed. Jesus also defends us in the courts of heaven.

And when we REPENT – in heaven they're CELEBRATING. So when you repent, *we don't have to remain in a state of moping and despair.* We would tend to think that God's joy would be in obedient and righteous people, but God actually rejoices more over a sinner who turns around and repents.

Luke 15:7 – when the lost sheep was found

"I say to you that likewise there will be **more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents** than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance."

Luke 15:9-10

And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!' 10 Likewise, I say to you, **there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.**"

Ezekiel 18:23

"Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says YHVH God, "and not that he **should TURN from his ways and live?**"

But there are people here on earth who won't allow someone repentance. They don't believe he or she really repented, or even if he did, his sin – in their minds – *is so evil*

that they don't want "his kind" around. That must stop too. Whom God forgives, we must also forgive. Please **read 2 Corinthians 2**, where Paul orders the church to bring back that sex pervert who had repented, lest he drown in too much sorrow.

So WHAT do we repent OF?

What do we repent of? Most of you will immediately respond with "SIN". And that's correct. But let me review the scriptures on what SIN IS – as it is *much broader* than just breaking God's law. So here goes; *or pause the sermon and see how many definitions of sin you can come up with.* I'll also give you a definition of sin I rarely hear.

**** Yes, sin is the breaking of the law: (more in the audio)**

1 John 3:4 KJV

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."

– sin is lawlessness. (MOST translations have it this way)

Contemporary English version: "Sin is the same as breaking God's law".

Several say, "sin is disobedience".

In Romans 7:7-13 Paul identifies sin as breaking GOD'S law. He mentions coveting, and how when he coveted, he was sinning. So transgressing God's law, and especially the 10 commandments, is sin.

What else can you think of is sin to be repented of?

**** Sin includes NOT doing the good you know to do.**

James 4:17 NKJV

"He who knows to do good, and does it not, to him it is sin."

James 4:17 English Standard Version

"So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."

**** Here's more: whatever is not done in confident faith, is sin**

Romans 14:23 NKJV

"But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; **for whatever is not from faith is sin.**"

Rom. 14:23 ESV

"But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. **For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.**"

For example, if a person would be offended to drink wine, whether it's right or wrong according to the Bible, he should not drink wine in his case.

So are you finding some things to repent of? Can you think of any other definitions of sin?

**** One more definition of sin before the really big one:**

1 John 5:17

"ALL unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death."

Other translations have “all wrongdoing is sin” (NIV, ESV). So all of us might be sinning more than we realize.

Now let's move to what's probably the BIGGEST thing to repent of!

Repenting of sin includes REPENTING OF WHAT WE ARE

This next one is a definition of sin that many have failed to fully see. It's convicted me a lot over the years: Repenting of what we ARE.

Instead of repenting of the sins we did –for example, “I LIED” – it's much DEEPER to humble yourself and admit, “Father, forgive me, for I AM a LIAR”. Instead of repenting for having lied, how about repenting of being a LIAR. “Lord, have mercy on me - a LIAR.” It doesn't have to be a big, serious lie – just any time you're saying something and anything untrue.

We're not even going to change what we ARE until we recognize and confess out loud what we are. Look at what it says about Satan.

John 8:44

“You are of your father the Devil...He was a murderer from the beginning...because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources....**for he IS a liar** and the father of it.”

ADMITTING, “Father, I AM a liar” is so difficult but it's purifying. It's deeper and stronger than asking forgiveness because you lied.

We DO the sins we do because we are a certain person. Liars lie. Hot tempered people lose their temper. Lustful people are adulterers – whether they end up in bed or not. Sinners sin. When you can see, admit, confess and repent of what you ARE... you've taken a HUGE step to overcoming too! Focus on repenting of being a liar, rather than having lied.

ALSO REMEMBER however, that we must not REMAIN liars, adulterers or whatever we once were. And when we have repented, we can put those in PAST TENSE as I read in 1 Cor. 6:9-11 – “Such WERE some of you”. Put even the unspeakable sins behind us. I don't think God wants us thinking the rest of our lives that we still are a liar, sex sinner or drunk.

This is NOT a case of “once a liar, always a liar”, though I'd caution us all, that whatever was a problem in the past, we must avoid situations that can resurrect that sinful problem. Let's keep it in the past. Alcoholics can go 30 years without a drink, and must remain on their guard. Sex addicts, same thing. We'd like to point to the years of being clean, but sin can come back especially when they were addictions or being a certain way.

When we repent, it's really hard to confess to God or anyone – for example it's hard to admit and say for example: “I am a cheat. I am a thief. I am careless with God's laws. I'm an alcoholic (the first thing in AA – must admit what you are). Or I'm a gossip.” (Much more on the audio)

When counseling for baptism, I want people to see and admit they could commit any sin under all the pressures that could be laid on them. And I want them to understand repenting of "what you ARE".

Remember the Pharisee and Publican (tax collector) who went to the temple to pray? DO you remember what each said? The Pharisee bragged about how good he was compared to others. But start in VERSE 13 for the tax collector.

Luke 18:9-14

"Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 **The Pharisee** stood and prayed thus with himself, '**God, I thank You that I am not like other men** — extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me A SINNER!'

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified [made right with God] rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Who ELSE repented of what they are? JOB! On the surface, he seemed perfect! But when he came face to face to God, look what happens:

Job 40:1-4 NKJV

Moreover YHVH answered Job, and said:

2 "Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him?
He who rebukes God, let him answer it."

3 Then Job answered YHVH and said:

4 "**Behold, I AM VILE; What** shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth."

Here's a great example of repenting of what we ARE. Also Job 42:6. Have you ever said this to God? "Father, I am VILE"?

Job 42:1-6

Then Job answered YHVH and said:

2 "I know that You can do everything,
And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.
3 You asked, '*Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?*'
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
4 Listen, please, and let me speak;
You said, 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.'

5 "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear
But now my eye sees You.

6 Therefore I abhor MYSELF, And repent in dust and ashes."

We don't repent of just sin. We repent of what CAUSED the sin: what we are carnally; sinners, liars, etc. So the other thing we repent of is "self". We've heard that before, but I've been focusing much more on that. This will be very HUMBLING if you would take me up and start repenting of what you ARE.

God cannot lie because it is not his nature to lie. He must always speak truth. A mouse can't crow because crowing is not in a mouse's nature either. You and I do these things because it is our human nature to lie, steal, covet etc. Is there any good in the self before God's spirit comes in to us?

Can you admit to being a thief? Did you report your taxes entirely honestly? Do you never take anything home from the office that doesn't belong to you? Do you always, without fail, check out every grocery item every time in the self-checkout lanes? DO you use the boss' time at work by gabbing on the phone for personal calls too much?

When I counsel for baptism, I like to ask people a few things.

1. **Can you ever see yourself LYING?** How about committing adultery? Or even murdering someone?

I'm trying to get people to see that under extreme pressures, and stressors – we can all do just about anything. Peter couldn't imagine denying Christ, but under the circumstances he did. Then wept bitterly (Matt. 26:75).

2. **Are you a gossip? Have you ever gossiped?** We gossip because we're gossips, and we need to repent of what we ARE. Listening to gossip is part of gossiping. (Story on audio).

Then put that into the past tense. You are a child of God now. But now you are WASHED from those things, and SANCTIFIED as 1 Cor. 6:9-11 says. --11 **"And such WERE some of you. But you were WASHED, you were SANCTIFIED, you were JUSTIFIED in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."**

BIG WARNING: we can all slip back. So an alcoholic can overcome, but we should always be on dual alert to not slipping back. Same with sex sins of all types. We must be on full alert to keep our carnal nature out of our lives.

When we come to repentance, we have to come to see that God has to give us a completely whole NEW nature. It's not a rebuild – but a REPLACEMENT. God preserves much about our personality traits, but as far as goodness in the carnal self, God does not want to save a lot of that, if any. Our NEW NATURE is a new LIFE: IT'S Jesus HIMSELF, who becomes our life, as I've been preaching often recently (**Col. 3:3-4; Gal. 2:20, etc.**)

So now when God wants to make you and me completely new, it means liars now tell truth because Jesus won't lie. *Lustful people now become faithful*, and would never intentionally hurt someone by hurting their spouse or their family by sexual sin. Because Jesus won't cause that much hurt by sinning. And HE'S our new life – IF we ABIDE in him (**John 15:1-6**), and let Him IN to our lives and KEEP him inside you. **STAY IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH HIM.** But, sadly, since we still have the old nature as well as the new life of Christ, when we feed the old nature it still leads us to sin.

Example: where do you focus time? Do you watch porn on computer or TV? That's feeding old nature! Are you unkind when you have to wait? Are you honoring your wife? Do you respect and submit to your husband?

We're REPLACING old sinful conduct with a new pattern of life and conduct.

Remember what we said earlier? Repent means to turn back to God, to CHANGE, to be converted to live differently – or can we say we've really repented? We commit to overcoming sin. I don't mean stumbles, but if as a way of life we still live in a pattern of sin, we have to go back to God and beg him to help us truly, deeply repent and teach us how to use His Holy Spirit to help us change.

Now take your areas of weakness and sin, find the righteous opposite, and do that instead. We repent of the sin, and commit to doing the right things, which often are opposite what we had been doing.

Ephesians 4:25-32

"Therefore, putting away **lying**, "**Let each one of you speak truth** with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. 26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil.

28 **Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.** (goes beyond the "be warm, be filled" of **James 2:15-17**, "You'll be in my prayers" kind of jelly response we oft have),

29 Let **no corrupt word** proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

31 Let all **bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away** from you, with all malice. 32 And **be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one** another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

SO, today we covered:

- God is calling everyone he is calling now, to REPENT.
- BIG piece: repenting of what we ARE. Liars lie. "Forgive me God for being a liar."
- What repentance is – a complete turning to God, changing your life
- God leads us to Repentance and GIVES us repentance.
- God wants EVERYONE to repent, no one to perish (2 Pet 3:9)
- END time calls to repent – Joel 2 rend your heart, fast; Laodiceans.
- Lots of JOY in heaven when we repent; more than 99 righteous
- How we have to replace the old way with righteousness now.

Now that the foundation is laid, you will not want to miss part 2! Be sure to hear it if you want to deeply understand true godly repentance.

In Part 2, we'll cover

- **Some feel "what's the use? My sins are so bad** that surely God can't want me. And surely his people – the converted people – wouldn't want me around". What God says to people like that. You won't want to miss this. I think you'll find this part inspiring especially those of you with addictions to drugs, money, sex or whatever... you have great hope still.

- Godly Sorrow and repentance vs. the world's repentance; 2 Cor. 7
- The JOY of repentance we should feel, no matter how badly we've sinned
- We'll diagnose **Psalm 51**, David's exemplary prayer of repentance for the murder of Uriah and sin with Bathsheba.

- We'll cover also how to make the Divine Nature, the new spiritual creation, the primary "you" so we're not being tempted so much.
- We'll also analyze Paul's statement – that when he now sins, it's not HIM, but the old nature actually sinning. What does that mean? This is a doctrinal point we must understand.
- Also, we'll briefly discuss true repentance vs. the Catholic PENANCE idea.

CLOSING PRAYER