

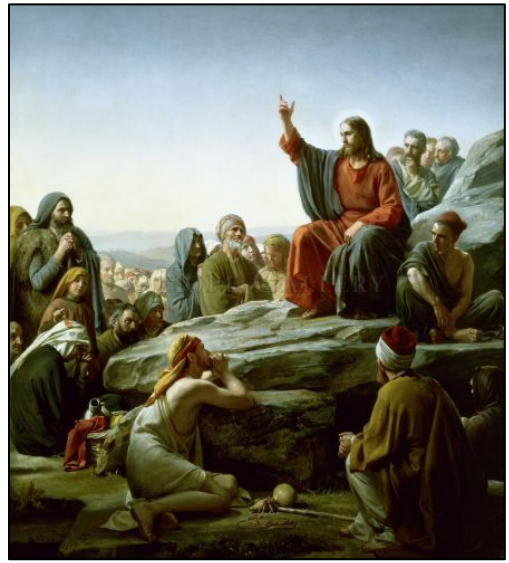


CHRISTIAN
UNION

Seven Keys to Kingdom Advancement

KEY THREE: SEEKING GOD LIFESTYLE: DEEP AND ONGOING REPENTANCE

May God's Kingdom Come



Matthew 6:9-10 - Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Sermon on the Mount, 1877
Carl H. Bloch



3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 4. Deep and Ongoing Repentance

We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.

Engaging in deep and ongoing repentance means a Christian is free from everything displeasing to God which attracts His presence and power for kingdom advancement.



Seven Keys to Kingdom Advancement

1. Aspiration and Desperation
2. Theological Foundations
3. **Seeking God Wholeheartedly**
4. Spiritual Practices
5. Supernatural Aspects
6. Impacting the Three Spheres
7. Leadership



3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 4. Deep and Ongoing Repentance

Seeking God Lifestyle

1. Humility with Help of Fasting
2. Fervent and Frequent Prayer
3. Massive Intake of Scripture
- 4. Deep and Ongoing Repentance**
5. Faithful Obedience
6. Strong Community
7. Relentless Perseverance



Seeking God Requires Deep and Ongoing Repentance

2 Chronicles 7:14 - Then the LORD appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³ When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, ¹⁴ if my people who are called by my name **humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways**, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.



Seeking God Requires Deep and Ongoing Repentance

2 Chronicles 15:2 - and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, “Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: **The Lord is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.**

Psalm 78:34 - When he killed them, **they sought him; they repented and sought God earnestly.**



Seeking God Requires Deep and Ongoing Repentance

Hosea 5:15 - I will return again to my place, until they **acknowledge their guilt and seek my face**, and in their distress **earnestly seek me**.

Micah 3:4 - Then they will cry to the LORD, but he will not answer them; he will hide his face from them at that time, **because they have made their deeds evil**.

Removing All Barriers to Revival



“The real barrier to revival is unconfessed sin”

Derek Prince (1915-2003)
Cambridge-educated International Bible Teacher

Repentance Needed in Revival



“If you see something men call a revival, and there is no conviction of sin, you may know at once that it is bogus.”

R. A. Torrey
Congregationalist Minister, Author and Revivalist



Deep and Ongoing Repentance

1. Introduction
2. Heart of Good Relationship
3. Three Aspects of Genuine Repentance
4. Repenting on Behalf of Self, Nation and Ancestors
5. Typical American Sins
6. Obstacles



Deep and Ongoing Repentance

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Essential Nature of Repentance

Can't pray or fast away the need to repent! Only repentance will suffice when there's unconfessed sin.

Fasting and prayer aids and increases the power of repentance, but does obviate the need for it.

Much of the Bible is written to persuade believers to repent, including the leaders.



Essential Nature of Repentance

Jeremiah 11:14 - Therefore **do not pray for this people** or lift up a cry or prayer on their behalf, for I will not listen when they call to me in the time of their trouble.

Jeremiah 14:11, 12 - The LORD said to me: “**Do not pray for the welfare of this people**. Though they fast, I will not hear their cry, and though they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them. But I will consume them by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence.”



Definition of Repentance

Repentance is a turn or return to faithful relationship with God from a former state of estrangement because of sin. When there's lack of full repentance, then we are only seeking God partially, and not wholeheartedly. As a result, God holds back His presence and blessing, so that we take notice and fully repent.

In Greek, the term for repentance is “μετάνοια” (metanoia). The word “μετάνοια” is derived from two Greek words: “μετά” (meta), meaning “after” or “beyond,” and “νοῦς” (nous), which translates to “mind” or “understanding.” Therefore, “μετάνοια” carries the connotation of a change of mind or a transformation of one's thinking.



Definition of Repentance

In the context of Christianity, “μετάνοια” specifically refers to repentance or the act of turning away from sin and turning towards God. It involves a genuine change of heart, a recognition of wrongdoing, and a desire to lead a righteous life. Repentance is considered a vital step in seeking forgiveness and reconciliation with God.



Repentance in Context of Relationship

A relationship with God has a particular shape to it, just as all relationships between people have shape to them. For example, a person can be in a thriving relationship with all the following, but the relationships look very different: father, mother, sibling, child, spouse, therapist, dentist, employer, employee, athletic coach, pastor, professor, student, etc. For Christians it can be damaging to misunderstand the shape of our relationship with God.



Relating to God

- God is sovereign Lord.
- God is holy and righteous.
- God is merciful and forgiving - Being His friend means He discloses info to us.
- God is a punisher of the wicked.



Reciprocity of Repentance

Zechariah 1:2-4 - “The LORD was very angry with your fathers. ³ Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: **Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.** ⁴ Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, **Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.**’ But they did not hear or pay attention to me, declares the LORD.”



Blessings of Repentance

Acts 3:19 - Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰ that **times of refreshing** may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus.

Acts 3:26 - God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to **bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.**



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3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 4. Deep and Ongoing Repentance

Ongoing repentance is at the heart of the New Covenant with continuous calls to repent from Matthew through Revelation.

Repentance needed to enter the kingdom and repentance needed to stay in the kingdom of God.



John the Baptist Prepares the Way

Matthew 3:1-3 - In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²“**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**” ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

First Doctrine Taught by Jesus



Mark 1:14, 15 - Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent and believe in the gospel.**”

Repenting Magdalene, 1637
Georges de la Tour



First Doctrine Taught by Disciples

Mark 7:6-13 - And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— ⁹ but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. ¹⁰ And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. ¹¹ And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹² So they went out and **proclaimed that people should repent**. ¹³ And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.



Great Commission

Luke 24:44-49 - Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,⁴⁷ and that **repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations**, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”



Peter's First Sermon to Jewish Diaspora

Acts 2:37-41 - Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”³⁸ And Peter said to them, “**Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins**, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Gentiles Too Need to Repent



Acts 11:18 - When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has **granted repentance that leads to life.**”

St. Peter Baptizing the Centurion Cornelius, 1709
 Francesco Trevisani



All Humanity Needs to Repent

Acts 17:29-31 - Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ **The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,** ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”



Review of Paul's Ministry to Ephesian Elders

Acts 20:17-21 - Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸ And when they came to him, he said to them: “You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of **repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.**



Paul Defends His Ministry Before Agrippa

Acts 26:19-23 - “Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,²⁰ but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that **they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.**²¹ For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me.²² To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass:²³ that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.”

Last Chance to Repent



Revelation 9:20, 21 - The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not **repent** of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, nor did they **repent** of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

The Triumph of Death, 1562
Pieter Bruegel



3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 4. Deep and Ongoing Repentance

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Repentance needed to enter the kingdom and repentance needed to stay in the kingdom of God.



Self Examine and Repent to Avoid Judgment

1 Corinthians 11:27-32 - Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ **Let a person examine himself**, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks **judgment** on himself. ³⁰ That is why many of you are **weak and ill, and some have died**. ³¹ But if we **judged** ourselves truly, we would not **be judged**. ³² But when **we are judged by the Lord**, we are **disciplined** so that we may not be condemned along with the world.



Ongoing Need for Repentance

1 John 1:5-10 - This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we 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 his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ **If we say 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. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.**



The Aim of Grace is Repentant Lifestyles

Titus 2:11-15 - For the **grace of God** has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,¹² training us to **renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives** in the present age,¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from **all lawlessness and to purify for himself** a people for his own possession who are **zealous for good works**.¹⁵ Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

Last Instructions to Christians in the New Testament



Revelation 2:5 (Ephesus) - Remember therefore from where you have fallen; **repent**, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you **repent**.

Revelation 2:16 (Pergamum) - Therefore **repent**. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.

Salvator Mundi, 1510
Leonardo Da Vinci

Last Instructions to Christians in the New Testament



Revelation 2:21, 22 (Thyatira) - I gave her time to **repent**, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. ²² Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they **repent** of her works,

Salvator Mundi, 1510
Leonardo Da Vinci

Last Instructions to Christians in the New Testament



Revelation 3:3 (Sardis) - Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and **repent**. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

Revelation 3:19 (Laodicea) - Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and **repent**.

Salvator Mundi, 1510
Leonardo Da Vinci



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Three Aspects of Genuine Repentance

1. **The Affective** - Full engagement of mind and heart for a full internal orientation
2. **The Expressive** - Oral declarations and other expressions of penitential desire
3. **The Behavioral** - Actual change in lifestyle and patterns of living



The Affective

The first of three aspects of genuine repentance is the affective, which is the full engagement of both the mind and heart for a full internal orientation.



Repentance Entails a Change in the Mind

Matthew 21:28-32 - “What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’²⁹ And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went.³⁰ And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go.³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward **change your minds and believe him.**



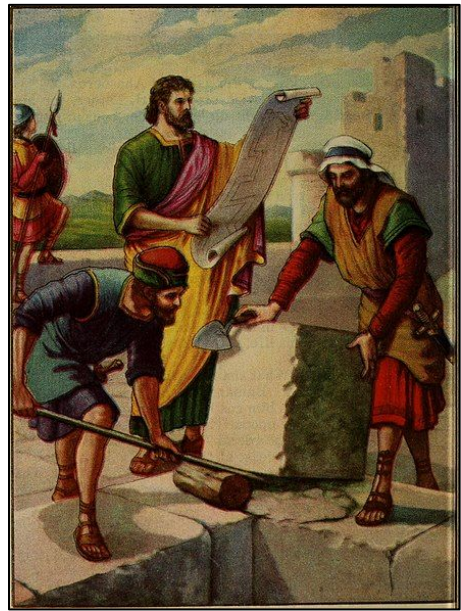
Affective Also Entails Emotion

Repenting of sin must hit our emotional core.

This is not solely an intellectual experience.

*Anguish: agony, mourning, sadness, distress, sorrow, woe, grief,
heartbreak, despondency, torment*

Nehemiah Weeping 120 Days



Nehemiah 1:1-11 - The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel,² that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem.³ And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.”

Nehemiah Rebuilding Jerusalem, 1919
Adolf Hult



Nehemiah Weeping 120 Days

Nehemiah 1:1-11 (cont'd) - ⁴ As soon as I heard these words **I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.** ⁵ And I said, “O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, **confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father’s house have sinned.** ⁷ **We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses.**



Nehemiah Weeping 120 Days

Nehemiah 1:1-11 (cont'd) - ⁸ Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, ⁹but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.’ ¹⁰They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. ¹¹O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.” Now I was cupbearer to the king.



Grieving Over Sin - Turning Laughter to Mourning

James 4:7-10 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ **Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.** ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.



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Expressive Aspect of Repentance

Whether in prayer or speech, including admission of sin and culpability, declaration of divine justice, and also possibly various rites including sacrifice, fasting, sackcloth or baptism

- **Confession** - Declarations to God or others of guilt and the desire to align with God - “Confession” sometimes means this expressive part of repentance, or sometimes the term is used synonymously.



Expressive Aspect of Repentance

- **Sackcloth** - Covering oneself with sackcloth
- **Fasting** - Fasting is an act of self-humbling, but is also an expression of repentance
- **Baptism** - Immersion in water representing the New Birth
- **Body Expressions** - Includes throwing oneself down, tearing one's clothes, pulling out one's hair, bowing, and weeping



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3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 4. Deep and Ongoing Repentance

Repentance Means Changed Behavior

- New lifestyle or conduct
- Possible making amends in speech or actions



Repentance Means Changed Behavior

Luke 3:7-9 - He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ **Bear fruits in keeping with repentance.** And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”



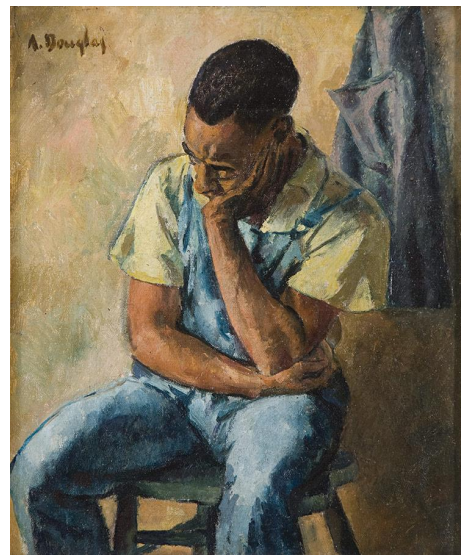
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Repentance Means Changed Behavior

Acts 26:20 - “but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should **repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.**”

Romans 16:25-26 - Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to **my gospel** and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the **obedience of faith**

Returning to Yahweh Himself



Repenting as a Christian - When we repent, it's more than just rejecting bad behavior and embracing good behavior. It's a process of reconciliation and overcoming an estrangement between ourselves and the one true God.

Seated Man with Head Resting, 1935
Aaron Douglas



Timing of Behavior Change

*It's expected that a person's behavior will change when they repent,
but it's hard to say how much and how fast.*



Factors Which May Hinder Behavior Change

1. **Misunderstanding of God** -The Christian has embraced a caricature of God and are lacking in key doctrinal teachings.
2. **Unresolved Wounds and Curses** - Wounds and demonization need to be fully resolved, so there needs to be room for healing and deliverance.
3. **Lack of Robust Devotions** - To be strong in the Lord and His mighty power, Christians must diligently seek God through robust Scripture immersion, prayer, fasting and ongoing repentance and obedience.



Factors Which May Hinder Behavior Change

4. **Lack of Christian Community** - Without a strong Christian community for encouragement and accountability, success is difficult.
5. **Need for Removal from Temptation or Hindrances** - A person's friendships, circumstances and habits may need to change so as to remove hindrances and temptations.
6. **Lack of Sacrificial Posture** - Christians must be willing to make significant sacrifices as needed.



Accepting the Repentance of Others

In developing a climate of repentance in one's family, church or ministry, accepting the repentance of others shows that it's a good action to take. If a person repents and other pile on, bring more accusation, demand they repent again and again in certain, specific ways, then all learn very fast that it's better never to admit sin. We are not to engage in Christian "struggle sessions."



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Repenting Corporately and on Behalf of Ancestors



Daniel 9:1-23 - In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans—² in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.³ Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.



Repenting Corporately and on Behalf of Ancestors

Daniel 9:1-23 (cont'd) - ⁴ I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁵ **we have sinned** and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. ⁶ We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. ⁷ To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you.



Repenting Corporately and on Behalf of Ancestors

Daniel 9:1-23 (cont'd) - ⁸ To us, O LORD, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you. ⁹ To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him ¹⁰ and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. ¹¹ **All Israel has transgressed your law** and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. And the curse and oath that are written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him. ¹² He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us and against our rulers who ruled us, by bringing upon us a great calamity. For under the whole heaven there has not been done anything like what has been done against Jerusalem.



Repenting Corporately and on Behalf of Ancestors

Daniel 9:1-23 (cont'd) - ¹³ As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this calamity has come upon us; yet we have not entreated the favor of the LORD our God, turning from our iniquities and gaining insight by your truth. ¹⁴ Therefore the LORD has kept ready the calamity and has brought it upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in all the works that he has done, and we have not obeyed his voice. ¹⁵ And now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day, we have sinned, we have done wickedly. ¹⁶ “O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger and your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy hill, because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and your people have become a byword among all who are around us.



Repenting Corporately and on Behalf of Ancestors

Daniel 9:1-23 (cont'd) - ¹⁷ Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. ¹⁸ O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. ¹⁹ O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name.”



Repenting Corporately and on Behalf of Ancestors

Daniel 9:1-23 (cont'd) -²⁰ While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the LORD my God for the holy hill of my God,²¹ while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice.²² He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, “O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding.²³ At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision.



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Predominant Sins at Different Times and Places

- Time of the Judges pertaining to Israel?
- Isaiah pertaining to the surrounding nations as well as Israel and Judah?
- Jeremiah pertaining to the surrounding nations as well as Judah?
- Book of Haggai pertaining to Judah?
- Gospels pertaining to Jewish leadership?
- Newly formed churches, such a in Corinth
- Churches in Book of Revelation?

Look at the Scriptures and look at your culture, and fast and pray, asking God.



Prevalent Sins in America in and out of the Church

- Lack of Christian Unity including Unforgiveness, Taking of Offense, Lack of Submission, and More
- Lovers of Self, Money, Comfort, and Pleasure (sexuality and gluttony). A Lifestyle of Self-Indulgence
- Shedding of Innocent Blood
- Unbelief



Deep and Ongoing Repentance

1. Introduction
2. Heart of Good Relationship
3. Three Aspects of Genuine Repentance
4. Repenting on Behalf of Self, Nation and Ancestors
5. Typical American Sins
6. **Obstacles**



3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 4. Deep and Ongoing Repentance

Obstacles

- Deceitfulness of Heart
- Takes Time
- Not focusing on specific, most important sins
- Forgetting the importance and power of repentance - times of refreshing
- Needed with fervent prayer and fasting



Why Do We Not Repent?

- Love for God Has Grown Cold
- Love for Others Has Grown Cold
- Blinded, Proud, Deceived, and Foolish
- Have Forgotten How Wicked Sin Is

Human Blindness to the Need for Repentance



*Quod Est Veritas -
Christ and Pilate, 1890*
Nikolai Ge

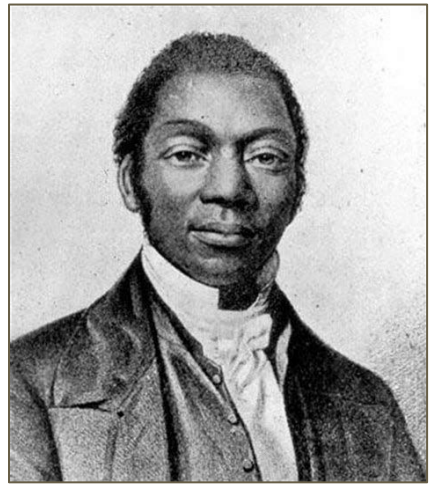
Luke 13:1-9 - There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³ No, I tell you; but **unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.**



Human Blindness to the Need for Repentance

Luke 13:1-9 (cont'd) - ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; **but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.**” ⁶And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ ⁸And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

Hearts Are Often Deceived



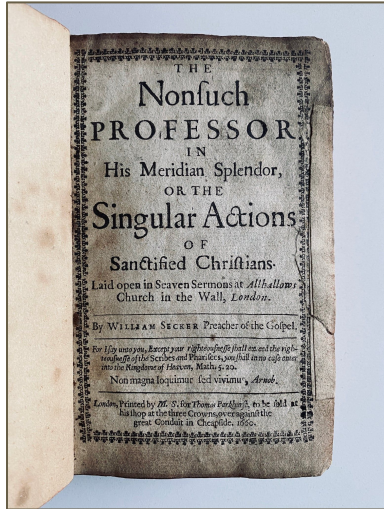
“Nothing but deep, heart-searching humility can remove the blinding prejudices of a proud, deceitful heart, and lead it to a correct knowledge of itself.”

James W. C. Pennington (1807-1870)
American Historian, Abolitionist, Orator, Minister, and Writer
The first known Black student to attend Yale University.



3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 4. Deep and Ongoing Repentance

Timing is Everything



“If God’s ‘today’ be too soon for thy repentance, thy ‘tomorrow’ may be too late for His acceptance.”

William Secker (d. 1681)

Puritan Clergyman in the Church of England, and Author



Repentance Takes Time

- Hezekiah Cleanses the Temple for 16 days (2 Chronicles 29:3-19)
- Nehemiah Repents and Mourns 120 days (Nehemiah 1:1-10)
- Repentance can't be microwaved. We take repentance far too lightly.
- Repentance is a matter of life and death.

Example of the Fijians



- 1,200 Villages on 320 Islands
- Since 2000 about 120 villages have been transformed
- Four week process of prayer, fasting and repentance
- Most damaging sins addressed head on. See [Healing the Land - a Manual for Teachers](#)

Typical Fijian Village

Repentance Needs Fervent Prayer and Fasting Accompaniment



“They have no power!”

Savenaca Nakauyaka
Former Leader of Healing The Land Team, Fiji Islands



Why Do We Not Have Much of God's Presence?

There is not much revival, or outpourings of the Spirit because Christians are not meeting the conditions of 2 Chronicles 7:14. We don't want Him that much...

- Christians need to pray
- Christians need to humble themselves and fast
- Christians need to repent of sins
- Christians need to seek God's face by being obedient to Him.

The problem is with God's people - there needs to be a massive effort to return to Him.



Seeking God Requires Deep and Ongoing Repentance

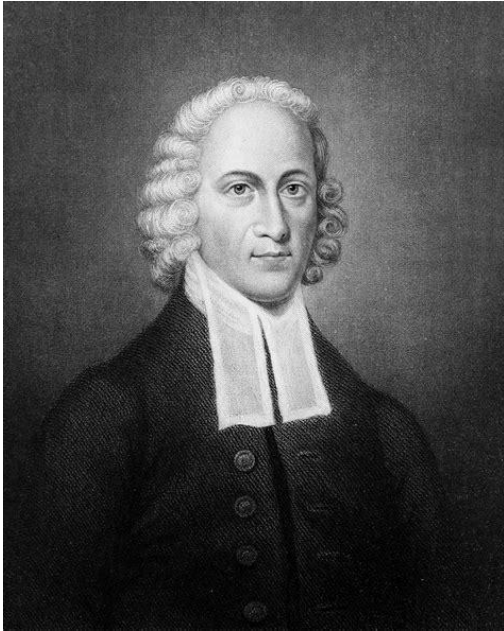
If lack of repentance is hindering fillings of the Holy Spirit, a likely sin is lack of Christian unity. The Seven Keys teaching on Christian Unity shows that unity of the Spirit precedes fillings of the Spirit. Repenting of sins related to both horizontal and vertical unity is needed.



Deep and Ongoing Repentance

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3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 4. Deep and Ongoing Repentance



“The state of the times extremely requires a fullness of the divine Spirit in ministers, and we ought to give ourselves no rest till we have obtained it. And in order to [do] this, I should think ministers, above all persons, ought to be much in secret prayer and fasting, and also much in praying and fasting one with another. It seems to me it would be becoming the circumstances of the present day, if **ministers in a neighborhood would often meet together and spend days in fasting and fervent prayer among themselves, earnestly seeking for those extraordinary supplies of divine grace from heaven, that we need at this day.**”

Jonathan Edwards (1703 – 1758)
American Pastor and Theologian



We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.

As Christians seek God wholeheartedly, He gives grace, power and direction to be used as His instruments in our families, communities and nation.

**Help America Return to God by Becoming a Cornerstone Partner
with Christian Union: christianunion.org/cornerstone**

**Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!**

Psalm 33:12



**CHRISTIAN
UNION**