

Repentance

“1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, 6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: 9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. 10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: 12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” (Mathew 3: 1-12 KJV)

There is a question that people need to ask themselves: *“How can I be saved?”* or yourself you may ask this question: *“How can I be saved?”* To answer this question Paul had made a good statement in the book of Acts, ***“Testifying both to the Jews. and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Acts 20:21 KJV)*** So we can conclude two requirements:

- 1. Repentance toward God.***
- 2. Faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.***

So repentance must come first then followed by faith in the Lord Jesus; such repentance leads us to salvation. So faith in the Lord Jesus must be proceeded by repentance, otherwise there is no salvation.

Therefore the issue that need to be addressed is this: Is faith in the Lord Jesus without repentance is enough for us to be saved? The Bible speaks about the grace of God and His love to us as it is written, ***“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)*** That does not mean to go on and sin because God is a gracious

God, and this is what Paul wrote to the church of God in Rome: ***“1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” (Romans 6:1-2 KJV)***

In the same way, John the Baptist exhorted the people and warned them to produce fruit that goes with repentance. Repentance is to confess your sin, to renounce it, to forsake it and to commit yourself and your life to God. Fruit of repentance should appear in the lives of those who confess Jesus as Savior and Lord over their lives. ***“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” (2 Timothy 2:19 KJV)*** John came to prepare the way for Jesus. He was preaching Baptism of repentance. He was telling the crowd the following about Jesus: ***“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.” (Mathew 3: 11 KJV)*** Water Baptism is for each and everyone who repents and have faith in the Lord Jesus. Baptism is to bury the old lives and to rise to a new life, a life in the Spirit. Then after when your lives are holy before God and your hearts are pure and clean before Him the Lord Jesus will Baptize you with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will be filling you when you have the character and personality of Jesus in your life, then God will give you the precious gifts of the Holy Spirit. John warn the people with the followings:

1. “And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.” (Mathew 3: 9 KJV) Don't brag that you are a believer or born again but you are still not repentant and live in sin. Such things will make you rejected by God. Don't think that your service and ministry to God will cover up the sin that you are doing. Don't think that your service and ministry to God will cover up your pride, arrogance, cheating, lying, fornication, stealing, wasting resources, taking advantage, using your eyes for ungodly purposes, etc. Before your service God wants you to repent from the sin that you are living in. God able to change stones and to change the worst sinners and make them His children; those who repent will become first and those who are not yet repented will become last.

2. “And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.” (Mathew 3: 10 KJV) God's Judgment is coming on those who are still living in disobedience. Jesus said, ***“Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.” (John 15: 2 KJV)*** The Pharisees and the Sadducees they heard the message, but they did not repent. So don't be like them. God's Judgment and wrath is coming on those who live in sin, ***“Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” (Mathew 3: 12 KJV)***

My Dear and Beloved: The Lord Jesus died for your sins on the cross and He rose from the death to give you eternal life. After His resurrection Jesus went to heaven and He will come again to take those who had repented and lived their lives for Him. Therefore be ready to be taken to heaven when Jesus comes; repent, forsake your life of sin and start to live for God as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sin, who was buried but rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord today I repent from the following sins: _____ . I commit my life from this day on to live for you and to serve you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*