

FREEDOM THROUGH REPENTANCE



By SAR

Repentance has always been an area I thought I understood but knew I did not in its entirety. The old revivalists spoke repentance and saw fruit; we preach it and never seem to touch that same level.

How can I see a work of repentance the very thing I am called to Boston for when I cannot understand all of repentance? Our religion and preconceived ideas always speak to us louder than anything else.

Sure everyone says they know about repentance, but I say if we know repentance and how to flow in a Spirit of repentance we would have changed the world.

Recently God has been revolutionizing many areas of my spiritual life and although with every wave of change, action and life changing acts are involved. The thought is always present that I am Christ's and it is no longer I that lives but Christ that lives in me. I am tired of life if it is not fully devoted to and lived through Christ.

Yes I believe we are about to see a major release but that is not why we do what we do. I do what I do first and foremost because I am hungry for and desire more of the consciousness of Jesus in my life.

I have all of Jesus in me as should you but do not have the full consciousness of Jesus or the understanding of how to live that level of Jesus in me. I am tired of life that is based in me and my ability and decide daily to keep saying yes to Jesus.

The following may be just reading to some but to me it has become revelation. A revelation that will change my world and the world around me through the life of Christ, by His grace.

With that let's talk repentance and ask for a deeper level of understanding of how to minister such to others. Repentance is what saves souls! The following notes are not an exhaustive study but are meant to provoke though on entry level into Christ repentance. Repentance at salvation! A great man of God once said to me

"because we have taken repentance out of salvation we have had to put counseling in instead"

For the modern way of thinking repentance is misunderstood and when entered into many times it is in a one off momentary manner.

Heb 5:11 Concerning this we have much to say which is hard to explain, since you have become dull in your [spiritual] hearing and sluggish [even slothful in achieving spiritual insight].

As with the Hebrews it is possible for us to become dull in our spiritual hearing and we do not achieve spiritual insight. A deep work is needed and the foundation for any deep work can only be repentance. Born of the Spirit of God.

Heb 6:1 THEREFORE LET us go on and get past the elementary stage in the teachings and doctrine of Christ (the Messiah), advancing steadily toward the completeness and perfection that belong to spiritual maturity. Let us not again be laying the foundation of repentance and abandonment of dead works (dead formalism) and of the faith [by which you turned] to God.

Once a foundation of repentance has been laid there never is the need to go to such a level again and in fact as Hebrews 6 says you cannot go to that level again.

Modern ideas on repentance do not fit with Hebrews 6 but with God's way of repentance Hebrews 6 is understandable. Many times we repent of single acts or a lifestyle of sin but to dig deeper one must ask has there been a deep work of repentance taking hours, days, weeks.

Repentance which lays you bare before God and man, placing you in a state of total vulnerability.

Remember what John 3:20 says.

Joh 3:20 For every wrongdoer hates (loathes, detests) the Light, and will not come out into the Light but shrinks from it, lest his works (his deeds, his activities, his conduct) be exposed and reproved.

Joh 3:21 But he who practices truth [who does what is right] comes out into the Light; so that his works may be plainly shown to be what they are--wrought with God [divinely prompted, done with God's help, in dependence upon Him].

Two examples come to mind. The first example shows us church repentance and the second God's repentance. There is a man I recently dealt with. He has a repeat problem with drug addiction and it is slowly destroying his life as addiction of any kind does. He has been in and out of churches for the last few years, spending a few months clean and then returning to drugs and associated sins.

Every time he would return to church he would cry a lot, jump up and down and show great enthusiasm.

Really he approached God the way church taught him.

Recently he asked me "what is repentance". This man has never had a work of deep repentance.

Sure he has asked Jesus into his life, more than once in fact. He may have prayed the sinner's prayer many times. Had hands laid on him and been counselled. But to this day there remains an atmosphere of deception and lies around his life. He refuses to tell all to God in an act of repentance. I will explain what is meant by this as we go on.

As the second example. Recently I led a man to Jesus and explained to him, what understanding of repentance I had at the time. During his prayer of salvation I allowed a time for him to confess and repent of sins that immediately came to mind he needed forgiveness for (*as I now make the time for all praying salvation to do*).

This opened the door of repentance in his life and introduced him to a Spirit of repentance. Now, 9 months later after his salvation experience he told me the works of repentance lasted weeks in his life. He would be driving in his car and God would remind him of something he did wrong. He would pull his car over and repent asking forgiveness right there on the side of the road in tears.

Today he is walking a strong walk for Jesus that has challenges but Jesus is his all. This man is an inspiration to me and many others. This man, like King David found the power of repentance and in Psalm 32 we read.

Psa 32:1 *[A Psalm of David.] A skillful song, or a didactic or reflective poem. BLESSED (HAPPY, fortunate, to be envied) is he who has forgiveness of his*

transgression continually exercised upon him, whose sin is covered.

Psa 32:2 Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit. [Rom. 4:7, 8.]

Psa 32:3 When I kept silence [before I confessed], my bones wasted away through my groaning all the day long.

Psa 32:4 For day and night Your hand [of displeasure] was heavy upon me; my moisture was turned into the drought of summer. Selah

Psa 32:5 I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord [continually unfolding the past till all is told]--then You [instantly] forgave me the guilt and iniquity of my sin. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!

Psa 32:6 For this [forgiveness] let everyone who is godly pray--pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely when the great waters [of trial] overflow, they shall not reach [the spirit in] him.

Such a work of repentance can start to be understood in Isaiah as he had his encounter with God.

Isa 6:5 Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone and ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!

Isa 6:6 Then flew one of the seraphim [heavenly beings] to me, having a live coal in his hand which he had taken with tongs from off the altar;

When you see the King of Kings the Lord of hosts you are undone. Somehow our smartness, our quick thinking, our lies do not matter when we see our state before a holy God. Isaiah talked of his lips being unclean and was even convicted of being in the midst of a people with unclean lips.

When you are repentant you are not looking for what you can hide you are looking for what you can expose in your life. Repentant people do not care who knows or who sees. They want to be free! Exposing all removes a veil that brings us to Jesus in completeness.

When true repentance has been and is in us, we never go back.

True repentance exposes you, every little bad deed, every bad thought, and every bad association. We are stripped bare to our very core and from that point Jesus enters and rebuilds our thoughts, actions and life from that point. Nothing is left in us that are hidden, so Jesus builds it His way.

If we are not stripped bare, if we think there is an ounce of good in us. We have not had a true deep lasting complete work of repentance.

Prior to Christ every action was for self gain, self will or self exaltation. You had another God and it was you. At salvation you must be stripped bare, stripped to the very core of who you are. If you have had repentance to this level you will never leave Christ and if you do. Hebrews 6:4-6 comes into play.

Heb 6:4 For it is impossible [to restore and bring again to repentance] those who have been once

for all enlightened, who have consciously tasted the heavenly gift and have become sharers of the Holy Spirit,

Heb 6:5 And have felt how good the Word of God is and the mighty powers of the age and world to come,

Heb 6:6 If they then deviate from the faith and turn away from their allegiance--[it is impossible] to bring them back to repentance, for (because, while, as long as) they nail upon the cross the Son of God afresh [as far as they are concerned] and are holding [Him] up to contempt and shame and public disgrace.

In 2Corinthians 4:1-6 repentance is described in a wonderful way.

***2Co 4:2* We have renounced disgraceful ways (secret thoughts, feelings, desires and underhandedness, the methods and arts that men hide through shame); we refuse to deal craftily (to practice trickery and cunning) or to adulterate or handle dishonestly the Word of God, but we state the truth openly (clearly and candidly). And so we commend ourselves in the sight and presence of God to every man's conscience.**

2Co 4:3 But even if our Gospel (the glad tidings) also be hidden (obscured and covered up with a veil that hinders the knowledge of God), it is hidden [only] to those who are perishing and obscured [only] to those who are spiritually dying and veiled [only] to those who are lost.

2Co 4:4 For the god of this world has blinded the unbelievers' minds [that they should not discern the truth], preventing them from seeing the illuminating light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ (the Messiah), Who is the Image and Likeness of God.

2Co 4:5 For what we preach is not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves [merely] as your servants (slaves) for Jesus' sake.

2Co 4:6 For God Who said, Let light shine out of darkness, has shone in our hearts so as [o beam forth] the Light for the illumination of the knowledge of the majesty and glory of God [as it is manifest in the Person and is revealed] in the face of Jesus Christ (the Messiah). [Gen. 1:3.]

The gospel is veiled to the lost and repentance removes the veil. Repentance removes the "you" and puts the HIM.

You are broken by exposing, renouncing the disgraceful ways, secret thoughts, feelings, desires and underhandedness, the methods and arts that men hide through shame.

Truth, truth, truth and only truth bought about by the power of the spirit of God exposes us to others and God to get us truly free. With secrecy comes control, if you have buried ANYTHING in your life the enemy controls that part of you and in truth controls you, when that button is pushed. Through a lack of repentance we can enable the enemy in our lives.

Finally why are we always looking for ways to save face with man?

Hoping nobody will really see, we put up so many faces. Why not try exposing your inner self to Jesus in fullness.

If you have never had a deep work or repentance I suggest taking a few days off and getting alone with God.

Get somewhere that is distraction free and expose all to Jesus. Every disgraceful way, all secret thoughts, feelings, desires and underhandedness, including the methods and arts that men hide through shame. In the act of repentance you may need to repent to a man for some of the acts you have done.

The only thing to say is just do it and watch all of heaven stand behind you. That breakthrough you have been wanting lays just behind the veil of repentance.

As the apostle Paul said **“it is no longer I that liveth but Christ that lives in me”**.

