

**DISCIPLESHIP 1
IDENTIFICATION
SERIES**

**LESSON 4
UNIT II**

REPENT AND BE CONVERTED - PART 1

REPENT AND BE CONVERTED - PART 2

For

**CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
CHRISTIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

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A. REPENT AND BE CONVERTED – Part 1

Acts 3:19, "Repent ye therefore. and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when **the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.**"

INTRODUCTION

Previously we have talked about changing *your* thinking about yourself by renewing your mind. That is, re-programing your mind with correct information from the Word of God about your true nature and character, as one, who has been born of God through the process of the new birth; who has become totally and completely a new creation in Jesus Christ.

This renewing your mind as to who you are is your true identity, and is the **FIRST STEP** in the transformation, sanctification, or metamorphosis (the physical transformation, say, of the caterpillar to the beautiful butterfly) PROCESS. A process where you are being delivered from the control of the sin that dwells in you. Delivered from the thinking patterns, mind set, habits and attitudes of the World.

This transformation process must be going on in our life if we are to live and enjoy the abundant life which our Father made possible for us through the giving of His own precious Son, Jesus.

REPENT AND BE CONVERTED

The **SECOND STEP** in this process of sanctification, which we want to begin talking about in this lesson is **REPENTING OF AND BEING CONVERTED FROM** those things - attitudes, habits, thinking patterns, and mindsets - which do not conform to who we really are in Christ Jesus. Repenting of and being converted from those things, influences in our life which came from our former life which was under the control of sin and Satan, who is sin personified.

TWO KINDS OF REPENTANCE.

There is **TRUE GODLY REPENTANCE** and there is a **WORLDLY REPENTANCE**. We need to be able to tell the difference. Therefore, let us spend a little time analyzing and comparing true repentance and worldly repentance.

1. WORLDLY REPENTANCE takes on several forms.

- There is a worldly repentance which results from being caught with your "hand in the cookie jar." That is being caught in the act of doing something wrong and saying "I'm sorry, I will not do it again" with the hope of not being punished. He is sorry for being caught, but not necessarily, sorry for **the wrong act**.
- Worldly repentance or false repentance, is also being sorry for something which you have done which cannot be changed or undone.
 - We see an example of this with Judas in Matthew 27:3-4, "Then **Judas**, which had **betrayed him**, when he saw that he was condemned, **REPENTED HIMSELF** and brought again the *thirty* pieces of silver

to the chief priests and elders. Saying. I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood . . ."

- Judas had not intended that Jesus should be condemned to death. When he realized what he had done, he regretted it (the word translated, "repent" in verse 3 means "having regretted it"). Then, he attempts to undo what he had done. Failing to undo the consequences of his act of betrayal, Judas goes into his poor little me (I can't do anything right, things never turn out right for me) MODE. And in a state of hopelessness hangs himself.
- Worldly repentance is often an emotional, tearful experience. According to Hebrews 12:16-17, we see that Esau's shedding of many tears did not bring repentance. The prevailing attitude here is, if I act sorrowful enough, if I shed enough tears everything will be alright, that God will hear me and feel sorry for me and change the situation to be in my favor, if I cry and cry and cry over the situation.
- Worldly repentance is often associated with carrying out some special religious rite or ordinance."the doing of penitence". The attitude here is that if we do something good we can make up for the bad which we have done; that we can appease God for our "sin" by doing something.
- Another good example of worldly repentance is seen in King Saul, 1 Samuel 15:3-30. God had sent King Saul to utterly destroy the Amalekites and all their live stock. Saul disobeyed God. His men took the best of the animals for themselves and Saul, himself, took King Agag prisoner. When the prophet Samuel confront Saul, he admitted that he was wrong, that he had sinned, and then, in verse 30 asked Samuel to act as if he had *done* nothing wrong.
 - The attitude here is that. yes, I have sinned. I admit it, so lets just put it behind us and go on as if nothing has happened. This attitude says, I don't need to correct the wrong or face the consequences of my sin.
 - An example of having to pay the consequences of sin is seen in the girl or women who goes out and through the act of sexual immorality gets pregnant. Or the person who goes out and commits a crime against society. In either case it is just not enough to say, yes, I have sinned, so let us forget it. The girl or women is still pregnant and must live with it (**note:** abortion is not the answer, since that would be adding the sin of murder on top of the sin of fornication or adultery). The person who committed the crime still must suffer the consequences of his act of crime. He owes society, against whom he sinned, a debt which he must pay.

RESULTS OF WORLDLY REPENTANCE

According to 2 Corinthians 7:10, **WORLDLY REPENTANCE (SORROW) BRINGS DEATH**. While Godly sorrow and repentance brings life, and salvation.

"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented at: BUT THE SORROW OF THE WORLD WORKETH DEATH."

2. TRUE REPENTANCE

The word repent in Acts 3:19 from the Greek means to have a change at mind as to what you have done. It is to make an inward decision to change your mind. While the word converted means to take the necessary action to correct the situation. Literally, to "turn again".

The incident of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32 is an example of true repentance. Here we see **FIVE ELEMENTS** that make up true repentance.

- The first being "**he came to himself**" (verse 17). True repentance begins by "coming to yourself", that is realizing, I have sinned and because of my sin I am in a sorry situation. Sin, my actions, have come between me and my Father God, and possibly others.
- Secondly (verse 18). The prodigal son said, "**I will arise and go to my father . . .**" Here is the firm inward decision (a decision of the mind and not an emotional, tearful decision based on feelings) to do something about his situation.
- Thirdly (verse 20). "**And he arose, and came to his Father . . .**" He put action to his inward decision. He didn't put off till later what he knew he must do.
- Fourthly (verse 21). "**And the son said unto his Father, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son**" ;verse 19, "**make me as one of thy hired hands.**" Here is true sorrow, Godly sorrow for what he had done. This we see by his willingness to take the consequences of his actions and make the best of the situation.
- Fifthly (verse 21). "**Father, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight.**" True repentance sees that sin, every sin is **AGAINST GOD**. Psalm 51:4 says, "**Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight**"

If sin then, is against God, then repentance is as Acts 20:21 says, "**... REPENTANCE TOWARDS GOD.**"

Repentance accomplishes its perfect work when it brings about in us a broken and a contrite heart, as it did in King David, Psalm 51:17, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart. O God, thou wilt not despise."

Repentance is a necessary part of the sanctification process. We need to place our lives under the microscope of God's Word, letting the Word search our hearts and minds to see if there be any wicked way in them (Psalm 139:24). Then, as the word reveals the sin, we need to pray that God would give unto us the gift of true, Godly repentance and sorrow over our sin. Repentance and conversion will bring us into the refresh presence of our Father.

B. REPENT AND BE CONVERTED – Part 2

Acts 3:19, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

INTRODUCTION

In previous lessons we have talked about who we are - OUR TRUE IDENTITY:

- that we are the sons of God (John 1:12,13)
- that we are partakers of the Divine nature, for when we were born again we added to our existing human nature a divine nature (1 Peter 1:4)
- that as Jesus **IS** so are we (1 John 4:17)
- that we have been re-created, an entirely new creation, after the image of God in righteousness and true holiness.(2 Cor. 5:17, Eph. 4:24)

THE PROBLEM IS that most born-again children of God, and to some extent every child of God needs to have his MIND CONVERTED, because either, they do not know who they really are, or, they have not fully grasped the full reality of who they are - their true identity is hid from them because their minds have been blinded by the god of this world, Satan. (2 Corinthians 4:4).

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Because your mind has been blinded with unbelief, to a more or less degree you still identify with the old nature (which no longer exists) as a sinner. Your lifestyle is still controlled by the thinking pattern (mind-set) of the world. of which Satan is still the ruler. (2 Corinthians 4:4).

SOLUTION: YOU NEED TO BE CONVERTED IN YOUR MIND - or as Paul in Romans 12:2 says -

". . . be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove (*demonstrate by your lifestyle*) what is that good and acceptable will of God."

CONVERSION OF THE MIND

Conversion, or the renewing of the mind has it's beginning in repentance - Acts 3:19, **"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins my be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. "**

Repentance MUST take place before conversion or the renewing of the mind can take place.

QUESTION!! Of what do we need to repent? Of sin, YES, specifically of the SIN of allowing our minds to be controlled, brainwashed by the stinking thinking, the thought patterns, the mindset of the world. In other words, repent of allowing Satan to control so much, or even a little portion of our thoughts and thus our lifestyle or habits.

You see as children of God, our thinking, thought patterns, mindset, and lifestyle is to be controlled by our spirit, which is in perfect harmony with the Father being directed by the Holy Spirit, AND NOT BY OUR SOUL, which is so easily influenced by Satan.

Galatians 5:25 says, "**If we live (have our new life, our new existence - if our new being as children of God is by the Spirit) by the Spirit. Let us also walk in the Spirit (live our lives according to the directing of the Spirit).**"

ANYTHING LESS IS SIN!! AMEN! Sin is foreign to our new nature as children of God. Sin is an affront (an open insult) to our Father God. It is a slap in God's face.

God spoke to me very clearly, saying, "For one of My children to continue in the thinking and lifestyle of the world is saying to Me, their Father: "THANK YOU FATHER FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME - giving me sonship through the new birth, making me your heir, and a joint heir with Jesus, desiring for me an abundant life of health and prosperity. THANKS. BUT NO THANKS, I prefer my old way of thinking. I sort of like my old habits. At least I am comfortable with my old thinking and habits. I really don't want to give them up. Besides this dying to that old self is just to hard. Father, I will do the best I CAN with what I've got and just hang on. I really prefer to live by my feelings and emotions, letting my soul (my self) do it's own thing. Yes, I know that Satan has a lot of influence over my feelings and emotions, over my soul life. BUT FATHER. you know you have to take the bad with the good. And Father, I do a lot of good things, I know I'm not perfect, but I kind of like who I am. So, Father, if you would, please, get off my back. When I feel the need for a change, then I will change. In the meanwhile. I sort of like the sewer and like eating corn husks. Besides I am saved that's all that really matters anyway, isn't it?"

We need to repent and be converted. We need to change our **ATTITUDE** concerning **SIN. SIN IS AGAINST GOD, OUR FATHER! IT IS AN AFFRONT TO HIM!**

We must let our minds be converted, renew our minds, re-program our minds, NOT TO JUST FEEL BAD, OR HATE SINNING. BUT WE ARE TO HATE THE SIN with the same passion and hatred that our Father God hates sin.

We must learn to hate what God hates and love what God loves. Psalms 97:10 says,

"Ye that love the Lord, hate evil . . ."

Romans 12:9 says, "**Abhor that which is evil...**"

SIN IS EVIL, EVEN WHAT WE MIGHT THINK IS A LITTLE SIN, IS EVIL AND IS AGAINST GOD, OUR FATHER.

When we begin *to* hate sin as much as God hates sin, then we will have Godly sorrow which leads to true repentance. This true repentance will then bring about a renewing (conversion of the mind).

WHY DOES GOD HATE SIN? There are many reason. But, one reason is that sin takes us His children out of His presence, puts a wall between God and His beloved children.

HOW MUCH DOES GOD HATE SIN? Enough to give His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ as a ransom for sin. To make Jesus the **SIN-BEARER** for all mankind...

As we see Jesus hanging on the cross as our substitute it should bring us to our knees in Godly sorrow knowing it was our sins for which HE BLED AND DIED.

OH, HOLY SPIRIT. RIGHT NOW, CONVICT ME - INSTILL WITH-IN MY HEART A HATRED OF SIN - BREAK ME THAT I WEEP AND MOURN OVER SIN - AND CLEANS ME WITH THE RIVERS OF LIVING WATER FLOWING THROUGH ME. GIVE ME O LORD, THE GIFT OF REPENTANCE, THAT I MIGHT BE CONVERTED. AMEN. THANK YOU JESUS.

END of IDENTIFICATION Series

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