

## Repentance

Doug Balzer  
Soul Care Equipping Conference

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*The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.  
He guides me along right paths for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of  
death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my  
enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of  
my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*  
(Psalm 23)

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### Core to the Message of Jesus: Repentance

Mt. 4:17  
*"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."*  
Kingdom of light displacing darkness  
Repentance: gk "metanoeo"  
To think differently, to turn, reconsider one's ways  
In light of Gen 3 - a turning back to the presence of  
God, towards the garden  
Repentance includes but goes beyond confession

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### Repentance is Central to Spirit-empowerment

*"Peter replied, **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."*

Acts 2:38

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### Root of Need for Repentance: Genesis 3:1-12

Fear  
Shame  
Blame

Full life confession

Story mission leader - fear - brilliant transformation

*"For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave  
again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship.  
And by him we cry "Abba, Father"*

Romans 8:15

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Repentance case study: David

2 Samuel 11-12

Psalm 51:1-12, 17

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There's no shortcut around the Spirit's conviction

2 Sam 12:1, *"The Lord sent Nathan to David."*

Godly conviction vs self, other or enemy inspired condemnation

*"Light is a friend, not an intruder."* - R. Reimer

Your pathway to freedom is exceedingly narrow, but the fruits of repentance is infinitely broad.

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Hidden sin & secrets are not static.  
They will grow into greater darkness

David: sloth, lust, adultery, deception, murder  
(2 Samuel 11)

What we hide, grows. What we expose to light gets redeemed

James 1 - temptation - desire - sin - grows into death

My story - 16 yrs old - encounter

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*"You're only as sick as the secrets you keep."*

John Bradshaw

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Hidden sin & secrets are not static.  
They will grow into greater darkness.

God sees our secrets, our darkness:

*"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ...even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you."*

Psalm 139: 7, 12 (of David)

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Beware of your ability to self-deceive, justify & rationalize

Psalm 51:3,4

David is contrite after being 'outed'

Watch your thinking in a place of unconfessed sin  
To view yourself as God views you, not better than are  
or worse than you are, is a place of lasting freedom.

*"I cannot afford to have a thought about me that God  
does not have about me."* -Bill Johnson

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*"The self that God persistently loves is not  
my prettied-up pretend self but my actual  
self – the real me. But, master of delusion  
that I am, I have trouble penetrating my web  
of self-deceptions and knowing this real me.  
I continually confuse it with some ideal self  
that I wish I were."*

David Benner  
*The Gift of Being Yourself*

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Beware of your ability to self-deceive & rationalize

Comparing to surrounding culture vs the Word  
Concealing sin would uncover larger false-self  
Avoidance of perceived shame  
It happened a long time ago. Move on.  
Minimizing - didn't hurt anyone  
I'm much better now...doesn't affect me  
Better to keep it secret than to disgrace church  
or have truth hurt others  
Partial confession: secret pact, partial light

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Own your own stuff without defense

*"I have sinned against the Lord."  
2 Samuel 12:11-12*

What is true of you?

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Own your own stuff without defense

*God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we claim to  
have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie  
and do not live out the truth. <sup>7</sup>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, purifies us from all sin.*

*<sup>8</sup>If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the  
truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all  
unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we claim we have not sinned, we make  
him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.*

1 John 1:5-10 (NIV)

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*Almost all who aim at serving God do so more or less for their own sake. They want to win, not to lose. They want to be comforted, not to suffer. They want to possess, not to be deprived. They want to increase, not to diminish. Yet all the while our whole interior progress consists in losing, sacrificing, decreasing, humbling, and stripping self even of God's own gifts, so as to be more completely his.*

Francois Fenelon

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Our sinful acts are symptoms of deeper brokenness

*"Create in me a pure heart, O God." Psalm 51:10*

*"A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of."*

*Luke 6:45*

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What is driving your behaviour?

Internal Hungers\*

Power and Control

Affirmation & Importance

Intimacy and Delight

\* Heifitz & Linsky, *Leadership on the Line*

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What is driving your behaviour?

Internal Hungers\*

Power and Control - FEAR

drivenness, envy, greed, materialism, pride

Affirmation & Importance - BLAME

people-pleasing, conflict avoidance, condemnation

Intimacy and Delight - SHAME

intimacy barrier, lust, co-dependancy

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What is driving your behaviour?

Internal Hungers\*

Power and Control FEAR --> IDENTITY

Affirmation & Importance BLAME --> AFFIRMATION

Intimacy and Delight SHAME --> AFFECTION

"You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." - Luke 3:22

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What is driving your behaviour?

Internal Hungers\*

Power and Control      FEAR --> IDENTITY  
Affirmation & Importance      BLAME --> AFFIRMATION  
Intimacy and Delight      SHAME --> AFFECTION

What are your hidden hungers? Misplaced hungers?  
What is your default medication?

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*Part of the reason that leadership is a crucible is that if we stick with it past the initial euphoria, the demands of long-term leadership usually push us to a place where our patterns are clearly revealed. The demands of ministry keep our face pressed against the mirror until we are able to acknowledge the hidden dynamics that are driving us.*

Ruth Haley Barton  
*Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*

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Invite light upon the roots, not merely the symptoms

*"Create in me a pure heart, O God." Psalm 51:10*

*"There are three persons living in each of us: the one we think we are, the one other people think we are, and the one God knows we are."*

Leonard Ravenhill, *Why Revival Tarries*

Give God access to the roots...  
(which you may not understand)  
...of the symptoms  
(that you clearly see before you)

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*The soul that is sustained by God, however is not surprised at its own wretchedness. It is delighted to find new proof that it can do nothing of itself and that God must do everything.*

Francois Fenelon

Sanctification without condemnation

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Adopt a posture of brokenness before God

*"My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart  
you, God, will not despise."  
Psalm 51:17*

There is no victory in the resurrection  
until there is death at the cross.

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*If God's success depends on finding our foundations already laid, we might well fear that our sins had destroyed our chances. But God needs nothing that is in us. He can never find anything there except what he himself has given us.*

Francois Fenelon

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The Holy Spirit sets your curriculum

*"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thought. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."* Psalm 139:23,24

Only he knows the pathway to your transformation. Trust him. He is good.  
You can cooperate or resist him...no middle ground  
Invite him to bring to mind what needs to be brought into the light. Not self-assessment.

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*Sin is a revelation. It is God who graciously shows us sin, even as it is He who shows us the precious blood. Sin is only seen to be SIN — against God — when He reveals it.*

Norman Grubb, *Continuous Revival*

His presence is in the gentle whisper  
1 Kings 19:12

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The Promise of Forgiveness

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*

1 John 1:9

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The Lord is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger abounding in love.  
He will not always accuse,  
nor will he harbour his anger forever;  
he does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities  
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his love for those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

*Psalm 103:8-12 Of David*

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**Experience:**

Take some time alone with Jesus.

- Ask God for a broken and contrite heart.
- Take time to journal with following questions:

*Is there unconfessed sin in my life?*

*Are there areas of my life where I have confessed, but don't feel forgiven?*

*Am I carrying shame? If so, what's the source?*

*Is there anything else that you want me to know, Lord, in regard to repentance and my heart?*

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In your group:

“Full-life Confession”

Begin by confessing to one another any sins that the Holy Spirit has brought to light. James 5:16

Be led by the Holy Spirit in the way that you minister to one another.

Take the time you need.

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