



## Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

Repentance is a gift from God. Not only has God graciously given us the *ability* to repent, He has also patiently given us the *opportunity* to repent. For God is an absolutely and infinitely just God, and as such He has the divine right to punish sinners for any and every sin the very moment they commit that sin (see Ps.103:10, 130:3). Yet, in His supreme and sovereign grace, God's love is manifest as He patiently waits for sinners to repent. The word "repent" literally means "to change one's mind" and can even be translated "to turn around." In this, true repentance involves much more than mere sorrow or guilt for sin. A person who is truly repentant sincerely seeks to turn from sin and turn to God. Of course, to have even the possibility to repent before a holy God is an inexpressible and undeserved blessing. But God not only grants the ability and opportunity to repent, but He also commands that all people everywhere repent.

In the Bible we read, "*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance*" (2Pet.3:9). On the Day of Pentecost, Peter commanded that all the people "*Repent and be baptized...in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins*" (Acts 2:38). In the same manner, the apostle Paul said, "...[God] commands all people everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30), and asked rhetorically, "*do you ... not [realize] that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?*" (Rom.2:4). Likewise, John the Baptist "*went into all the country around Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins*" (Lk.3:3) and declared that all people must "*Produce fruit in keeping with repentance*" (Lk.3:8). Not to mention Jesus, while He walked upon the earth, continued to preach "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near*" (Matt.4:17), and even warned, "*...unless you repent, you too will perish*" (Lk.13:3, 5).

Writing almost 100 years ago, H.A. Ironside offered these challenging words:

"Test yourself in this way. You once lived in sin and loved it. Do you now desire deliverance from it? You were once self-confident and trusting in your own fancied goodness. Do you now judge yourself as a sinner before God? You once sought to hide from God and rebelled against His authority. Do you now look up to Him, desiring to know Him, and to yield yourself to Him? If you can honestly say 'Yes' to these questions, you have repented ... And remember, it is not the amount of repentance that counts: it is the fact that you turn from self to God that puts you in the place where His grace avails through Jesus Christ. Strictly speaking, not one of us has ever repented enough. None of us has realized the enormity of our guilt as God sees it. But when we judge ourselves and trust the Saviour whom He has provided, we are saved through His merits. As recipients of His lovingkindness, repentance will be deepened and will continue day by day, as we learn more and more of His infinite worth and our own unworthiness." (*Full Assurance*, p. 80)

Puritan Thomas Brooks said it well, "Repentance is the vomit of the soul." Years ago, I read these words on the back of the t-shirt of a man walking ahead of me: "Do you feel far from God? Guess who moved." If you are searching for an answer to that question let me be of some assistance – the answer is *not* God. The Good News is that you can turn back to God through His gracious gift of repentance. God loves you and has enabled you to turn from sin by turning to the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Together in and for Christ,  
Pastor David  
(2/16/26)

**Scripture Readings for the Week** (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #7):

*Genesis 24-27; Judges 7-11; Psalm 18-20; Job 13-14; Isaiah 34-39; Matthew 17-19; Romans 13-14*

**Recommended Reading:**

*"The Mortification of Sin" by John Owen*