

The Joy of Repentance

- I. **What happens when someone repents**
 - A. Heaven rejoices (Luke 15:1-7; 11-32)
 - B. We rejoice (The Story of Zacchaeus, Luke 19:1-10)
 1. Notice how Jesus initiates.
 2. The freedom and joy Zacchaeus felt is how we can feel.
- II. **There is nothing more basic for Christianity and knowing God than repentance and faith.**
 - A. Definition of repentance and faith: a change of mind and heart (metanoia) resulting in a turning or returning to God
 - B. How important is a change of heart (Proverbs 4:23; II Chronicles 16:9)?
 - C. Repentance and faith are the foundation for the gospel (John the Baptist—Mark 1:4; Jesus—Mark 1:14-15; Peter’s First Sermon—Acts 2:38; The First of the Elementary Teachings of Christ—Hebrews 6:1).
- III. **Repentance is a gift; the kindness of the Lord leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4). The Word of God is a great help (Hebrews 4:12-13)!**
- IV. **Repentance working together with faith leads to incredible blessing for us and for others.**
 - A. We were made to be blessed, and to be a blessing (John 10:10). This is the essential message of Jesus’ command to “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matthew 4:17).
 - B. The rule of God and its benefits are pressing on you. But “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). Don’t let the thief steal from your life and calling!
- V. **Simple confession is at the core of repentance. Heartfelt confession is one of the greatest gifts given to us by the Father (I John 1:9).**
- VI. **Central to repentance are the promise of forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:37-39). The Holy Spirit uses our conscience, the Word of God, and our faith in Jesus’ love and power to bear fruit. It is a lovely life (Galatians 5:22-23).**
- VII. **Key areas in our culture where repentance and faith are desperately needed**
 - A. Our salvation (Mark 1:15)
 - B. Our relationships (Matthew 5:21-26)
 - C. Our morality (Matthew 5:27-30)
 - D. Our possessions (Matthew 6:19-24; 31-34)