

Turn your life Around

repentance

“Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.”

Revelation 2:5

repentance

[rə'pentəns]

NOUN

1. the action of repenting; sincere regret or remorse.

"each person who turns to God in genuine repentance and faith will be saved"

synonym: PENITENCE implies sad and humble realization of and regret for one's misdeeds. **absolution is dependent upon sincere *penitence*.**

REPENTANCE adds the implication of a resolve to change.

Repentance is literally a change of **DIRECTION** for a living soul.

For what, or whom would you change the direction of your life? In a recent article of *Psychology Today*, the author writes:

When you review some of the important changes you've made in your life, especially those that have endured through time, you'll likely find that many of them involved a rather high level of emotional [stimuli].

Feeling intense emotions like fear, anxiety, or both can act as a catalyst to increase motivation and commitment. They can function as reminders that until you take care of business and make adjustments that lead to more

constructive choices and self-enhancing behavior, they are going to stick around (with negative effects on your life).ⁱ

As believers we know that when we have displeased the Lord, we have separated Him from our ultimate goal being like Him.

This may be our emotional stimulus to stay in step with His will for us.

Also, there is the threat of destroying our witness as a believer, and the trust of those whom you love that keeps our moral grounding in pursuit of the life of Christ.

Repentance may be where we begin our journey of humility and growth (turning from our self-centered life to the life sustaining power of God), but repentance is needed throughout our lifetime of faith living.

David's life EXAMPLE

Acts 13:22 says, *“God testified concerning [David]: ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’”*ⁱⁱ

As a young shepherd David was a bold, excited servant of the Lord and very confident of His faith in God.

He bore the criticisms of his brothers along with the enemy, but...

His strength was never questioned and often came in handy when faced with an adversary, whether it was a lion, a bear, or a giant.

1 Samuel 17:36-37

“Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

David was handsome and physically impressive as well. These are not bad characteristics, but we must be careful!

Much of what has been a blessing to us can become a curse with one wrong decision.

Temptation is alive and well and has been since Eve was tempted by the serpent.

Even believers will face temptations every day and we must be careful.

Temptation DESCRIBED

James describes temptation this way:

James 1:14-15

"...each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

1. You possess an evil interest because of your **depravity** (defined: *the innate corruption of human nature, due to original sin*).
2. Your weakness of nature will invite enticement – or temptation.
3. When you give in to your desire (has conceived) you give birth to sin.
4. The progressive nature of sin (full-grown) will not only bring death into your life, but also to those in your circle of influence.

David and BATHSHEBA

2 Samuel 11:1-4

"In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

² One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, ³ and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, 'She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.' ⁴ Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her."

“¹⁴David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah [Bathsheba’s husband]. ¹⁵In it he wrote, “Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.”

“²⁷ ...the thing David had done displeased the LORD.

Oh my! Just when you thought it couldn’t get much worse...

The things we’ll do when our desires go unchecked. Notice the progression of David’s sin.

- David lusted,
- He committed adultery,
- He made an adulteress out of an innocent life,
- He practiced deceit,
- He manipulated the actions of a superior officer to commit murder,
- He was ultimately guilty of taking Uriah’s life, one who served him faithfully as a soldier.

The ripple effect may not ever be realized from the sins we’ve committed.

The tragedy of David’s sin never seemed to stop him from continuing to sin.

What happens to a faithful servant of God when sin has given birth to death?

David’s CONFESSION

Nathan, the prophet came to David and exposed the heart of God’s displeasure to him.

2 Samuel 12:9-10, 13

“You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.”

¹³ “Then David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the LORD.’”

We try to hide our sins and even convince ourselves that what we've done has no consequence.

Speaking of God's chosen people **Jeremiah 8:6** says,
"I have listened attentively, but they do not say what is right. None of them repent of their wickedness, saying, 'What have I done?' Each pursues their own course like a horse charging into battle."

But we are reminded that our sins will find us out (Numbers 32:23).

When David heard the reality of his actions and that it grieved the Lord, he repented.

Psalm 51

*Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.*

SEEK FORGIVENESS

*2 Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.*

*3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.*

REPENTANCE

*4 Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.*

ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY

*7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.*

*8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.*

REGRET

*9 Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.*

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
11 Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.
14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
15 Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.

RESTITUTION

2 Samuel 12:13

¹³ “Then David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the LORD.’
Nathan replied, ‘The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.’”

God FORGIVES

1 John 1:8-10

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

Psalms 103:12

¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Revelation 3:19-20

*“Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. **So be earnest and repent.** ²⁰ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”*

ⁱ Jeffery A. Kottler, PhD, *Psychology Today*, 2022 Sussex Publishers, LLC

ⁱⁱ All scripture references will be using the New International Version unless otherwise noted.