

Repentance, why do we need it, and must everyone do it?

Definitions:

Strong's #3341: "*metanoia*" - To think differently or *afterwards*, that is: *reconsider* (morally to feel compunction): - repent.
Websters 1828 Dictionary: Repentance - is a change of mind, or a conversion from sin to turning to God.

Our modern dictionaries focus mainly on, "having a sense of remorse." This also applies, but it leaves out any thought of, "thinking differently or of changing one's mind," as scripture tells us;

For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death, **2nd Corinthians 7:10**.

Biblical repentance is not solely about feeling sorry for a past action, it is primarily about turning from our past earthly thoughts and ways and turning to God's kingdom and His ways.

Repentance, is it optional, I believe in Jesus, isn't that enough?

Repentance is a must, it is a not a bad word, rather it is a kingdom tool that we all need to use and be thankful for. For, if we could not repent, how would we ever get right with God.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance, **2nd Peter 3:9**.

At times of ignorance God winked; but now commands all men every where to repent: **Acts 17:30**.

When Jesus preached to a group of people, He started His message with: "**repent**, for the kingdom of God is at hand," **Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:15**. I believe He did this everywhere He went.

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish, Luke 13:3.

Is repenting once enough, or do I need to do it more often?

If this were a perfect world, instead of a fallen world, and if we were all perfect people in our thoughts and actions, one time might very well do it. Whereby our spirit is perfect, until you can also say that about your flesh and your soul (mind, will and emotions), you had best use the tool of repentance, as often as is needed.

Repentance that brings forth remission of sins can be thought of somewhat like a [**reset button**].

Using the tool of repentance that Jesus Christ has given us, should not be thought of as a shameful thing, for it allows us even when we come short, to still hold onto God's promise of our redemption.

Know that every gift that God has given to us (including the gift of repentance), is good.. For if God did not give mankind the ability to turn from their worldly ways and to kingdom ways, we would all be hopelessly lost in our sins.

However, we do need to keep a balance, for we are that new creature in Christ Jesus and we should be pursuing that new lifestyle, Thus, there should be less and less need in our life to repent. For having been born-again, old things have passed away and all have become made new, **2nd Corinthians 5:17**.

Therefore, when it becomes clear to you that you have fallen short, be quick and willing to repent. Thus, I urge you to swallow your self-pride, for we have all come short of the glory of God, **Romans 3:23**, and God hates man's foolish pride, **Proverbs 16:5**, and our foolish pride is the only thing that's keeping us from repenting. Therefore, when it is needed, make use of the spiritual gift of repentance.

Repentance for the remission of sins

And that **repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem**, Luke 24:47.

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the **remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, Acts 2:38.

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, Acts 3:19.

The disciples said: Then has God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life, Acts 11:18.

Various ways repentance was used in the Bible

The word "repent or repentance," was used many times in the bible, and it did not carry the stigma that we place on that action today. Repent, in a biblical context primarily means to reconsider one's ways and turn from them, Generally, to turn from one's earthly ways and embrace God's ways.

- In the O.T.: God said - lest the people repent (*turn back*), when they see war, Exodus 13:17.
 - In the O.T.: Job repented: - Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes, Job 42:6.
 - In the O.T.: - God desires His people to repent of their evil, Ezekiel 14:6, 2nd Chronicles 7:14.
 - John the Baptist: - Saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand, Mark 1:4, Luke 3:3.
 - Jesus preached repentance in all 3 synoptic Gospels: - Matthew, Mark & Luke.
 - The disciples: - And they went out, and preached that men should repent, Mark 6:12.
 - Luke in the book of Acts, and the Apostle Paul mainly in the book of Hebrews taught repentance.
 - Five of the seven believing churches in the book of Revelation were told to **REPENT**, chapters 2 & 3.
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Further scriptures on repentance:

And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand, Matthew 3:2.

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand**, Matthew 4:17.

But go ye and learn what *that* means, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance, Matthew 9:13.

Then began He to upbraid the cities wherein most of His mighty works were done, because they repented not: Matthew 11:20.

John did baptize in the wilderness, and preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, Mark 1:4.

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repents, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance, Luke 15:7.

And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem, Luke 24:47.

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, Acts 2:38.

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; Acts 3:19.

Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee, **Acts 8:22**.

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then has God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life. **Acts 11:18**.

At times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commands all men every where to repent: **Acts 17:30**.

Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, **Acts 20:21**.

But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance, **Acts 26:20**.

Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leads thee to repentance? **Romans 2:4**.

⁸ For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though *it were* but for a season. ⁹ Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. ¹⁰ For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death, **2nd Corinthians 7:8-10**.

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, **Hebrews 6:1**.

If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame, **Hebrews 6:6**.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance, **Hebrews 2nd Peter 3:9**.

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent, **Revelation 2:5**.

