

Definition of repent used in the New Testament:

Strong's #3340: "*met-an-o-eh-o*" - To think differently or *afterwards*, that is, *reconsider* (morally to feel compunction): - repent.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary: Repentance is a change of mind, or a conversion from sin to turning to God.

The world today has given the words "repent or repentance," a negative connotation, perhaps out of man's pride. However, in both the Old and New Testament, repentance was not thought of in a negative light. In its biblical context, it primarily means to reconsider one's ways and turn from them, generally to turn from one's earthly ways and embrace God's ways. Even God Himself, at one point, repented, or some versions say, He relented (He changed His mind), from thinking of annihilating mankind, at Moses plea, **Exodus 32:14**.

Used in the Old Testament:

- When the Israelites had left Egypt, God said - lest the people repent (*turn back*), when they see war, **Exodus 13:17**.
- ¹⁴ And the LORD repented of the evil which He thought to do unto His people. ¹⁵ And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, . . . **Exodus 32:14-15**.
- Job replied: - ⁵ I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye sees Thee. ⁶ Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes, **Job 42:5-6**.
- God desires His people to repent of their evil, **Ezekiel 14:6**, **2nd Chronicles 7:14**.

Used in the New Testament:

- John the Baptist: - Saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand, **Mark 1:4**, **Luke 3:3**.
- When Jesus preached to the 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.
- And they (*the disciples*) 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 letters to the churches in the book of Revelation were told by Christ to **REPENT**, chapters 2 & 3.

Is repentance optional, I believe in Jesus, isn't that enough?

Repentance is a requirement for all believers, for, if we could not repent, how would we ever get right with God?

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

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**.

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

If this were a perfect world, and if we were all perfect people in our thoughts and actions, one time might very well be enough. 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.

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

Further scriptures on repentance:

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

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**.

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

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.

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

Or despises thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leads thee to repentance? Romans 2:4

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.

REPENTANCE

is a good gift from God

Ask yourself: Where would we be if we could not repent? of our sins? Answer: We would be living in our sins.

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

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

Biblical repentance is not solely about feeling sorry for past actions; it is primarily about turning from our past earthly thoughts and unrighteous ways of thinking and turning to God's kingdom and His righteous ways.

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

Repentance is an essential tool for our salvation. We need to view repentance from a biblical perspective rather than a worldly perspective. For worldly regret or remorse will lead to bitterness and death, but godly sorrow will lead to true repentance and will bring peace and life eternal.