

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

PART 1: REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

Hebrews 6:1 "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"

Repentance:

Repentance: from the Greek word "*metanoya*", meaning to change one's mind for better, a verb or doing word, to abhor your past sins.

Repentance is not:

- repentance is not a way of dressing or speaking
- an emotion, being sorry for your sin
- going to church only for the sake of going to church

Repentance is:

- repentance is a decision
- a complete 180 degree turn around

From dead works:

Barnes Bible Commentary:

“Of repentance from dead works - From works that cause death or condemnation; or that have no vitality or life. The reference may be either to those **actions which were sinful in their nature**, or to those which related to the **forms of religion**, where there was no spiritual life. This was the character of much of the religion of the Jews; and conversion to the true religion consisted greatly in repentance for having relied on those heartless and hollow forms. It is possible that the apostle referred mainly to these, as he was writing to those who had been Hebrews. The apostle has here stated what is the first element of the Christian religion. It consists in genuine sorrow for sin, and a purpose to turn from it”

Does God want us to repent?

Jesus preached repentance:

Mark 1:14-15

*“14 And after John was delivered up, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God draws near. **Repent**, and believe the gospel.” MKJV*

*Mark 2:17 “When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to **repentance**.” NKJV*

Repentance must be preached everywhere:

*Luke 24:47 “and in his name the message about **repentance** and the forgiveness of sins must be preached to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem.” GNB*

*Romans 2:4 “the kindness of God leads you to **repentance**” NKJV*

God is not standing behind you with a whip ready to beat you into submission every time you sin, He draws you with His loving kindness, not fear or pain.

*2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow concerning His promise, as some count slowness, but is long-suffering toward us, not purposing that any should perish, but that all should come to **repentance**.” NKJV*

God wants everyone to repent.

Repentance is a lifestyle

Romans 12:1-2

“1 So then, my friends, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer.

*2 Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God **transform** you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God---what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.” GNB*

transform: metamorphosis, like an ugly worm becomes a beautiful butterfly, so too do we need to change from our ugly sinful ways and bear Godly fruit.



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