

Cornerstone 1: Repent and Return

C1-4 Repentance from Dead Works

Introduction

[KJV] 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, and of faith toward God, 2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this will we do, if God permit.

- The word 'perfection' is a combination of truths (stages of spiritual growth) which results in the person becoming more like Jesus Christ and carrying the glory of God.
- It also reflects what we will experience when Jesus Christ returns for not only will our soul and spirit be transformed, our physical body will also be transformed – a journey of the transformation of our spirit, soul and body to perfection.
- In this transformation process, it is important to lay the foundation of repentance from dead works.

Who will do the will of the Father?

[KJV] Matthew 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

- Jesus warned about doing dead works. What are dead works? _____
- Why must we repent from dead works? _____
- We must repent from dead works and not be led by our soul anymore.
- Many Christians even though they have been Christians for a long time do things based on the flesh, their own will and ambitions, and not what God wants.
- Jesus was clear about not doing anything on His own accord. What did He do? _____
- What should our attitude be? _____

The Holy Spirit will bring conviction

[NKJV] John 16:8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

- What is the role of the Holy Spirit? _____
- The foundation of God's throne is _____
What happens when we walk in righteousness? _____
- The Holy Spirit plays a very important role in bringing conviction so that we will repent from doing our own will and do the will of the Father.

1. Repentance – What is it?

Metanoia: Change of mind and purpose with the accompanying feeling of remorse for past doings and a willingness to realign one's mind and will with God and His Kingdom.

- Repentance is not just a change of mind. What does it require and why? _____

- Change must happen also in our hearts. There must be a certain hatred of evil works and then loving God – true repentance (metanoia).
- It is like the metamorphosis of a butterfly – from egg > caterpillar > pupa > butterfly – the change is not cosmetic but radical because a butterfly can fly but not a caterpillar, and in look also they are completely different.
- When we go through a process of repentance or metanoia, we will be so changed that people will sit up and note it.

John came to prepare them for the Kingdom

[KJV] Matthew 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

[BSB] Matthew 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.

- John emphasized repentance because there are only two kingdoms in this world. If we are walking in the kingdom of darkness and want to enter the Kingdom of God, what must we do? _____

- Why is repentance needed to embrace the Kingdom of heaven? _____

- The kingdom of darkness is ruled by the prince of the power of the air, Satan the chief evil one.
- We must not be subject any more to the evil one and remain in his kingdom of darkness.
- When we repent – change our heart and mind through the born-again process, we enter the Kingdom of God.

Good News at the Right Time

[NKJV] Mark 1:14 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.

- John came to prepare the people for the Kingdom that Jesus brought.
- What is the only good news in the world? _____
- Everything we hear about this world is going to be bad news because there is going to be a meltdown, a moral decay of mega proportions in the end times.
- The only good news is what comes from the Kingdom of God. What will we experience when we dwell in the Kingdom of God and operate by the values of the Kingdom? _____

2. The Relationship between Repentance and Water Baptism

John the Baptist preached repentance and water baptism for the forgiveness of sins to prepare the people for Jesus' coming.

- Who should go through water baptism? _____

- Why is water baptism a prophetic act? _____

- What does it affirm? _____
(James 2:18 ...I will show you my faith by my works. 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.)
- The demonic world understands this very well. This why while many parents of teenagers may not oppose them becoming a Christian, they would oppose water baptism because they know that in the spirit world something powerful would be shifted when a person goes through water baptism.
- Repentance and water baptism are like two sides of a coin. Repentance must be followed through with water baptism.

We are like John – prepare for His Coming

[KJV] Mark 1:4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. 5 And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.

[KJV] Luke 3:3 And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

- John came as a forerunner of the Messiah, preaching repentance and baptism throughout all the country.
- What is our role in the end times? _____

Repentance prepares us for the Kingdom

[KJV] Acts 19:4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

[KJV] Mark 1:5 ...and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.

- Repentance is necessary in preparation for entry into the Kingdom.
- If we do not repent and follow through by being baptized in water, we cannot really enter the Kingdom of God. John preached repentance followed by baptism and Jesus affirmed it.

John ushered the introduction of the Kingdom, we will usher the consummation of the Kingdom

[KJV] Isaiah 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

[KJV] Matthew 3:3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

- John was a forerunner preparing people for the first coming of Jesus.
- In the same way we are the forerunners of the second coming of Jesus
- John was a forerunner for the introduction of the Kingdom. We are the forerunners that would usher the consummation of the Kingdom. What is the consummation of the Kingdom? _____

- You might be newly saved or you are going through KFR because you desire to learn and impart these truths to others – we must learn how to be a forerunner.
- This is a sense of timing – 2 000 years ago it was the fullness of time that Jesus came to usher in the Kingdom. 2 000 years later we are also entering the fullness of time.

- The fullness of time means _____. What is this time? _____

- These 2,000 years we have had a foretaste of the Kingdom - we have experienced the invasion of the Kingdom into our present circumstances. What is this invasion in terms of healing for example?

- Why is it no longer invasion when Jesus comes and vanquishes the enemy? _____

- We have the privilege of ushering in the consummation of God's Kingdom.

Don't stop at water baptism

[KJV] Luke 3: 16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.

[KJV] Matthew 3:11b ...he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.

- Why do we need the fire of God? _____

- Fire purifies when it burns separating out the dross of our lives – sinful habits which must be gotten rid of. Let the Lord release a fire into us to burn deep within us to purify us from the inside.
- What will it cause us to do? _____

3. What will cause a Person to Repent?

The Conviction of the Holy Spirit

[KJV] Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

- The effect of Peter's preaching was like a knife cutting through them – that was the power of proclamation evangelism. There was such anointing and it resulted in them asking the important question: What must we do?
- Why did the people respond despite Peter not being a trained orator? _____

- The Word of God is like _____. What is it able to do? _____

- When speaking with somebody, make sure you are prayed up. Ask God to anoint your lips so that the Holy Spirit will bring conviction to the person even as you release God's words to them.

Preach the powerful Word of God

[KJV] Hebrews 4: 12 For the word of God is alive and efficient and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- People want to hide the intents of their hearts. But the Word of God powerfully preached under the anointing of the Holy Spirit can cut through and expose those things so that we can see who we really are.

4. What would cause a Believer to continue to Repent?

[NKJV] 2 Chronicles 7: 14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

- We must continue to repent. Why? _____
- If you sense that God is not answering your prayer, perhaps you need to repent of some things that displease Him and have put a barrier between you and Him.
- God does not want that barrier. If you are not walking with Him, you are literally putting a barrier between Him and you.
- Do not let your heart be hardened. Why? _____

What does repentance involve?

[KJV] Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

- One very practical way of our repentance concerns our minds.
- Our mind is _____. Why must our mind be renewed? _____
- We are transformed by the renewing of our mind.
- Our mind is affected by sin and infiltrated with strongholds of the enemy. What are these strongholds and what must we do? _____
- When our mind is renewed by the Word, literally, we will have the mind of Christ.
- Why must we have the mind of Christ? _____
- When our minds are so entrenched with the sin structures of the enemy, what God says to us can offend our mind and our mind would reject it.
- When we are born again, how do we and why do we need to reprogram our mind? _____
- The Word of God gives life and resurrection power and will align our mind with the will of heaven.
- When our mind is aligned, the perfect will of God will be accomplished in our life – that is repentance.

4.1 The goodness of God

[KJV] Romans 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

- God calls us to repent by showing us how good He is to us. Rom 5:8 tells us that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.
- This is the goodness of God manifested at the highest level – when we did not deserve anything from Him, He showed His kindness, patience and forbearance to lead us to repentance.

God is both good and patient

[NKJV] 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

- When we come to the place of repentance, new life begins in us.
- Let the goodness of God lead you to repentance and love Him more and more.

4.2 Godly sorrow

[KJV] 2 Corinthians 7: 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.

- Worldly sorrow leads to depression and suicidal thoughts.
- How is godly sorrow different from worldly sorrow? _____

5. Results of True Repentance

Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

- When we repent not only are our sins wiped out, before God we are no longer guilty. We are dressed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Why is this important? _____

- The Holy Spirit like a dew will bring refreshing to our heart. We will feel rejuvenated. Joy will come once again. Fresh favor comes upon us and closed doors become open doors.
- The refreshing of God will bring about a realignment in our life and when we are realigned with God, we walk in the path of His destiny and the assignments of God are once again restored to us.
- Favor and the anointing to complete your assignments and the glory of God shall be with you.

Repent from all dead works and begin to realign yourself to receive the refreshing from God and walk in the path of His destiny.

Prayer: Father bless everyone watching this module that Your presence not only brings conviction, Your goodness brings them restoration, refreshing, favor and a new season for their lives. Father shift them into the path of the destiny today. In the mighty Name of Jesus, amen.