



# How Do We Change?

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## Where Does Your Life with God Start????

**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,*

### *Starting Point...Faith & Repentance*

**Repentance...To turn (Old Testament)**

**To change your mind (New Testament)**

- To change your mind about your god-replacements
- To turn to the God who made you to live in relationship with His eternal life
- To delight in what Christ has done to secure this relationship



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How Does Your Life with God Continue?

## *Faith & Repentance*

### What is Repentance??

- Repentance is an act of faith*
- ✓ *that sees yourself more clearly*
  - ✓ *and turns to God more confidently*

Repentance sees yourself more clearly...

*“Father, I have sinned against heaven & against you” (15:17,21)*

- You recognize the surface sin (*“I have sinned against you”*)
- You recognize the sin beneath that sin (*“I...against heaven”*)



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## A Life of Faith & Repentance

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### Repentance

Seeing myself more clearly...the sin beneath the sin

*“I have sinned against heaven”*

The real issue in his life was that something had become more important to him than God for his happiness, meaning, identity

**IDOLATRY...**

Any good thing that morphs into an ultimate thing in your life

*In Spirit-directed repentance* you come to your senses about the sin beneath your surface sins...

...that behind anything & everything you do that is self-destructive & damaging to others...every character flaw...is idolatry



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### Repentance

#### Seeing myself more clearly...the sin beneath the sin

- No excuses...no blaming his brother, father, God
- Helpless plea for help

In what areas of your life do you feel helpless to change?

This surface sin points deeper...to a place in your heart where something is more important than Christ to you  
...a place where you're deeply trusting that that something can bring you life that a relationship with Christ cannot

God wants to bring you to your senses...to see your condition in a new light



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### What is Repentance??

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Genuine repentance deeply trusts in Christ...  
...and your *New Identity* in Him

### *New Identity:*

No Condemnation (15:20)

New Creation (15:22-24)

**Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.



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## A Life of Faith & Repentance

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### Counterfeit Repentance...

**...what feels real but isn't**

**Matthew 27:3-5** 3 When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. 4 "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." 5 So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

**Being wounded and sorrowful about the consequences of your surface sins which is selfish and self-pitying**

**2 Corinthians 7:10** Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.



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### Counterfeit Repentance

Being wounded and sorrowful about the consequences of your surface sins which is selfish and self-pitying

#### *Genuine or Counterfeit ?*

- ✓ I'm sorry; please forgive me.
  - ✓ I'm sorry for hurting you; please forgive me.
  - ✓ I'm sorry for fighting with you; please forgive me.
  - ✓ I'm sorry for offending you; please forgive me.
1. They emphasize the consequences of the sin
  2. They quickly move to your responsibility to forgive which is selfish & self-pitying

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### What is Repentance??

*Repentance is an act of faith*  
✓ *that sees yourself more clearly*  
✓ *and turns to God more confidently*

*Spirit-directed repentance* means seeing below the waterline & *again and again* welcoming the reality of Christ in you to come there with His forgiveness & power.

- Recognizes the sin beneath the sin (idolatry)
- Makes no excuses...no blaming
- Turns to God, confident in Christ and who He is in you

### How do we change?

Not by a formula...but by living in a relationship

