

## Definitions of Repentance

- To turn around, to change.
- To make a change for the better as a result of regret over wrong actions, words, or attitudes.
- A change of the heart and mind usually involving confession of guilt, seeking forgiveness from a person who is wronged, and quitting or stopping the wrong actions or thoughts. It can also include efforts to reverse the harmful effects of the wrong where possible.

### **Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV\*)**

"Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
Try me, and know my anxious thoughts;  
And see if there is any wicked way in me,  
And lead me in the way that has proven true."

### **Proverbs 28:13 (NIV)**

"He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."

### **1 John 1:9-10 (NIV)**

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives."

### **Romans 2:3-4 (The Message)**

3-4 You didn't think, did you, that just by pointing your finger at others you would distract God from seeing all your misdoings and from coming down on you hard? Or did you think that because he's such a nice God, he'd let you off the hook? Better think this one through from the beginning. God is kind, but he's not soft. In kindness he takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life-change.

### **Psalm 51:1-12,17 (NIV)**

1 Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.  
2 Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
3 For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are right in your verdict  
and justified when you judge.  
5 Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.  
6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;  
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.  
7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.  
8 Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.  
9 Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.  
10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
11 Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.  
12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

17 My sacrifice, O God, is b a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart  
you, God, will not despise.

### **2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)**

"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."

### **Luke 15:1-10 (CEV)**

1 Tax collectors and sinners were all crowding around to listen to Jesus. 2 So the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law of Moses started grumbling, "This man is friendly with sinners. He even eats with them." 3 Then Jesus told them this story:

4 If any of you has a hundred sheep, and one of them gets lost, what will you do? Won't you leave the ninety-nine in the field and go look for the lost sheep until you find it? 5 And when you find it, you will be so glad that you will put it on your shoulder 6 and carry it home. Then you will call in your friends and neighbors and say, "Let's celebrate! I've found my lost sheep."

7 Jesus said, "In the same way there is more happiness in heaven because of one sinner who turns to God than over ninety-nine good people who don't need to."

8 Jesus told the people another story:

What will a woman do if she has ten silver coins and loses one of them? Won't she light a lamp, sweep the floor, and look carefully until she finds it? 9 Then she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, "Let's celebrate! I've found the coin I lost."

10 Jesus said, "In the same way God's angels are happy when even one person turns to him."

### **2 Cor 7:10-11 (The Message)**

10 Distress that drives us to God does that. It turns us around. It gets us back in the way of salvation. We never regret that kind of pain. But those who let distress drive them away from God are full of regrets, end up on a deathbed of regrets.

11-13 And now, isn't it wonderful all the ways in which this distress has goaded you closer to God? You're more alive, more concerned, more sensitive, more reverent, more human, more passionate, more responsible. Looked at from any angle, you've come out of this with purity of heart.

### **Psalm 32:1-5 (NIV\*)**

1 Blessed is the one  
whose wrong-doings are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.

2 Blessed is the one  
whose sin the LORD does not count against them  
and in whose spirit is no deceit.

3 When I kept silent,  
my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

4 For day and night  
your hand was heavy on me;  
my strength was sapped  
as in the heat of summer.<sup>[b]</sup>

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you  
and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess  
my wrong-doings to the LORD."  
And you forgave  
the guilt of my sin.

### **Matthew 3:1-2 (CEV)**

Years later, John the Baptist started preaching in the desert of Judea. He said, "Turn back to God! The kingdom of heaven will soon be here."

**Mark 1:14-15 (The Message)**

14-15 After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee preaching the Message of God: "Time's up! God's kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message."

**Matthew 4:17 (NIV)**

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

**Ezekiel 18:31-32 (NIV)**

Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!

**1Sam 12:20-22 (NIV)**

<sup>20</sup> "Do not be afraid," Samuel replied. "You have done all this evil; yet do not turn away from the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. <sup>21</sup> Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless. <sup>22</sup> For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own

**Acts 17:30-31 (The Message)**

30-31 "God overlooks it as long as you don't know any better—but that time is past. The unknown is now known, and he's calling for a radical life-change. He has set a day when the entire human race will be judged and everything set right. And he has already appointed the judge, confirming him before everyone by raising him from the dead."

**2 Kings 17:13b (The Message\*)**

"Turn away from your evil way of life. Do what I tell you and have been telling you in the teachings I gave your ancestors and of which I've kept reminding you ever since through my servants the prophets."

**Psalms 130:1-8 (NIV)**

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD;

2 Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive  
to my cry for mercy.

3 If you, LORD, kept a record of sins,  
Lord, who could stand?

4 But with you there is forgiveness,

so that we can, with reverence, serve you.  
5 I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits,  
and in his word I put my hope.  
6 I wait for the Lord  
more than watchmen wait for the morning,  
more than watchmen wait for the morning.  
7 Israel, put your hope in the LORD,  
for with the LORD is unfailing love  
and with him is full redemption.

### **2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)**

9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

### **Isaiah 30:15**

This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.

### **Psalms 6:1-9 (NIV)**

1 LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger  
or discipline me in your wrath.  
2 Have mercy on me, LORD, for I am faint;  
heal me, LORD, for my bones are in agony.  
3 My soul is in deep anguish.  
How long, LORD, how long?  
4 Turn, LORD, and deliver me;  
save me because of your unfailing love.  
5 Among the dead no one proclaims your name.  
Who praises you from the grave?  
6 I am worn out from my groaning.  
All night long I flood my bed with weeping  
and drench my couch with tears.  
7 My eyes grow weak with sorrow;  
they fail because of all my foes.  
8 Away from me, all you who do evil,  
for the LORD has heard my weeping.  
9 The LORD has heard my cry for mercy;  
the LORD accepts my prayer.