**Biblical Foundations – Conversion (Faith and Repentance) pt.2**

**What is saving faith? What is true repentance? Is repentance from sin necessary for salvation?**

**Faith and Repentance Must Come Together**:

1. ***Definition of Repentance***- *Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ*. This indicates that repentance is something that can occur at a specific point in time and is not equivalent to a demonstration of change in a person’s pattern of life. Repentance, like faith, is an ***intellectual understanding***(that sin is wrong), an ***emotional approval*** of the teachings of scripture regarding sin (a sorrow for sin and a hatred of it), and a ***personal decision*** to turn from it (a renouncing of sin and a decision of the will to forsake it and lead a life of obedience to Christ instead). Genuine repentance will result in a changed life. In fact, a truly repentant person will begin at once to live a changed life, and we call that changed life the fruit of repentance. It is important to realize that mere sorrow for one’s actions, or even deep remorse over one’s actions does not constitute genuine repentance unless it is accompanied by a sincere decision to forsake sin and that is being committed against God. (Acts 20:21) Genuine repentance is preceded by godly grief. (2 Corinthians 7:9-10)
2. ***Repentance and Faith Occur Together***- Scripture puts repentance and faith together as different aspects of the one act of coming to Christ for salvation. It is not that a person first turns from sin and later trusts in Christ or first trusts in Christ and later turns from sin; both occur at the same time. When we turn to Christ for salvation from our sins, we are simultaneously turning away from the sins that we are asking Christ to save us from. Therefore, it is clearly contrary to the New Testament evidence to speak about the possibility of having true saving faith without having any repentance for sin and it is also contrary to the New Testament to speak about the possibility of someone accepting Christ **“as Savior”** but not **“as Lord”** if that means simply depending on him for salvation but not committing oneself to forsake sin and to be obedient to Christ from that point on. (Matthew 11:28-29)
3. ***Repentance Involves More Than A Change of Mind***- Some authors claim that repentance in the New Testament means just a change of mind without any implication of sorrow for sin or any internal resolve to turn from sin. The Greek verb ***metanoeō***, has a two-fold implication: the negative impulse of feeling remorse that brings about a complete change of attitude toward something resulting in a turning away from that something is the dominant impulse, while the secondary but positive impulse is the turning to something else that results in a complete change in one’s way of life. Therefore, genuine repentance is a change of mind (heart) accompanied by a change in lifestyle.
4. ***A Call to Repentance Is An Essential Part of Gospel Proclamation***- In the New Testament, Paul summarizes his gospel ministry as one of repentance. (Acts 20:21) The preaching recorded in the book of Acts shows this to be true of Peter’s preaching as well. (Acts 2:37-38, Acts 3:19-20) When we understand and realize that genuine saving faith **must be** accompanied by genuine repentance for sin, it will help us to understand why some preaching of the gospel has such inadequate results today.