

Repentance and Faith



Repentance and faith are interesting concepts. They are both necessary for salvation, but how do they work? One preacher explained it this way, "Repentance and faith are like a two-sided coin. They cannot be separated just as you cannot separate heads from tails on a coin. They are two distinct things, but they are always found together on the same coin."

Jesus said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3)

What does it mean to repent? According to Strong's repent means "to think differently, to reconsider (morally). According to Webster's Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language, 1913, repent means, "To change the mind, or the course of conduct, on account of regret or dissatisfaction."

When you repent, this means that you change your mind. You change your mind about God and about yourself. You realize that God is supreme, sovereign, the Creator of all the earth and your Creator, and that He owns everything and everyone and has the right to tell them what to do and how to live. Repentance means that you realize that your own way will not work. You are tired of your sin and of trying to get right by doing your own works. You turn to God from yourself and the things you were depending on for salvation. You turn to God because He loves you and has made the way for you to be saved through the blood of His Son Jesus Christ. You turn to God because you know that the only way to salvation is through Jesus Christ. That is repentance.

Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please him [God]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." What is faith? This verse explains what faith is. Faith is coming to God, believing that He truly is God and God alone. Faith is coming to God, believing that He will reward you for diligently seeking Him. You can see how repentance is necessary for faith. Faith is coming to God, believing that He truly is God and God alone. That requires repentance. Repentance is turning to God from yourself, your works, your sins, and anything you might be trusting in to get you to heaven apart from the blood of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul did the work of the Lord, "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." (Acts 20:21)

Are you saved? Have you experienced repentance toward God from your sin? Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ? If not, why not do so now?