



**The Wheel of Faith
Bible Study Guides
Lesson #7
“When the Heart Sorrows part 2”**

Our next step follows in the footsteps of Conviction. What happens after God brings conviction, or what should be our response to the convicting influence of the Holy Spirit?

1. Read Acts 2:38

“Then Peter said unto them, _____, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

- Following verse 37 (Conviction) the people ask, after having been convicted, what shall we do? Then Peter says, “repent”. **Repentance** is next on our **Wheel of Faith**.

2. The word for Repentance is an old English word that means ‘to stop’. In Greek it is μετάνοέω, a compound word that means, ‘with the mind’. The idea is to stop

sinning, but there must be an understanding of the mind about what we are to repent of!

a. Consider this quote on the mechanics of repentance:

*The office of the Holy Spirit is distinctly specified in the words of Christ: "When He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." **John 16:8**. It is the Holy Spirit that **convicts** of sin. If the sinner **responds** to the quickening influence of the Spirit, he will be **brought to repentance and aroused** to the importance of obeying the Divine requirements. AA52.1*

This is the idea of **Repentance**:

#1 **God** will bring **Conviction**

#2 Then we **respond** to that influence

#3 Then we are **quicken**

#4 Then we are **brought** to repentance

- There is only one work we have to do in the order of repentance. Can you determine which step is yours, and which are God's?
- Our part in repentance, or stopping sin, is to **respond** to conviction. Everything else is God's work. God brings about conviction when we come to him. Our job is to respond to what He is telling us, then **He** will quicken us or put a desire within us to **want** to stop; and in this way, we are brought to real repentance.

b. **Discuss this quote:** *"But whenever they **make an effort** to reform, from a sincere desire to do right, it is the power of Christ that is drawing them. An influence of which they are unconscious works upon the soul, and the conscience is quickened, and the outward life is amended." SC PG. 29*

- Responding to conviction is the effort to reform the life. What does this effort mean to you?

c. Our effort is what the Bible means by **repent**. We must **choose** to respond to what the Holy Spirit has convicted us of and then make the effort to bring our life into alignment with our convictions. So, if I am being convicted of looking at pornography then I must respond to that conviction by making the effort in turning it off. Any sin or conviction of righteousness works this way. Maybe I am being convicted to assist the pastor in Bible work. My part is to respond by actually helping the pastor.

3. Let us take a deeper look into this idea of repentance: consider these texts.

Acts 5:31 *“Him hath God exalted with His right hand [to be] a Prince and a Saviour, for _____ repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”*

2 Timothy 2:25 *“In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will _____ them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;*

Thought question: All throughout the Old Testament the prophets of old called out for God’s people to repent. This was surely the work of John and Jesus that said “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand”, yet we are also told that God **gives** us repentance. In view of our lesson today how do you resolve the apparent contradiction?

- *The conundrum of repentance is easily solved when we understand that repentance is a co-partnership with God. Our part is to respond to conviction by turning away from sin in our heart, mind and actions. In making this effort God responds by bringing us to true repentance.*

a. What is the difference between **Godly** repentance and **worldly** repentance, or a **fake** sorrow for sin verses a **true** sorrow?

- **Read: 2 Corinthians 7:9-11**

*“Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye **sorrowed** to repentance. For ye were made sorry after a _____ manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.*

*For _____ **sorrow** worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of; but the **sorrow** of the world worketh death.*

For behold this selfsame thing, that ye _____ after a _____ sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.”

- When we respond to conviction from a true desire to turn from our sin, and we do our part in repentance now, God shows up and enters the heart. He puts within us a true sorrow for sin, a genuine repentance. When we sorrow after a Godly repentance, we stop the behavior, and we amend the life.
- **Discuss:** What are the powerful implications of this kind of repentance in your life?

b. Read the repentance of David in **Psalm 51:1-14**. Notice the **part** of David, and the **actions** of God in response to David’s repentance.

Copartnership

- *Have mercy upon me/blot out*
- *For I acknowledge my transgressions:*
- *My sin is ever before me.*
- *Against you have I sinned*
- *I was brought forth in sin*
- *Behold you desire truth in the inner parts*

David’s response Effort Desire Acknowledgment
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- *Purge me,*
- *wash me*
- *make me*
- *blot out*
- *create in me a clean heart*
- *renew me*
- *restore me*
- *deliver me*

Brought to repent Action always on God Lead to repentance

c. The punchline is in **Psalm 51:16-17**. What is God truly after in us as it relates to our repentance?

- **Discuss** this quote in view of our lesson:

“A repentance such as this, is beyond the reach of our own power to accomplish; it is obtained only from Christ, who ascended up on high and has given gifts unto men... we can no more repent without the Spirit of Christ to awaken the conscience than we can be pardoned without Christ”
SC 24.3

- Again, it is clear. David’s part in repentance was to acknowledge the convictions from God and to turn from his sin in his life. This is clearly seen in the Psalm. As he does this, he calls on God to do the cleansing, changing, delivering, etc. In this way we can be free from not only the penalty of sin, but from the continuing in it. **True repentance is freedom** from the sin that so easily has been destroying our lives. Are you ready to enter into a true repentance?

4. **The test of repentance.** How can we be sure that our repentance is genuine?

- **Read Proverbs 28:13:**

*“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso _____
and _____ them shall have mercy.”*

- Real repentance will always be evidenced by a confession of those sins to God. But equally important, and maybe more difficult, is when God reveals our sins against other people. Repentance for those sins must also be evidenced by confession to those that we have hurt.
- **Thought question:** Has God revealed a sin that you have committed against someone?

Have you confessed it to God, but not yet to that person?

5. **Confession** is more than just seeking forgiveness of sin, but it is also receiving one more thing.

a. Read Philippians 3:12 (NKJV)

“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may _____ hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.”

b. What has Christ laid hold of for us?

- **Read Romans 3:24-26**

“Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His _____, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time _____ righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

- An often-overlooked point, yet crucial, is the fact that confession for the forgiveness of sins is only **one** facet of repentance. The other facet is that our confession is also a crying out for, or laying hold of, Christ’s Righteousness. A righteousness that we need to cover us in the judgment. As we confess our sin, we are also confessing our unrighteousness, and our need of Christ’s Righteousness!
- **Read: Psalm 139:23-24:** What does this say to you?
What is the secret to bringing about conviction from God that will lead to a real repentance?

Appeal:

Will you call out to God, and like David say, “Search me and try me”, which is really inviting God to bring conviction and true repentance into your life?