




The Healing Repentance of Christ


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“The science of overcoming as Christ overcame is the science of salvation. If we will unite with Christ in the work of developing Christian character, **if we will maintain unwavering faith in God and in the truths of his Word,** we shall be given strength to overcome every evil thing in the life.”

Review and Herald, September 30, 1909.




“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

2 Timothy 3:16,17.




“He sent His word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.”

Psalm 107:20.




*“Christ's teaching, like His sympathies, embraced the world. **Never can there be a circumstance of life, a crisis in human experience,** which has not been anticipated in His teaching, and for which its principles have not a lesson. The Prince of teachers, **His words** will be found a guide to His co-workers till the end of time.”*

Education, pp. 81,82.



*“The Word of God **should be our counselor in all difficulties, our guide in all the relations of life.**”*

Signs of the Times, October 3, 1900,
The Bread of Life.




Regardless of age, health conditions, and circumstances, there are **two** absolutely necessary ingredients for anyone to experience **eternal three-dimensional healing and a hope-filled life** through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Acts 20:21


*"Testifying both to the Jews,
and also to the Greeks,
repentance toward God,
and **faith** toward our Lord
Jesus Christ."*






Mark 1:15


*“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: **repent** ye, and **believe** the gospel.”*





“Thus the plan of redemption is laid open to us, so that every soul may see **the steps he is to take in repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, in order to be saved in God’s appointed way; . . .**”

Conflict and Courage, p. 41.






However, **it is vital to recognize** that these two precious gifts from God, **actually determine also** the extent and quality of healing and health a person experiences **in his physical, mental, and spiritual life!**



Ephesians 2:8

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is a gift of God.”





“Faith is trusting God--believing that He loves us and knows best what is for our good. Thus, instead of our own, it leads us to choose His way. In place of our ignorance, it accepts His wisdom; in place of our weakness, His strength; in place of our sinfulness, His righteousness.”

Education, p. 253.




What a blessing to recognize this
fact:


**FAITH IS WHAT VERIFIES THE REALITY
OF WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED US
IN HIS WORD!**



Hebrews 11:1

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”





“Genuine, **saving faith** is **inseparable** from **repentance and conversion**, and will manifest the fruits of the Spirit. **It is a continual, conscious trust in Jesus.** The sinner's only hope is in the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour.”

RH, November 27, 1883.



How many human beings have faith?

“... God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”

Romans 12:3.



**“Faith is the gift of God,
the power to exercise it
is ours.”**

Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 431:



People can choose to put their trust in many things besides the Lord!

Chariots – Psalm 20:7

Wealth and riches – Psalm 49:6

Their own heart – Proverbs 28:26;

Their own way - Hosea 10:13



Other men – Jeremiah 17:5

Vanity – Isaiah 59:4



Education, p. 257:

“Through faith in Christ, every
deficiency of character may be
supplied, **every** defilement cleansed,
every fault corrected, **every**
excellence developed.”




There is **another reality about faith** that causes many sincere Christians to struggle in their experience with the Lord.




That reality is this:

We actually have to **learn to keep our faith in God** – it is necessary to learn to believe – **learn to trust in Him** instead of someone or something else!




*“But in God there is strength to overcome all temptations. When you are tempted, let your heart go out to God in prayer for strength to resist the enemy. **Learn to believe** in Jesus, and to take Him at His word.”*

Review and Herald, August 4, 1896.

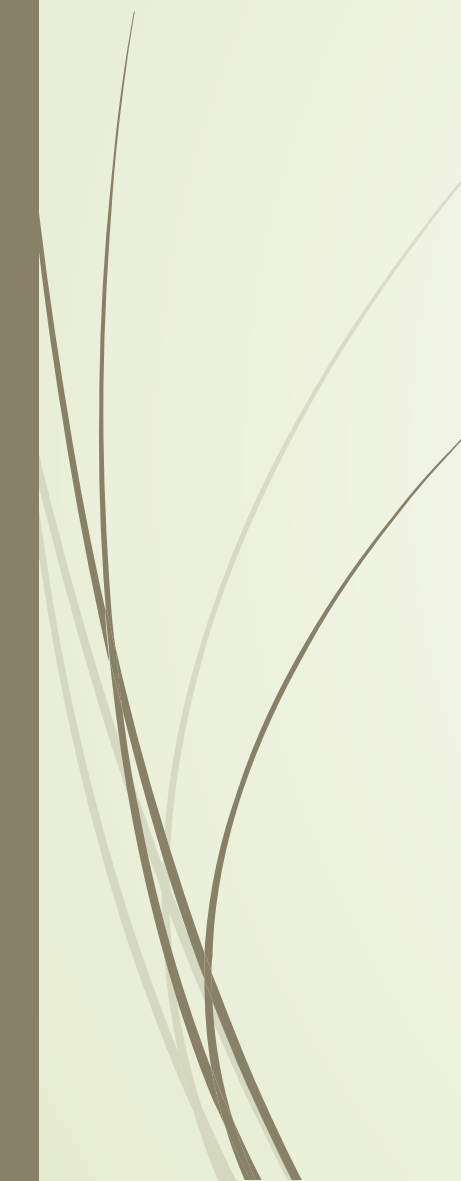



“I must trust in Him (Jesus) irrespective of the changes of my emotional atmosphere. . . . I must not trust Him now and then, but always, We must learn to believe the promises, to have an abiding faith, so that we may take them as the sure word of God.”

Signs of the Times, July 25, 1895.




“The powers of darkness gather about the soul and shut Jesus from our sight, and at times we can only wait in sorrow and amazement until the cloud passes over. These seasons are sometimes terrible. Hope seems to fail, and despair seizes upon us...”





*In these dreadful hours **we must learn to trust**, to depend solely upon the merits of the atonement, and in all our helpless unworthiness cast ourselves upon the merits of the crucified and risen Saviour. **We shall never perish while we do this - never!**"*

Testimonies, vol. 1, pp. 309, 310 (1862).




*“At the very outset of the Christian life every believer should be taught its foundation principles. He should be taught that he is **not merely** to be saved by Christ's sacrifice, but that he is to make the life of Christ his life and the character of Christ his character. . . . **Let them learn to trust His love** and to cast on Him their cares.”*


Christ's Object Lessons, pp. 57,58.



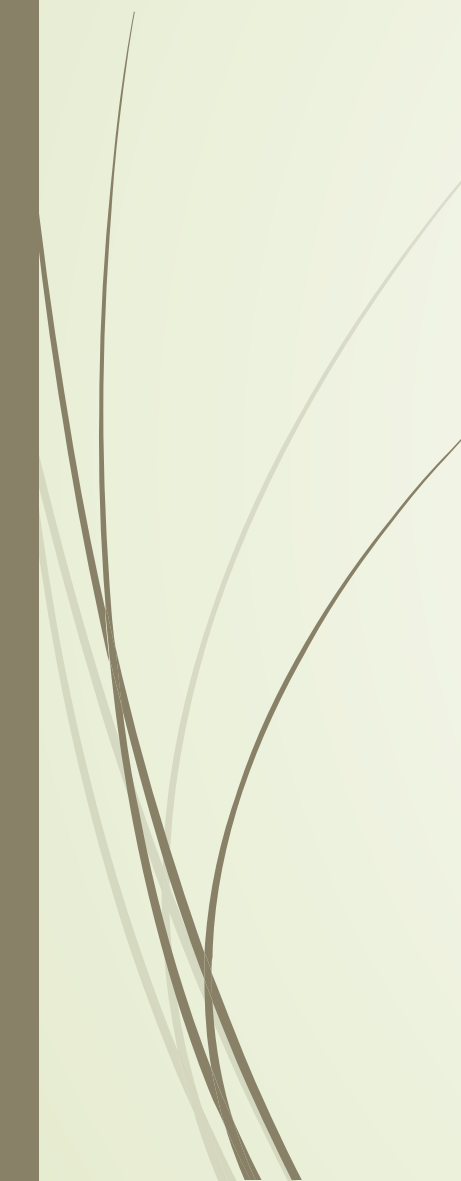
I want us now, to particularly focus our attention upon the other half of the healing salvation equation – **our Lord's gift of repentance.**



This amazingly wonderful gift needs to be more clearly understood and **given more credibility and functionality (usability)** in our cooperation with the Holy Spirit's work **to bring us healing** in all three dimensions of our sin-damaged lives.



Jesus is our Example of the repentance that I believe He wants all of His sincere followers to experience – **not because He ever sinned**, but because **He is our Example in all things pertaining to life and godliness.**






1 Peter 2:21:

*“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, **that ye should follow His steps:**”*




1 John 2:6

*“He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so **to walk, even as He walked.**”*





*“**As Jesus was in human nature**, so God means His followers to be. **In His strength** we are to live the life of purity and nobility which the Saviour lived.”*

Ministry of Healing, p. 426.




*“The life that Christ lived in this world, men and women **can live through His power and under His instruction.** In their conflict with Satan **they may have all the help that He had.** They may be more than conquerors through Him who loved them and gave Himself for them.”*

Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 21.



Acts 5:31 - *"Him (Jesus) hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for **to give repentance** to Israel, and forgiveness of sins."*



Here's the Greek root from which
“repentance” is translated:


μ ε τ α ν ο ε ρ ω - met-an-o-eh'-o
“to think differently or afterwards, that
is, *reconsider* (morally to *feel*
compunction): repent.

Strong's Concordance



Thayer's Greek Dictionary gives this definition for repentance:

“**a change of mind**, as it appears to one who repents, of a purpose he has formed or of something he has done”



“Repentance” is the gift that **enables us to make** godly changes in our responses to things that trouble us – **TO EXPERIENCE a change of heart - a change in our thinking** - produced by the Holy Spirit as we **consent and cooperate with His work!**



Steps to Christ, p. 23:

*“Repentance includes **sorrow for sin and a turning away from it.** We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we **turn away from it in heart,** there will be no real change in the life.”*




This brings another reality to light:


With this gift of Christ called
“repentance,” **the heart change that
brings true freedom from guilt, also
opens the doors to freedom from the
other unhealthy feelings** that sin has
wrought!



Notice where these feelings begin:



In **2 Kings 5**, when the leprous Naaman knocked on the prophet of Israel's door expecting Elisha to personally appear to heal him – and instead, Elisha's servant appeared with instructions to go dip in the Jordan river, notice what caused Naaman's emotional reaction:



*“But Naaman was **wroth**, and went away, and said, Behold, **I thought**, he will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? **So he turned and went away in a rage.**”* 2 Kings 5:10,11.



From the New Testament:

See if you can catch the thoughts that were producing the feelings the disciples experienced in a storm:

Matthew 8:23-26:



“And when He was entered into a ship, His disciples followed Him.

²⁴ And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but He was asleep.



25 And his disciples came to Him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.

26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.”



Can we verify the fact that our feelings are produced by our thoughts from the SOP?


Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 310: “If the thoughts are wrong the feelings will be wrong, and the thoughts and feelings combined make up (develop-dg) the moral character.”




Notice the validation we find
in secular research:

**“Your feelings are created by your
thoughts and not the actual events. All
experiences must be processed through
your brain and given a conscious meaning
before you experience any emotional
response.”**

**David M. Burns, M.D.,
“Feeling Good,” pp. 28, 29.**



Because of what we've just learned about faith and repentance, **the heart change in the way we think about** “*every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us (Hebrews 12:1,2)*” **is vital for anyone desiring a healing change in the way they feel** about the weakness and sin-falls in our human experience!




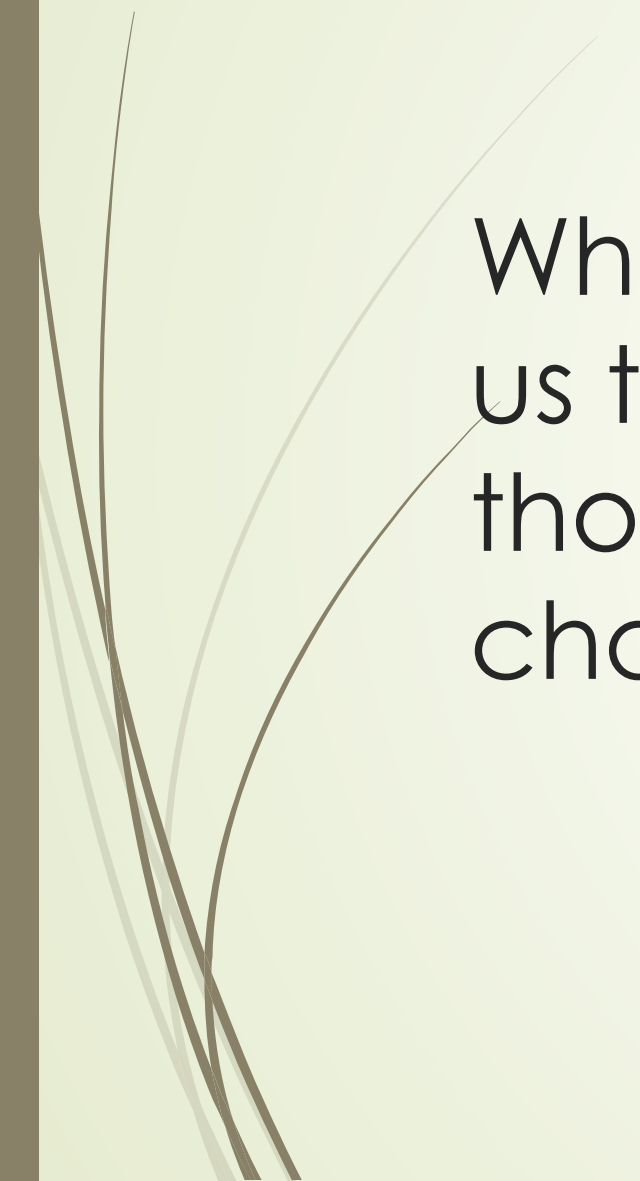

2 Corinthians 10:4,5 calls this practice of “heart change” – making a change in the way we view our experiences – “bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”




Philippians 2:5

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”





What a healing peace Jesus offers us to actually practice thinking His thoughts concerning the challenges of life we daily face!




Once again - the benefit of choosing to practice bringing your thoughts into captivity to the obedience of Christ?

“By steadfastly keeping the will on the Lord's side, every emotion will be brought into captivity to the will of Jesus.”

Testimonies, vol 5, p. 514.



The impact thoughts have upon a person's life?





“Every time you have an **angry** thought, an **unkind** thought, a **sad** thought, or a **cranky** thought, your brain releases chemicals that make your body feel **bad**....Every time you have a **good** thought, a **happy** thought, a **hopeful** thought, or a **kind** thought, your brain releases chemicals that make your body feel **good.**”



Daniel G. Amen, M.D., “Change Your Brain, Change Your Life,” p.57.



**So what does godly healing
repentance through faith
look like?**



In **1 Corinthians, chapter 5**, the apostle Paul called the Corinthian church to repent for allowing one of its members to be in an ungodly relationship with his father's wife.



The Corinthian church took the Lord's counsel through Paul to heart, earnestly repented, and dealt with their precious brother in God's way.


2 Corinthians 7:9,10

*“Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For **godly sorrow** worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the **sorrow of the world** worketh death.”*



Notice something very interesting
in these verses:

Both “**godly sorrow**” and “**worldly sorrow**” have emotion attached to **them** – “sorrow” – which originates from a Greek word meaning
“*sadness, heaviness,
pain.*”



But notice that **godly sorrow**
works (produces) repentance
to salvation;

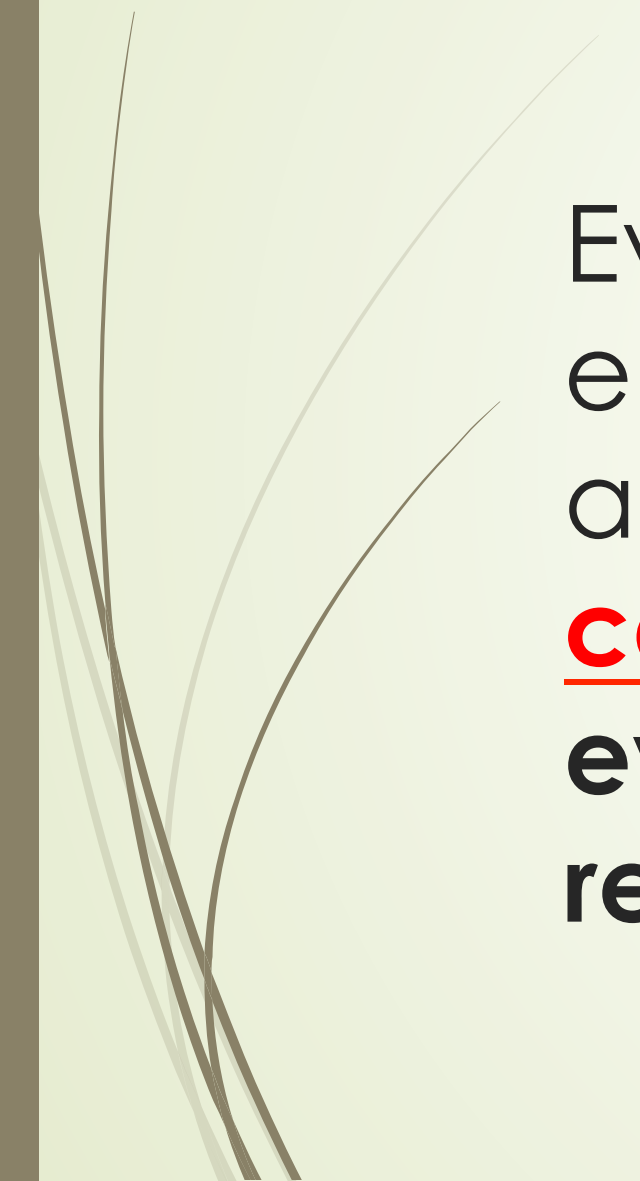
but the **sorrow of the world** **works**
(produces) death!



What does this teach us?

Here it is:

Even though there may be emotions involved in both godly and worldly sorrow – **emotions cannot be trusted** as solid evidence that someone has repented.





Notice how the SOP comments in **Special Testimonies for Ministers and Workers (SpTAo7)**, p. 55:

“Repentance is not a desirable emotion.”




So then, **what's the proof** that a person is experiencing true repentance?



Notice verse 11:



2 Corinthians 7:11

*“For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly 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.”*





According to those words, in what part of their physical anatomy did godly repentance **start**?

In their thinking!



Luke 6:45

*“A good man **out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good;** and an evil man **out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil:** for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.”*



I believe this is vital to solidify in our understanding about true Holy Spirit induced repentance.:

True godly repentance **always **includes** **change in a person's** **thinking** about the sin that's been committed!**





Steps to Christ, p. 23:



*“Repentance includes **sorrow for sin and a turning away from it.** We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we **turn away from it in heart,** there will be no real change in the life.”*




And what did this change in the
Corinthians' thinking cause them to
do?




It moved them to be very careful to harmonize their thoughts with what God said about the sexual sin the brother committed!




They were **indignant** about that sin. Godly, Holy Spirit inspired repentance, moved them to **fear** lest they remain outside of God's will about the matter.




That godly change in their thinking
– that godly repentance –
moved them with **vehement desire**
and **zeal** to take **revenge** upon
that sin, and ***in all things approve***
(exhibit) themselves to be clear in
this matter!”

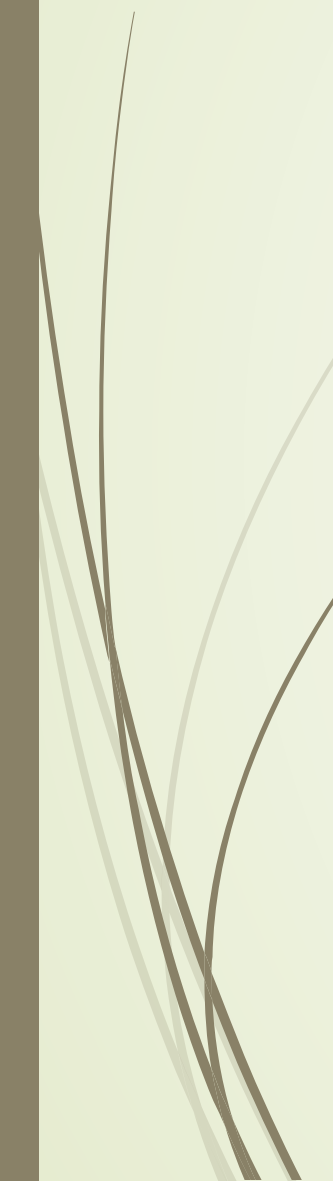


So remember this fact –
**godly repentance begins with a
change in my thinking to agree
with God's solution to my struggles
and troubles - not just an tearful
emotion.**





And remember this – **1 John 3:20:**
If those thoughts are truly God's
thoughts – **they will not condemn
me as a person!** But rather offer a
“future and a hope” of healing
and restoration as His valuable
treasure! **Jeremiah 29:11; 31:3.**






Now let me take you back to
Christ's words found in **Mark 1:15**.





Let's discover **another very
important fact about the gift of
repentance:**





*“And saying, the time is fulfilled,
and the kingdom of God is at
hand: **repent** ye, and **believe**
the gospel.”*

Mark 1:15.




In analyzing or parsing the Greek verbs *“repent”* and *“believe,”* we discover that both of them are in the **present tense, imperative mood!**





*“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that **repenteth**, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.”*

Luke 15:10.




This is very interesting
and important!

In the Greek, outside of the
indicative mood, the present tense
**indicates a continuous or repeated
action, not just a
contemporaneous event!**




This means,
that **like belief** (faith/trust),
**repentance for sin is an ongoing
process, not just a one-time event!**



*“**Repentance for sin** is the first fruits of the working of the Holy Spirit in the life. **It is the only process** by which infinite purity reflects the image of Christ in His redeemed subjects.”*

SDA Bible Commentary, volume 6, p. 1068.





"The life we live is to be **one of continual repentance** and humility. **We need to repent constantly**, that we may be constantly victorious. . . . The enemy **never can take out of the hand of Christ** the one who is simply trusting in His promises."

SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 959.



Again in *My Life Today*, p. 49:

*“Repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ are the fruits of the renewing power of the grace of the Spirit. **Repentance represents the process** by which the soul seeks to reflect the image of Christ to the world.”*



Do you know **why** "continual repentance" is such an important concept in God's plan to save and heal us?





Christ came to save us - **NOT ONLY**
FROM SIN'S GUILT and PENALTY -
BUT ALSO deliver us FROM SIN'S
POWER to rule our lives!



**But in order to do that, He must
have our faith-filled cooperation.**

In what way?







What do we all have in our lives
**that can give sin power to hold us
in bondage** - even after we've
accepted Jesus as our Savior and
Lord?



The answer?

Sinful habits – many formed prior to conversion – and often, without us even realizing it, some formed after.





Notice Romans 7:19 - *“For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, **that I do.**”*


The phrase *“that I do”* is translated from the Greek verb **prasso**, which means **“practice habitually.”**



Mind, Character, and Personality,
vol. 2, p. 540 puts it this way:



"Every man has corrupt and sinful habits that must be overcome by vigorous warfare."

MS 16, 1890; 6BC1111.




Now let me ask you another question: When you first went to school, did you learn how to read and write in one week? Did you learn it in one month?



No – it took some time, amen?!




How long does it take **to replace** an old unhealthy habit of thinking and responding to something that bothers you, **when you have thought about it the same way for many years?**



That is why – **repentance is an ongoing process** and **not just a “repent once and I’ll never do it again”** experience that God may grant us with some of our sins.




Replacing an unChristlike habit of life with a new Christlike habit **is an ongoing process, not an instantaneous event!**



“Bad habits, when opposed, will offer the most vigorous resistance; but **if the warfare is kept up** with energy and perseverance, **they may be conquered.**”

Testimonies, vol. 4. p. 655.





The Bible calls this process sanctification, “**putting off the old man,**” and “**putting on the new man,** *which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*”

Ephesians 4:22-24.




Here's what overcoming sinful habits looks like in practical everyday Christianity -


My Life Today, p. 99:





"The child of God will not rest satisfied until he is clothed with the righteousness of Christ and sustained by His life-giving power."





When he sees **a weakness in his character**, it is not enough to confess it again and again; he must go to work with determination and energy to overcome his defects by building up opposite traits of character.





*He will not shun this work because it is difficult. Untiring energy is required of the Christian; but **he is not obliged to work in his own strength; divine power awaits his demand.***



*It may cost a severe conflict to overcome habits which have been long indulged, but **we may triumph through the grace of Christ....**"*



Are you getting the picture?


Replacing a damaging unChristlike habit with a new Christlike habit **is an ongoing process, not an instantaneous event!**



Here's the call of our day:

Romans 13:13,14 –


*“Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. **But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.**”*







What does “*put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ*” mean in practical life?

Manuscript Releases, vol. 21,
p. 230, gives us some insight:




*“**Entire surrender of your ways** which seem so very wise, and **taking Christ's ways**, is the secret of perfect rest in His love. . . . It is **by learning the habits of Christ**, His meekness, His lowliness, **that self becomes transformed** There is no one who has not much to learn.”*







What does taking on the habits of Christ through true godly repentance look like in practical life?

Notice **Ephesians 4:22-28:**




v22 - “That ye **put off** concerning
the former conversation (behavior)
the old man, which is corrupt
according to the deceitful lusts;



v23 - And be renewed **in the spirit
of your mind;**




vs 24 - *And that ye **put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."*



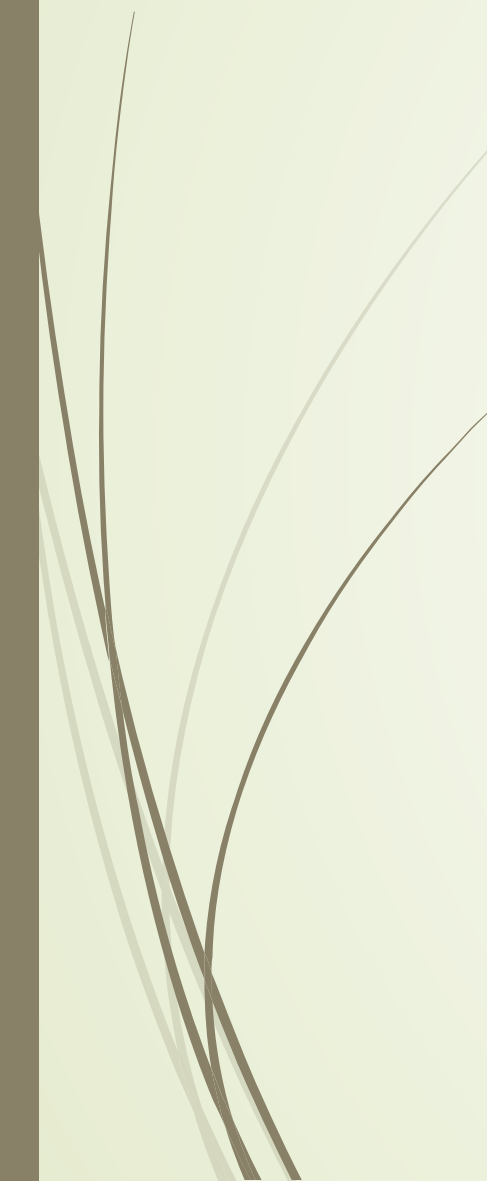

v25 - Wherefore **putting away lying** (repent of lying - dg), speak every man truth with his neighbour (replace lying with speaking truth -dg) : for we are members one of another."



True godly repentance will always include **a proactive replacement** of the old habit, **the old way of thinking and responding**, with the new Christ-like way of thinking and responding.



v28 - *Let him that stole steal no more: (repent of stealing-dg) but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth (replace stealing with honest work to earn to help others -dg)."*



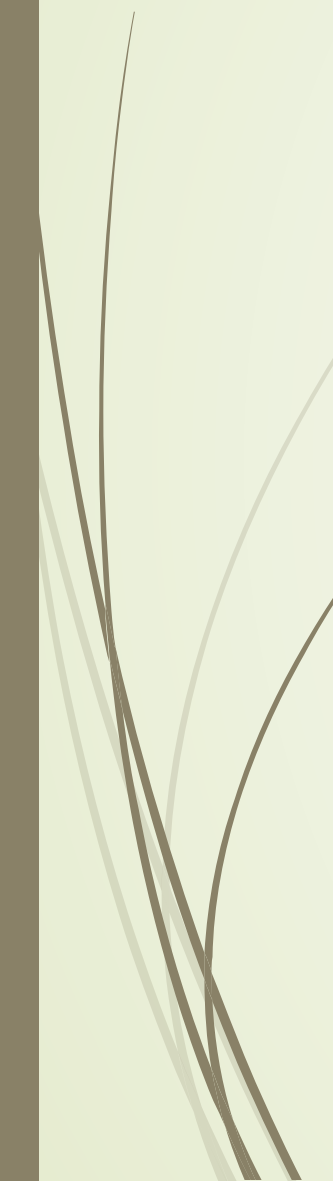

Let me say it again - **The gift of repentance** is an ongoing **proactive process**, because the Lord knew we would have to repent more than once in our sincere faith-filled efforts to replace an old unhealthy habit, with a new Christ-like one!




I repeat again:

Here's how God sees you in your sincere ongoing efforts to learn how to walk like Jesus -

1 John 3:20 – *“For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.”*



And notice what Christ **does for us** in our determined efforts to cooperate with the Holy Spirit of grace and **replace an old ungodly habit of thinking with a new Christ-like one:**



*“When it is in the heart to obey God, when efforts are put forth to this end, **Jesus accepts this disposition and effort as man's best service, and He makes up for the deficiency with His own divine merit.**”*

My Life Today, p. 250; 2 Cor. 8:11,12.



Selected Messages, vol. 1, p.337 -

*"We are to grow daily in spiritual loveliness. **We shall fail often in our efforts to copy the divine pattern.** We shall often have to bow down to weep at the feet of Jesus, because of our shortcomings and mistakes;*



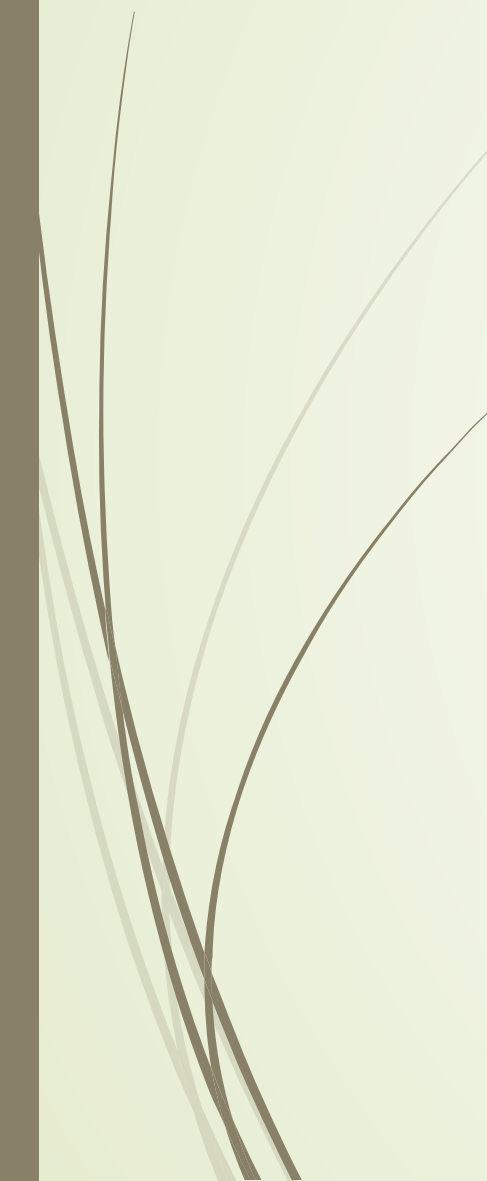
**Selected Messages, vol. 1, p.337
(continued) –**

but we are not to be discouraged;
*we are to pray more fervently,
believe more fully, and try again
with more steadfastness to grow
into the likeness of our Lord.”*



Steps to Christ, p. 64:

*“We shall often have to bow down and weep at the feet of Jesus because of our shortcomings and mistakes, but we are not to be discouraged. Even if we are overcome by the enemy, **we are not cast off, not forsaken and rejected of God.**”*





Steps to Christ, p. 64 (continued)

No; *Christ is at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Said the beloved John, "These things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 2:1.*



Steps to Christ, p. 64 (continued)

And do not forget the words of Christ, "The Father Himself loveth you." John 16:27. He desires to restore you to Himself, to see His own purity and holiness reflected in you.





Steps to Christ, p. 64 (continued)

And if you will but yield yourself to Him, He that hath begun a good work in you will carry it forward to the day of Jesus Christ.”




What am I communicating here?

In the heart of someone who has sincerely accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord - **there is no desire to deliberately and knowingly choose to continue** doing something to hurt their loving Master! Amen?!




Let me ask you, Do you have any desire to continue saying or doing something that is against the healing will and ways of the One Who was willing to give up His life for you and experience the deadly separation from God that unrepented of sin brings?


I doubt that very much!



In order for a person to cooperate with God's Holy Spirit to replace an old damaging habit of response with a new healing Christlike one – **by faith, there must be a healing proactive practice of retraining** the thoughts and responses to harmonize with Christ's, **in the face of the old tempting circumstance.**




And in that process of developing a new healing habit of viewing (thinking about) a situation of life I desire to face like Jesus, ***it is quite possible that*** there will be moments when I am surprised or overcome ***into falling back*** to my old way of thinking about and responding to that situation.




*“If through manifold temptations **we are surprised or deceived into sin, He does not turn from us and leave us to perish.** No, no, that is not our Saviour. Christ prayed for us. He was tempted in all points like as we are; and having been tempted, He knows how to succor those who are tempted.”*


Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 948.



If it happens, do not despair! The moment you become aware of your fall, God for forgiveness, and **go right back to practicing the new healing Christ-like thoughts and responses over and over** until they become the new habit of response in that area of life!



That's what the Lord is telling us in
Philippians 2:5: *“Let (present tense) this
mind be in you which was also in
Christ Jesus .”*



And again in **1 John 2:5,6:**

*“But whoso keepeth (present tense)
His word, in him verily is the love of
God perfected (perfect tense):
hereby know we that we are in
him. He that saith he abideth
(present tense) in him ought himself
also so to walk (pai), even as he
walked (present tense).”*




Remember **My Life Today**, p. 99:



*"The child of God will not rest satisfied until he is clothed with the righteousness of Christ and sustained by His life-giving power. When he sees a weakness in his character, it is not enough to confess it again and again; he must go to work with determination and energy to overcome his defects **by building up opposite traits of character.**"*





GREAT NEWS!

Once the new Christ-like habit in response to any specific temptation is formed, **that part of my life is guarded by the new Christ-like habit** – a habit that will never need replacing!

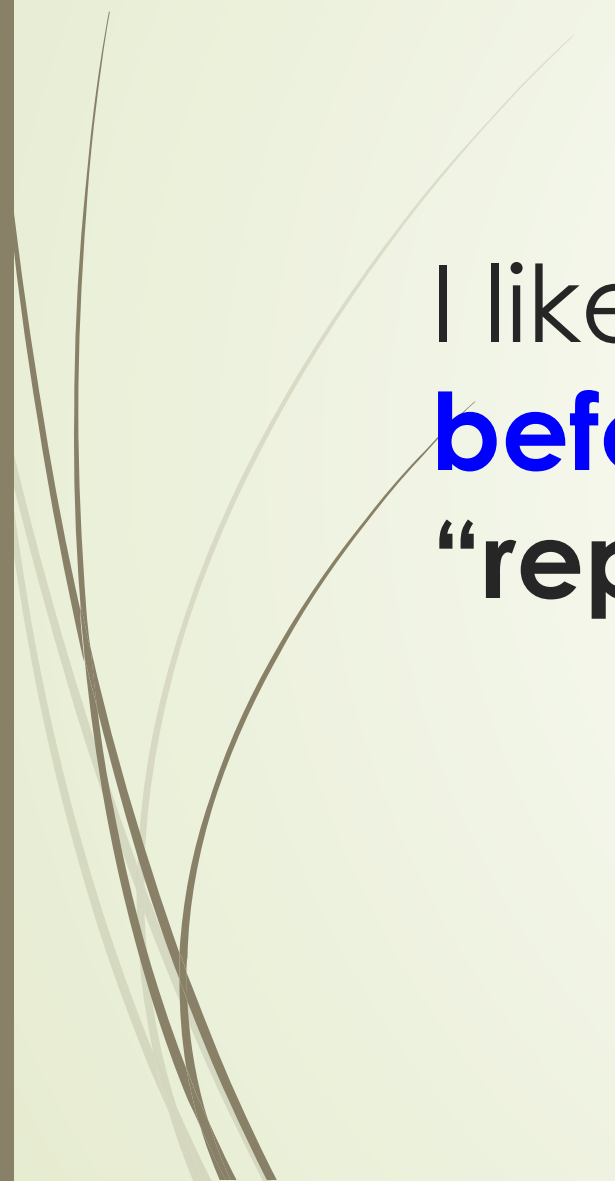





I want to take you deeper now,
in understanding “the repentance
of Christ” that eternally delivers a
person from the bondage of sin
and makes possible complete
healing of heart:



I believe Jesus is calling His followers to experience **the same unique type of repentance** for sin that He experienced while He was here on earth.



I like to call it **“repentance
before sin”** that transforms the
“repentance for sin.”




Wait a minute Dan –
Jesus never sinned - so where
are you getting the idea that
He experienced repentance?



Here's a question:

If Jesus didn't experience repentance, and repentance is part of God's plan of salvation from sin (Acts 20:24), how could He be our perfect Example of the salvation He wants us to have?






**But He is our perfect Example
in every aspect of salvation!**



Matthew 3:13-15:

*“Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad Him, saying, I have need to be baptized of Thee, and comest Thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus **it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.** Then he suffered Him.”*



1 Peter 2:21 - *"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an Example, that ye should follow His steps:"*

1 John 2:6 - *"He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked."*



In Heavenly Places, p. 252:

"When Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted, He was led by the Spirit of God. . . . He had taken the steps which every sinner must take, in conversion, repentance, and baptism. He Himself had no sins of which to repent, and therefore He had no sins to wash away. But He was our example in all things, and therefore He must do that which He would have us do."




Again in **Youth Instructor 2/1/74** -

*"He (Jesus) identifies Himself with sinners as their substitute, taking upon Himself their sins, numbering Himself with transgressors **and doing the work the sinner is required to do in repentance, faith, and willing obedience.** What an example is here given in the life of Christ for sinners to imitate! . . . "*



But Dan - **Jesus never sinned!**

**So how in the world did He
experience repentance?**




But wait a minute – **Matthew 3:11** tells us that John the Baptist was administering the baptism of repentance!

If Jesus hadn't repented, His baptism would have been bogus - a fake!



**IT'S TRUE, Jesus never sinned so He
never had to repent for sins He
personally committed –
and yes, He did repent for us –**

but listen close now -



As the perfect model for our experience, Jesus chose to experience the highest repentance there is -

not **repentance "for sin"**

BUT repentance "BEFORE SIN!"




What do I mean "before sin?"

Hebrews 4:15 – *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in **all points** tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”*



Where does temptation happen?

In our thoughts!




**The moment a temptation to sin
entered His thoughts -**

**JESUS TURNED HIS THOUGHTS
AWAY** from the temptation
**and placed them on God's
thoughts** concerning the tempting
idea the devil had placed before
Him! See Matthew 4:1-11.





**Remember the definition for
repentance?**

"to think differently" - *"to change
the train of thought"*




Jesus chose to experience
a repentance BEFORE SIN -



a change in thoughts **BEFORE**
He could sin!




Praise God, by the power of His
grace, **through faith in His word,
and determined proactive
practice,**





you and I can experience the same kind of victoriously healing **repentance** - the repentance of **Jesus** - **choosing to change our thoughts the moment we are tempted** – like Jesus – to think God's thoughts "**before we sin!**"




According to **2 Corinthians 10:3,4**,
this is the goal in the victorious
experience of righteousness by
faith!




*“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;** “*



By **the determined, proactive and consistent practice** of choosing to bring our thoughts into captivity to Christ's thoughts concerning the situations we daily face - **by faith, practicing over and over again** until it becomes our own personal habit of thought -



this is what will ultimately
transform our repentance **"for
sin"** to habitual **"repentance"**
BEFORE sin! Just like Jesus!
AMEN?



“As Jesus was in human nature, so God means His followers to be. In His strength we are to live the life of purity and nobility which the Saviour lived.”



Ministry of Healing, p. 426.




How does this transformation happen?

“It is by learning the habits of Christ, His meekness, His lowliness, that self becomes transformed--by taking Christ's yoke upon you and then submitting to learn.”

Manuscript Releases, vol. 12, p. 230:




And **all along this healing journey** of cooperating with the Holy Spirit **in faithfully training our thoughts – bringing them into habitual captivity to Christ, we have this precious assurance:**




“When it is in the heart to obey God, when efforts are put forth to this end, Jesus accepts this disposition and effort as man's best service, and He makes up for the deficiency with His own divine merit.”

My Life Today, p. 250.





“Christ looks at the spirit, and when He sees us carrying our burden with faith, His perfect holiness atones for our shortcomings. When we do our best, He becomes our righteousness.”

Faith and Works, p. 102.





*“Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also **out of that which ye have**. ¹² For **if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted** according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.”*


2 Corinthians 8:11,12.




And do you know what one of the greatest miracles is, that reveals another facet of God's loving character?



The miracle of **never condemning us** – but only encouraging and empowering us to fight the fight of faith – of faithfully and determinedly repenting over and over again – until the old damaging habit of thinking is overcome and replaced with the new Christ-like one! **John 8:11.**



But remember- to move from
“**repentance for sin**” to habitual
“**repentance before sin**” like Jesus –
takes time and practice – SO
PLEASE DON'T BACK OFF!!



God knew what we would go through – He made ample provision for our success!

The provisions?



The gifts

GRACE


FAITH

FORGIVENESS


REPENTANCE

CHRIST JESUS – OUR DIVINE MODEL








Let's develop the mindset of our Lord – and **practice seeing every situation of life we face as an opportunity to practice** walking as He walked (1 John 2:6) – **which means it is imperative to practice thinking what He thought!** Phil. 2:5.



It's a wonderful blessing to experience true repentance for my sin – 180 degree turn about in my heart **where I am focused upon a totally different, and Christ-like, train of thought** concerning the situations that have caused me to sin in the past.




It's perhaps and even more wonderful blessing to experience **a repentance like Jesus did as our Example – a 180 degree turn in our thinking the moment a tempting suggestion enters our mental awareness!**



And what is the only motivation that will empower us to continue this good fight of faith – of bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ?

I believe **2 Corinthians 5:14,15** gives us the answer:



*“For the **love of Christ** constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if One died for all, then were all dead: ¹⁵ And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.”*

2 Corinthians 5:14,15.



Courage precious friends!
Jesus loves you!

You are the treasure He lived
and died to keep for Himself for
the rest of eternity!





Notice how vital godly repentance is:

“If they will *repent* and forsake their sins,
God is faithful and just to forgive their sins,
and to cleanse them from all
unrighteousness. . . .

But so long as they refuse to turn from
*iniquity **they cannot develop a character***
***that will stand** in the great day of*
judgment.”

Selected Messages, vol. 1, p. 52.