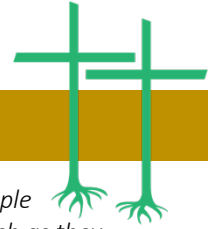


MINISTRY TOOL #3 — FOR MIND RENEWAL



Real Repentance

Repentance is synonymous with the tearing down of strongholds. It is a restructuring of the way people think, especially with regard to the kingdom of God. Sometimes a person doesn't need prayer as much as they simply need a presentation of the gospel.

Acts 26:20 – First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.

EXPLANATION:

Notice in the Scripture above that people were to demonstrate repentance by their deeds. This means repentance is not simply a change of behavior. The behavior change is the fruit of repentance, not the repentance itself (see also Matthew 3:8).

The Greek word for “repent” is μετανοέω (*metanoéō*), and the word for “repentance” is μετάνοια (*metanoia*). Both words, in their original usage, mean to change one’s mind or to change the way you think.

Some think that this sort of mind-change happens when we realize we’ve been sinning and feel sorrow. But 2 Corinthians 7:10 tells us that “godly sorrow *leads us to* repentance.” In other words, a sorrowful recognition of sin is not actually repentance; it’s merely a signpost pointing the way to repentance.

Real repentance is a change in thought patterns—a change in the way we think about life and the world. Real repentance is the renewal of the mind. And such repentance comes from hearing the gospel. The word is synonymous with believing the good news (see Mark 1:14–15).

GOSPEL SUMMARY:

Repentance is what happens when we believe the gospel. Quite often, the solution to a person’s situation is as simple as a re-presentation of the gospel.

What is the gospel? It is the good-news message about God’s kingdom infiltrating this world through all Jesus has done—not only to bring us into alignment with that kingdom but also to transform us into native citizens and fully appointed representatives of that kingdom.

The emphasis of the message is on Jesus’s death and resurrection, and the application of the message is considering oneself dead so that the same Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead can come live inside of us and transform us into new creations.

HOW TO:

- ❑ **Repentance is a gift from God** (see Acts 5:31 and 2 Timothy 2:25). Ask the Lord to help the person receive a revelation of the cross and the resurrection. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus and make the gospel clear.
- ❑ **Share the gospel.** The good-news message of God's kingdom is powerful. Simply tell people about who God is, what He has fully accomplished through Christ, and what that means for us, being transformed into new creations.
- ❑ **Apply the gospel specifically.** Connect the death and resurrection of Jesus to the person's immediate struggle. What does a crucified and resurrected life look like in this situation? What does Jesus want to do? How does God want us to think about this specific scenario?
- ❑ **Ask teaching questions.** Sometimes it's better to have the person tell you the answers to the above questions. Allowing them to think critically with a renewed mind can sometimes help them believe the gospel more fully. Ask them if they believe what they just said in their answers.

If a person is receiving the gospel for the [very first time](#), salvation is available if they confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in their heart that God raised Him from the dead (see Romans 10:9–10). You can facilitate this through a prayer if you like, or through questions and answers.

[If the person already is a follower of Jesus](#) but is receiving the gospel in an area where they had not yet reckoned themselves dead:

- ❑ **Instruct** them to state that they consider that aspect of their life dead with Christ.
- ❑ **Pray** for the person to receive grace from the Holy Spirit to live differently.
- ❑ Have the person **ask** the Lord, "Father, what are You going to produce in me to replace my old way of living?" Ask what was the first thing that came into their mind.