

Regret is not Repentance

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “**Repent** for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Repent –When our Lord and Master Yahshua said, “**Repent**” He willed that the entire life of believers be one of repentance.” We need to give His emphasis serious thought, especially in an age when forgiveness is portrayed as achieved by a single, easy step. Mankind has desecrated the meaning of repentance. In the distant past, religious leaders falsely preached the idea that forgiveness could be purchased ahead-of-time through an advance cash payment serving as an offering to the church. Today the same erroneous preaching occurs but no longer is forgiveness purchased with cash; we now purchase forgiveness using theological declaration...verbal lip service.

“**Repent**” comes from the Greek word, “metanoia,” a word that means, “to change one’s mind.” But Yahshua is not interested in just a new way of thinking. The word literally means “to reverse your direction, to do an about-face.” It carries the idea of stopping, turning around, and going another way. There is a lot more than thought involved here. This is about changing attitudes and actions. One has not repented until one stop’s doing what one was doing and abruptly starts doing what Yah has wanted you to do from the beginning.

Yah wants us to take to heart and understand that repentance never ends! Every day of life will offer opportunity to discover something that needs changing in one’s character. You will see the need to stop and go another way. Everyone that devotes the self to live according to Yah’s way will see more and more behavior in life uncovered requiring a conscious need to effect change. Thus repentance becomes a way of life, not a one-time event.

Today we don’t sell indulgences. You can’t buy forgiveness with the purchase of a document from a church. Instead, the practice of cashless indulgences flourishes every time the forgiveness of future sins is preached as though a one-time conversion wipes out any further necessity to continue seeking repentance. Personally, I will never outgrow my need for repentance until the day I am just like Yahshua. Yah may remove the stain of guilt from my life, but that does not mean I no longer concern myself with confession and repentance. My goal is to be like Yahshua, and anything that comes between me and Him needs to be a matter of repentance.

Matthew 3:7~12 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for **repentance**: And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore **every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down**, and cast into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto **repentance**: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire**: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Repentance #3341. *Metanoia; from #3340 compunction (for guilt, including reformation); by implication, reversal of another's decision): A complete reversal of one's attitude and values.*

Proverbs 1:22~33 Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying, How long, ye **simple** ones, will ye love simplicity? and the **scorners** delight in their scorning, and **fools** hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought

all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: **I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;** When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, **but I will not answer;** they shall seek me early, **but they shall not find me:** For that **they hated knowledge,** and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. **Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.** For the turning away of the simple shall **slay them,** and the prosperity of fools shall **destroy them.** But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

Repentance is the first step to becoming a fully realized human being walking in the likeness of Yahshua. It's not just a religious idea about getting right with God; it's about exposing who I really am. Without repentance, I cut myself off from Yah's intended purpose of having oneself molded into a light to serve the world. Our calling is purposeful, having an objective to be in Yah's image, being single-minded about His intentions for me. If I do not know what those intentions are or I do not pursue those intentions even if I know what they are, results in not being "in His image." Repentance is the way back from where I am to where He is.

Joel 2:12~13 Therefore also now, saith the LORD, **turn ye even to me with all your heart,** and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And **rend your heart,** and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

*Yah sees repentance as incorporating far more than simply a confession and a request for forgiveness. Repentance must be followed by atonement and atonement that produces a transformation. Unless atonement and transformation occur, there is no desired end result of repentance. Having "regret" is not the same as repentance. Regret is remorse for what has been done (usually because one's actions have caused pain and or suffering). Regret proclaims that I desire or show forth disappointment over what was done. But regret does not embrace the determination to never do these acts again. **Regret is feeling sorry,** contrite or even expressing grief over past behavior but it does not necessarily redirect future actions. It might make one much more careful, but it doesn't necessarily change a behavioral direction. **Repentance** is a change in the moral compass while **regret** is relegated to feelings.*

Mark 2:17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: **I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

Luke 15: 1~10 Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. And he spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. 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. Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say unto you, **there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.**

*Thus how does one differentiate between **regret** and **repentance**? If the sinner repents the sin, atones for his error, and attains reconciliation with Yah (God), the sin is wiped off the record. The sinner is now forgiven and is rendered blameless. The mark of repentance ... **CHANGE,** is quite evident in the action of the*

person. When **change** has taken place in the life of the person and the sinful deed is **not repeated**, then repentance has taken place as seen by one's actions.

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, **and be converted**, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

*To be **converted** means; to turn about, to revert, to change your ways. No longer walking as you were, but changing the manner in which you carry yourself according to Yah's ways.*

Hebrews 6:4~6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, **If they shall fall away**, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

A little here and a little there, before you know it you are void of Yah's Holy Spirit, living...no not living, but existing outside Yah's wing of protection...lost. Yes, and who did this deed to us, none other than our trusted best friends: Me, Myself and I.

*Repentance is change. I have only surface learning when merely repeating facts, calculations, and reciting text. Meaningful learning occurs only when content becomes deeply absorbed into the mind "**changing the way I live.**" Until that moment, no true enlightenment has occurred no matter how much is read and studied or is professed to be known. Thus it follows with repentance; until one no longer does what he or she used to do, repentance remains but a word to Yah. At this point it has not become a reality in one's life nor is its consequences viewed as an actuality within the community of Yah. **Repentance requires altered behavior.** The definition, "to believe" is not the gathering of mental or spiritual stowage. To believe is having one's faith transformed into the action of one's belief. Repentance demands a change in direction...first finding it and then beginning to walk and stay on this righteous path with Yahshua regardless of circumstances.*

*Sin is a hideous force determined to destroy us
Repentance is the only cure
Use it liberally to live the life into which you were called*

*Action of Belief Ministry
ActionofBelief@centurylink.net*