

# The Power of Repentance

Daily we are learning about how to be a powerful believer in Jesus Christ. Part of us being powerful includes learning the power of repentance and asking forgiveness for the things we have done to hinder our relationship with Lord Jesus. When we look at the word “repent” in Greek (the original language the New Testament was written in) the word means, “to change one’s mind or purpose”.

## **Read: Genesis 3:1-13**

When we sin, we make a choice to go against the Lord. This sin makes us dirty. It is a choice that separates, or pulls us apart from, He that is holy and perfect. The only way that we can unite again with Him is to ask forgiveness from the sin that has separated us and repent. When we ask forgiveness and repent we are able to unite with Christ again. We can come into the presence of holiness because through repentance we are made holy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Read: 1 John 1:8-9**

As we look at our lives, we will recognize that our choices don’t just go against God but they are also decisions that compromise the best that God wants for us. If you were honest with yourself what are some choices that you have made that separate you from God? What are the choices that you’ve made that after you acted upon them you knew it was not the right thing to do? How do you see that these choices actually go against God’s best for you?

As you are honest about these things, pray now and ask God forgiveness for them. The prayer is as simple as saying, “God, I made a choice that separated us. I’m sorry for \_\_\_\_\_.  
Please forgive me for making a choice that compromises your best for me.”

→ *If your sin involved another person it may be appropriate to ask that person for forgiveness also. Ask your small group leader if you are unsure if you have sinned against another person and need to ask forgiveness.*

## **Read: Romans 12:1-2**

To repent, we must change our minds. We must allow the Holy Spirit to truly change our minds, so we don’t make the wrong choices any more, letting God now rules our lives and not our desires to sin. When you look at the scripture from Romans, what do you think the correlation is with repentance?

In the areas you asked forgiveness in, you must also make a decision to repent. We must renew our minds on truth. The most effective way to get Truth is through the Bible. As you look at the things you asked forgiveness for, recognize that the temptation towards those things may not completely go away immediately. Your mind will need to re-learn, via truth, how to make a different choice next time you are tempted in the same way. Repentance means that when you

come up against the temptation in the future, you choose the truth instead of the reason (or lie) that drove you to sin. You must exchange the lie for a truth.

Examples: If my mind has learned to tell me that I need to lie to get people's acceptance, then I need to replace it with a truth. "I don't need to lie to get people's acceptance because in John 3:16 it says, 'God loved me so much that he let his son die for my acceptance.' I don't need man's acceptance when the King of everything accepts me."

What do you need to repent of or to change your mind about? What lie do you need to exchange for the truth? When you know what lies the Lord wants to deal with, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give revelation about what truth is needed to cancel that lie. What did he speak? Now, verbally in prayer receive that truth in exchange for the lie. For example, "God you spoke that I am accepted and loved so I exchange that truth for the lie that I no longer need to gain man's approval through lying. I want to tell the truth from now on and know that it doesn't matter if man approves or disapproves".

**Read: Romans 8:5-17**

The power of repentance comes when I let the renewing of my mind in truth change me to the degree that the choice for sin is no longer my fulfillment but the truth is greater than the lie. We will see the power of repentance to its greatest degree when we let God completely change how our mind operates through the power of truth. At first it may be hard to not choose the sinful choice of the past but be strong and courageous because as you let the power of repentance into your life, eventually your mind will not be tempted in the same way any more. His is the power of Christ in which we stand!

Take some time to pray together and thank him for all he has done, is doing and will do!