

## VIII. Concerning Repentance and Faith

- ❖ We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby, being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ; we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication, for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving our Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

### *Introduction*

We have before us another complimentary article of that of salvation. In the preceding article we studied grace in regeneration. That grace manifests itself in at least two spiritual gifts at the point of salvation: repentance and faith. Having studied the catastrophic change that occurs in the heart of a true believer by grace, we now turn to the fruits of such grace, the apple of God's eye, the unerring qualifications set by Jehovah-God: repentance and faith.

NOTE\* We have already studied these two topics in some detail as we studied the great doctrine of salvation. Thus, we now review from that study only to add depth to this theological truth.

### *A Review of Repentance & Faith* (See Article IV)

#### *Repentance towards God:*

1. **Matt 4:17, Matt 3:2, Acts 2:38, Acts 17:30:** Here we note Jesus, John the Baptist, Peter, & Paul exhorting people to 'Repent.' Of course, this is a common thread throughout the Bible. The word occurs in only two forms: 1. God repents, or is sorrowful, on occasions of man's actions: i.e. Gen 6:6. & # 2. Man is commanded to repent over their sins, which have separated man & God. It is the latter definition that demands our attention.

2. Why are we commanded to repent? **Romans 8:6-7.** The Carnal mind (our physical, natural makeup) is against the nature of God. We are accustomed to breaking his laws & commandments, usually finding sinful pleasure in doing so. Therefore, 'repentance' (a CHANGE OF MIND) cannot occur solely on man's part. If our carnal mind is enmity against God, how can man change it? By & through the work of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we must acknowledge that godly sorrow (part 1) affects the Spirit & Mind of man beginning the process of true, eternal change.

3. **Matt 12:41-** The people of Nineveh repented. How did they repent? **Jonah 3:5-10.** Special emphasis on verse 10. God saw the people were earnestly sorry, they

were willfully choosing to put away the evilness of the carnal mind by the convicting work of the Holy Spirit. Because of their 'sorrow', they were moved to publicly display their spiritual anguish in symbolic form (something we are not required to do). So, sorrowfulness, heaviness of heart, anguish, & repentance go hand in hand. In other words, the contrite condition of our hearts will cause us to want to change into the image of God.

4. B.H. Carroll states... '(Repentance) is a staple of preaching in both testaments. It is of universal obligation. It is a first principle of the gospel. It is fundamental and vital, being prerequisite to salvation. It is to personal religion what the clearing and breaking up of new ground is to a harvest, what the foundation is to a house, what the grading is to a highway, what the initial point is to a survey. It is the boundary between the covenants. It is the killing, which precedes the making alive. It is the conviction of sickness which turns the sick man to the physician.'

5. Scriptural references: **Luke 18:10-14** (Repentance is humiliating in nature). **Isa 55:6-7** (Repentance is forsaking self). **II Chronicles 7:14** (Repentance is turning from sinful wants, to seeking God's will). **Heb 6:1** (it is foundational to salvation & Christianity).

### *Faith in Christ Jesus:*

1. What is Faith? **Heb 11:1**. Faith is the door you must open for God to experience regeneration. However, it is clear from Scripture that faith & belief can be easily undermined by a psychological acknowledgement of Christ: **James 2:14-19/ Matt 7:21-23/ Luke 8:13/ Heb 10:39**. So, we determine, that mental acceptance of the truth is unfit for eternal life. There is a rich, deep, genuine, heart-felt faith that must occur on the believer's part in order to be regenerated.

2. We have noted that Faith & Belief derive from the same the Greek word. Thus we are exhorted time and again to believe or have faith in Christ Jesus: **John 3:14-18, John 6:35, John 11:25-26, Acts 17:30, Acts 20:21**, etc. The sin of unbelief is the only thing that will keep a man away from God: **John 3:18**

3. 'Christ by his obedience and death has satisfied the claims of the law, so that the Lawgiver (God the Father) can consistently pardon sinners who by faith receive Christ as the Savior. Indeed, it is God the Lawgiver who offers his Son to guilty men as the only Savior, and faith is the heart's response to that offer. In other words, the believer accepts the offer, (and) accepts Christ...' J. M. Pendleton (272). I must add that one cannot 'accept Christ' void of godly sorrow, repentance, and faith. The acceptance of Christ must take place in the heart in the desire the Father will accept us!

4. **Heb 11:6/ Eph 2:8-9/ Matt 28:19-20/Romans 10:17/ Romans 10:8-10**- It is evidently clear that man's salvation culminates at a single point in time: when he exercises genuine faith in Christ Jesus & repents toward God! It is at that moment one is justified, as we will discuss later. Salvation is not a process to the extent that it is

obtained by a series of events either by God or Man. Salvation is the turning darkness into light, goats into sheep, wicked into righteous, & sons of the devil into Sons of God! We will study sanctification (which *is* a process) and the growth that takes place as our renewed Spirit wars with our old mind (flesh).

### ***Faith & Repentance: Inseparable Graces***

1. That Faith and Repentance cannot be separated is a Christian truth. They are so closely linked that one cannot exist without the other. Further, it should be noted that they are 'graces' or from God. True faith and repentance is a gift from God as we will hear note...

1. Fruits of Regeneration: Galatians 5:22-25, Matt 3:8-10, I John 5:4-5
2. Faith and Repentance/Graces from God: Acts 11:18, II Tim 2:25, Eph 2:8-9
3. One cannot exist without the other: Mark 1:15

### ***Summary***

We have discussed much concerning repentance and faith. We have presented all sides to this doctrinal truth and have met the intellectual requirements to understand this principle. However, repentance and faith are both spiritual duties and proceed from the heart of man. We leave faith and repentance with the understanding that both SHOULD occur daily in the believer's life!