

Repentance

and **My people** who are **called by My name** **humble** themselves, **pray** and **seek My face**, and **turn from their evil ways**, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.

(2 Chronicles 7:14, HCSB)

Therefore, repent and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped out, that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, (Acts 3:19 HCSB)

Core Meaning

Repentance in the Bible means a complete change of mind and heart (a "turning away") from sin towards God, involving conviction, confession, forsaking the sin, and pursuing a holy life.

In the Bible, *repentance* is a profound and transformative concept that involves a change of *mind*, *heart*, and *direction*. Here are some key aspects of biblical repentance:

1. Change of Mind ("Metanoia")

The Greek word for repentance "*metanoia*" literally means "to change one's mind." This change of mind involves recognizing one's sins and understanding their gravity. It is an acknowledgement that our actions and thoughts have been contrary to God's will.

Scripture references: "repent for the Kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 4:17

2. Turn Away from Sin

repentance is not just about feeling sorry for sin but involves a decisive turning away from it. This means abandoning sinful behavior and attitudes and turning toward God and his righteousness.

Scripture reference: "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance" Matthew 3: 8

3. Change of Heart and life

true repentance leads to a transformation of the heart and life. It is an inward change that results in outward actions. This transformation is a work of the Holy Spirit, leading to a renewed life in Christ.

Scripture references: "therefore, if anyone is in Christ the new creation has come the old has gone, the new life is here" 2 Corinthians 5: 17

summary

Repentance is a comprehensive change involving the *mind*, *heart*, and *actions*. It is a turning away from sin and turning toward God, resulting in a transformed life. This process is essential for salvation and ongoing spiritual growth.

12. 1. *Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship.* 12. 2. **Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.** (Romans 12:1–2, HCSB)

How does this understanding of repentance resonate with your personal faith journey?

Scripture references on repentance: Psalm 51:10, Acts 3:19, 1 John 1:9, Matthew 3:2/Mark 1:15, Proverbs 28:13.