

## Repentance

Repentance is from a Greek word “metanoes” meaning to have another mind, to change the mind. It is used in the New Testament to indicate a change of mind and heart, in respect to sin, God, and self. Repentance is not an act separate from faith, but saving faith includes and implies that change of mind, which is called repentance. See Acts 17:30, 31. Feelings relative to repentance are diverse. One is contrite about sin and failure, and glad about change of mind and heart in regard to same (2 Cor 7:8-11).

Conscience can convict of sin (Jn 8:9), but conviction is spiritually meaningful only when of the Holy Spirit of God (Jn 16: 7-11), who will not always strive with man (try to convince; Gen 6:3). “Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor 6:2).

Salvation is the great inclusive word of the Bible, gathering into itself all the redemptive acts and processes. “Born again” (new birth) is a Greek word, which in English is also translated as “regeneration.” Therefore “being born again” or “regenerated” (Ti 3:5, 6), is a creative act of God, the Holy Spirit (Jn 3:3-8), within one who believes. Although one may not have great understanding, one can trust and know through believing faith (Eph 2:8, 9). Like the Philippian jailer (Acts 16:30-34), one may be saved on the basis of very simple knowledge. But faith and belief in the Person and Work of Christ on Calvary are essential. Romans 10:9, 10 indicates believing involves trust, assent of the mind and the heart.

Salvation involves trusting and not feeling. We can be sure! The Psalmist spoke great truth, “in His Word do I hope” (130:5) The Apostle John says, “These (the Scriptures) are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name” (Jn 20:31). “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life” (1 Jn 5:13). “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Rom 10:17). It is not the amount or strength of our faith - what counts is the worthiness of Him, the object of our faith. (1 Pt 2:24; 2 Cor 5:21; Heb 7:25).

Only one sin separates from salvation through Christ - unbelief. Failure to believe God will be disastrous forever and forever. (Read John 3:18, 32). During a great storm at sea the Apostle Paul received word from God, and declared to his shipmates, “I believe God” (Acts 27:25). God speaks to you through the Bible - do you believe God?