

Lesson 3 TURNING AWAY FROM SIN

*“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”
(Matthew 5:6)*

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

Every day as believers in Christ, we wrestle with controlling our sinful nature. This is why the need for ongoing confession is so important. We need to ask God to show us our sin nature and ask for His help to turn away from our sins.

When we have sinned, not only do we need to confess our sins, but more importantly, we need to stop doing sinful things. This is called repentance. True repentance results in a change in our attitude and behavior. It works itself out practically as we turn away from sin and desire to turn to God seeking His righteousness instead of our former life of sin.

Read 1 John 2:1-6.

1. As believers in Christ, what happens when we sin (verse 1)?
2. What is Jesus to those who believe in Him (verse 2)?
3. How can we be sure that we know God (verse 3)?
4. What do you become if you claim to know God but don't obey His Word (verse 4)?
5. What is that person lacking, according to verse 4?
6. How can you know that you are in God's love (verse 5)?
7. If we claim to know and abide in Jesus, what should we do (verse 6)?

Jesus died for our sins so that we would follow His example and live for Him. He does not forgive our sins so we can go on sinning repeatedly over and over. Rather He desires for us to love Him (instead of sin), and serve Him (instead of our sinful nature). This is how you turn away from sin.

Read Hebrews 10:26-30.

8. If we receive the knowledge of the truth (Jesus) and continue to sin willfully, what happens (verse 26)?

9. What three things happen when we sin willfully (verse 29)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Everyone is accountable to God. However, for believers there is an increased accountability. God has saved us and forgiven us of our unrighteousness, having revealed Himself and His will to us. He justifiably expects us to be obedient to His will in our life and turn away from sin.

Read Psalm 119:9-11 to help avoid repeating the same sins.

10. How can a young man cleanse his way (verse 9)?

11. How should we seek the Lord (verse 10)?

12. What can we hide in our hearts to keep from sinning (verse 11)?

The more we study God's Word and apply it to our lives, the less likely we are to sin against God. Remember, faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). As we study God's Word, He builds us up in our faith, and this helps us to turn away from sin.

Read 2 Timothy 2:22.

13. From what should we flee?

14. What should we pursue? And with whom?

As believers, we need to avoid people and places that would cause us to stumble into sinning. This involves turning away from a sinful lifestyle and developing a godly, Christ-centered lifestyle where we desire and thirst after the things of God.