

The Fruit of Repentance

by Bill McLeod

The sermon emphasizes the importance of repentance, faith, and obedience to God, and how these qualities are demonstrated through good works and a heart of love.

Duration: 44:15

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, John 1:33, Acts 2:4, Romans 1:16, 1 Corinthians 9:16, 1 Peter 1:22, 1 John 4:7

Topics: "Repentance"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of understanding the purpose of our faith. He highlights the power of the Bible as a weapon and encourages the congregation to rely on it for guidance. The preacher shares a testimony of a pastor who experienced revival in his church after realizing the need for a deeper faith. He emphasizes that faith is not just an intellectual belief, but a heart transformation that is demonstrated through actions. The sermon concludes with the reminder that true faith is shown through obedience to God's truth.

Transcript

Before I get into the message, I would like to say something that happened in Argentina some years ago. There was a group of six different Baptist groups in Argentina, and once a year, they would meet for a fellowship weekend. And the other four hours down there, when they compared statistical notes, the average Baptist church had only won two people to Christ, and it's only won a third.

So when they saw this, they got their heads together and said, we need revival. So they set up a committee to arrange for the following year. Now, they didn't know I was coming down there.

I didn't know a thing about that. But they told the committee, don't choose a speaker. We're going to pray to God.

We'll send someone to us that knows something about revival. I don't care. I don't know a thing about this.

I'm speaking in the Southern Baptist Seminary in Buenos Aires. And after the first session, a professor came running up to me and said, Bill, what are you doing in the nation for a certain weekend? So I got my book out. I've been here for about two months.

And that was the only weekend that I had free. All of them said, you're in a speaker league for a conference. And that's how God put this thing together, you know.

that small car they had money to back around it as well. But, what kind of thing? No. Then what? So what happened there? Well, when the church is clean, God has no trouble saving sinners.

That's our problem today. The church is not clean and God knows that. I want to read a couple of verses, one from Isaiah chapter 1. There's an opportunity to sacrifice unto me, saith the Lord.

I am full of the burnt offerings of lambs and the fine of dead beasts, and I cannot be likened above false or bland or eagles. When you come to a good for me, who has required this at your hand to tread my corpse? In Jeremiah 6, Luke 20, we have the same phrase again. For a purpose comes there to me incense from Sheba and sweet cane from a far country.

Your burnt offerings are not sexual, nor your sacrifices sweet unto me. So the praise to a purpose, dear God. Dear God, be pleased to speak to us and bless our hearts, that we might be a blessing to others.

Father, fill your glory in Christ's name. Amen. Let's think first of all about repentance, because that's where the Christian life starts.

When John the Baptist began his ministry, he was saying, Repent! The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Repent! When Christ began his ministry in Mark chapter 1, he said, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent! And the need of the gospel.

Now somebody is telling us that repentance and faith are the same thing. They are certainly not the same thing. Paul said in Acts chapter 20 that he preached two things.

Repentance towards God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. And all is in that order. But to what purpose is repentance if it's not followed by something else? John the Baptist, when he preached repentance, said this, because he knew the parts of the fire season of it very, very well.

He said, Don't start to think within yourself, Well, I'm one of Abraham's children. Because God is able to make children of Abraham out of rocks. He said, Bring forth fruit that are answerable to a man of life.

If you really repent, let's see it in the way you live. And Paul said the same thing in Acts. That he went everywhere, calling on the people to repent.

And then the two words, worthy of repentance. So to what purpose is repentance if it's not followed by good works? That's what God is saying, I think, to many of us today. Repentance is for anyone wrong.

I've been walking away from God. Well, people said I was going all the way across the system. Well, maybe you weren't, but the Bible says, There's not a just man upon earth who does good and doesn't sin.

Besides, when I say 52, 6, All we have done is strayed, returned everyone to what? To his own way. And that's the essence of life and renouncement against God. Return to our own way.

Now we repent and we have to turn to God's way, totally. And then walking God's way, Pursuant and answerable to our amendment of life, Is what God is wanting. Otherwise, to what purpose is repentance? To what purpose is faith? James said that demons believe and they find out.

What is my faith? Is it an intellectual thing or a heart thing? Paul said to them, Oh, you'll obtain from my heart those things which were given to you. Is it from my heart, my faith? Do I really believe God? So God is saying, What purpose is your faith? Do demons believe? Is yours any better than theirs? Is it just a

mental, an intellectual act there? That there's a God somewhere? It's got to be more than that. It has to be a living thing.

And a living God. James said, Show me your faith without your words. And I'll show you my faith by my words.

That's so important. You show people their faith not by what you see or say, but what you do, what you are to the Lord God. To what purpose faith? Well, I'm going to tell you.

I'm going to ask the same question, To what purpose? What is this all about? 1 Peter 1 goes like this, Seeing you'll purify your souls from obeying the truth through the spirit unto you. Now to take from this, I would say, Motion to walk. Motion to walk to what? You'll purify your souls through the spirit unto you, Unfeigned love of the brethren, Seated to love one another with a pure heart, Firmly being born again.

If you're born again, Then you automatically should be loving the brethren with a pure heart. Firmly. And 1 Peter 4 says, Have fervent love among yourselves, For love shall cover the multitude of sins.

Remember that morning not long before he died, Addressing a group of 400 pastors, Among other things, said this, And it was a great word from his heart, And he said, Brethren, Oh, the church is so loud. This is where we've gone wrong. Thousands of converts, Many of the church's new converts, Problems of different kinds.

And when we saw, the need was love. But born again unto unfeigned love of the brethren, No matter who they are, No matter what particular group they happen to be with. And we have no corruption commissioner, Nor the gospel mission of South America.

And I told my bishop, Why should we all be coming with him, And ask him to come and minister in the chief assembly, There are a lot of assemblies in our opinion, But in Buenos Aires, He looked and said, But I'm with him, And what do you speak of their church? Woo! He said, Boy, look at that. What a great time of the weather. There's something else about this.

But whenever he talked about that, It wasn't important anymore. Do you know this, When you get to heaven, You won't remember what you were doing with it. And I said, No, come to mind.

I said, Okay. We're Christians. That's all.

That's the basis of all. So at the work of the time, Born again, I don't get along with my wife, I don't get along with my kids, I don't get along with my parents, I don't get along with my neighbors, I don't love anybody, Because it's your responsibility. I don't take my love, As people are doing things for me.

Is that how it is? That's how it is for me. So for a purpose, Born again, Unto, Untamed, Love of the brethren, Seated to love one another, With a pure heart, For the, Somebody I don't love, I don't have no problem about it. You know, He got settled in a hurry that way.

For a purpose, Good people, You know, God has asked me, These questions in the Bible, Twice, As we know them. The baptism. John the Baptist said, He was sent me to baptize the world, And he said unto me, Upon whom thou proceedest, Say the same to your neighbor, The same as he who baptizeth Of those foes.

And I saw, And for a record, That this is the Son of God. But Paul said, Christ sent me not to baptize. This is not part of the gospel there.

I mean, Paul baptized two people, And he said, I thank God I baptized somebody else, Because it came to my thought, I baptized my own man. So people are living in unhealed emphases, But what about it? I mean, I was baptized. John the Baptist said to Jesus, I have the ability to baptize the healed.

You come to me, And Christ said, Thus it becomes us to fulfill all righteousness. It has nothing to do with being washed from our sins, As some people think. There's nothing to do with that.

Because Christ certainly had no sin, But he was baptized. It's a picture, As most of us know, I think. It's a picture of dying yourself, And being raised to a new life.

In Christ. That's what it's all about. Has that happened? Many people are baptized.

You know, Some churches, They baptize 20, 30, 40 at a time. And in some cases, I've been in churches where No question was left. Nobody asked any of these converts, Whether they even converted.

They wanted to be baptized, And they took them in as members of the church. And of course, It doesn't at all. They had trouble with those kind of people.

But what purpose? Was baptism. You know, Spurgeon, He was converted, He was 15, I believe, And he spent one or two years As a precept for the members. It was a very vast area.

Every second person was a dropper. He was only there at 2 years, 17 years old, On the train for the ministry. And when they left, Two years later, There were 400 converts in the church.

The rest were droppers, They called them. And here's what he said, We had Holy Ghost revival from the first day. Then he went to London, And his church was C1200, They were running a system, Biggest cause there, That was 120.

The clergy was running at 5. He was there one year, The clergy was up to 500. And the church was packed with doors. And he said, We had Holy Ghost revival from the first meeting.

He knew what that was, But no one was baptized. He was baptized with the word of the Bible, Two copies in English. And he said, Prior to that, I had also doubted my salvation, I was very much afraid of people, I didn't know how to approach people, Witness with them.

And he said, There were people standing there, Watching his baptism. And it was a cold day. And he said, I would bow to the Lord gladly, As a believer in Jesus.

And when I was down in the water, He said, My fears vanished, All my thoughts were taken away. And the river must have carried me down to the ocean, And the fish must have swallowed them, Because I've never felt them since. Something happened, When he was baptized.

And something should happen. Death to self, God to self. But that didn't happen at all.

Then you know, There's a little supper. I felt, At times, That, After it was over. But because I hadn't really, Been into it, The time I had.

Because the Bible makes it clear, That when we partake of the emblems, We are showing, Two things, The Lord's death, And the Lord's coming. John Carleton of the, John Carleton University in the States, Whenever he preached, About Christ, On the cross, He said sometimes he'd get shocked, And at the top of his lungs, In a powerful voice, He would say, Whoever, It was the blood of God, It was the blood of God, On the cross. It wasn't just a man, No one was in Christ, But Christ, Reconciled the world unto himself, Not impugning their trespasses, Onto them.

And that's clear enough for us, The word of reconciliation. But the blood of this cross, I mean, If you're thinking of that, When you're taking, Those emblems, It's not just a little, Wafer, A piece of bread, Or some juice. We're thinking of Christ, And I'll send you that, Through the night, Last night, And I thought to myself, How could the angels, Have been saved, From coming to rescue, Their hero, The light of heaven, The glory of God, The glory of heaven, When he hung there, On that cross.

It was the hand of God, Of course, That shot them, Until they didn't understand, What was going on. Christ, The mighty maker, Died, The man for which you sinned, That's all the psalm says, The mighty maker, I mean, If you're thinking of that, And remembering, It was not Jesus, The master of unbelief, It was God, On the cross, Because of you, Because of me, Your sins, My sins, It wasn't the soldiers, You know, Without sins, That nailed him, On the cross, They had to come out of those, You know, On the sufferings of Christ, But they didn't miss it all, Because, The physical sufferings, Of Christ, That was not, The bad thing for him, I mean, But a woman, She was crucified on the cross, Not crucified like Christ was, She hung there for 48 hours, She was taken down, And she lived, But it was this separation, From God the father, That was the supreme, Element, In his suffering, My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me? His disciples had forsaken him, His brothers didn't believe in him, But my God, Why have you forsaken me? He had to forsaken because, He was dying for you, And dying for me, You know, God has made Christ to be sin, For us, And we have to make the right decision, Of God's giving, So I want you to partake, Of the Lord's table, Think of it, Pray about it, Before you ever get there, Because you know it's going to happen, And being right there, You might otherwise, To a purpose, To something, It takes 10 minutes, And the morning service, We've got lots of fun, There's lots of evidence, They agree, For most of us, I want you to protest, After God, And ask this forgiveness, About the things, And then tithing, You know, Yeah, Christians do the things, I'm tithing, Most Christians aren't, So I'm pretty good, I'm really good at it, And you know, A lot of Christians feel that way, And some preachers feel that way too, Because they don't send them to work, They don't get paid, Christ, Matthew 23, He said, Verse 5, These you ought to have done, It was right at the time, People say, Christ never talked that way, He said, Matthew 23, One of them, But I'll tell you, But then he said this, But you have omitted, The weightier matters of the law, Of all of these weightier matters, He said, Judgment comes with faith, And if you're cold-hearted and loose, You'll love God, As far as God's concerned, Judgment must be made in the love of God, And most importantly, In tithing, You'll notice, In the Septuagint sermon, When God called Israel, And talked to them, About listening to his voice, And treating one another properly, He talked about, Judging these three people, We're trying to help them. Not about what I ask and what my wife asks, but we ask this question, why are you talking to me? She says, yes, I am.

Now, we were sitting here in the checker field, and there's a floor lamp here. It was on a time that we didn't know that. And the next thing she says, yes, I am, and the floor went up.

So it turns into a little show, right? And she says, well, most of the time. And she turned back and I said, this is my business. Okay, bye, boss, I'm out.

I think I can remember, it's just a mercy faith and the love of God. It's what God is concerned. It's what purpose God is saying.

You're going for a purpose. What about these other things that are weightier matters of the law of God? Bible study. There's a lady in some of our meetings, they call her, this is Bible.

She knows Bible so well. She was on the phone at a long distance and asked, she could really answer questions. And then she found out they were calling her, this is Bible, and she slowed up most of the time.

At last, she recognized me, the fact that I really know my Bible well. But she had a problem, and the problem was this. Neither her husband, nor one of her four teenage kids were born again.

Now, she said, I wrote a couple of Bibles, but it didn't do anything. And she couldn't understand why. And so one night in the meetings, God showed her a wicked problem.

And she had a meeting with God. And the following night, she shared with a pulpit a totally transformed woman. She begged the people to forgive her for the wicked pride she'd been feeling.

And she just poured a cup out of it. It was beautiful. And you know what happened? In one week, all the family got saved.

You know, they weren't rejecting the Christ in the Bible. They were rejecting the kind of Christ that's on earth. And so often that way, they're not rejecting the Christ of the Bible.

They're not rejecting Christ as she and me. The Scriptures are not walking according to the way of God. Bible studies, that's not the answer either.

I went to some churches in Mexico that had perennial revival for one very simple reason. The people in those churches, they do not read any further in the Bible than their hearts are willing to obey. Should they come across some verse, they realize they're not obeying that, they don't read any further.

And then, even weeks might go by as they wrestle with the problem, they will not read any further until they've been transformed that now. And the missionaries said, make this up for any other revival we have to send to any more churches that we need to send to them. Bible study, it's good.

But make sure it's not just so you can talk about all the chapters you read every day. How often you need to buy the truth. You don't need to read the Bible 200 times, 100 times under his knees.

And I remember reading about one of his friends who would do 18 chapters of the New Testament every day. Watch what he did. 18 chapters, he just never did.

So it meant something to them. It transformed them. He would say, desire the sincere mouth of the word that you may grow their body.

Are you growing their body? You may be reading a lot, but are you growing their body? So the Bible says, laying aside all malice, all guile, violence, hypocrisy, and envy, and all evil speakings, desire the sincere mouth of the word that you may grow their body. So in that particular statement he said, I don't read the Bible more than three minutes a day and I'm just bored sick. What's wrong? So I took about 15 chapters and I read it.

Now it says, desire the sincere mouth of the word, but the fourth says that, it says this. Lay aside all malice, all guile, and hypocrisy, and envy, and all evil speakings, and then desire the sincere mouth of the word. I said, you got a lot of style in that statement.

You don't want desire the sincere mouth of the word. Truly, that's where the style comes from. And it's taught in America.

And the American guy, he came to see me, I was called names in his church, and he came to see me a week or so later, and he said, and it was a beautiful decision. He said, you know, I'm spending five hours a day with the Bible and I'll teach that to another one. For something to happen to the style itself.

You know, we make text out of context to make the pretext out of that. You got to look at the context. And not just the immediate context, but the context of the whole scripture.

Why is that being said about this particular song? Please, find out. And God will help you when you do that. Bible study.

And then you'll pray, this important prayer. But sometimes we pray and nothing ever happens. And we wonder about that.

Christ said, if you abide in me, and my word's abiding in you, you'll ask if you will. And it shall be done. But not obviously if you're not abiding in Christ, and his word is not abiding in you.

And that's the problem. We can pray a lot, and see nothing happen. And I've talked with people who've said that.

I pray an hour every day. But I never see anything happen. George Hewitt, although he had this huge orphanage, 2,000 kids and 2 or 400 of staff, he was also the very great co-pastor of the first chapel in the city that we were.

And he noticed, Hewitt noticed, that prayer, that a lot more people converted than he did. So how did he handle it? He went to the priest and said, Brother, he said, I preach the same gospel that you preach, and you pray and I pray about the same time every day. How come you get five more people converted than I do? You know, he said, he's a firm believer every time I preach.

I believe God can save some people. What about you? Well, no, he said, I don't believe God can save people, I just hope he will. Well, I'm sure that's your problem.

And so he began to read the Bible every time he preached, and he said, in a matter of weeks, he was seeing as many people converted as Hewitt saw. So it's a very important principle, pray, but believe as you pray. You're asking God to bless you, right? Do you really believe God's going to do it? Okay, it's just prayer, you know.

People do this all the time. You know, we're a bunch of fools sometimes. We don't even know it.

I just wish God would do something not the way He's going to do it. It's an insult to God, you know. Sometimes we only act the way that we are.

Something, we're praying for something for the glory of God, hopefully, and for my older self, perhaps, and maybe for others as well. But if I don't believe, without faith, it is impossible to please God. They told that

in Hebrews 11-6.

It's impossible to please God without faith. So when you pray for God to work, you have to believe that God will do what you're asking Him to do. I'm sure you've all prayed three times about this problem you had.

I'm sure you've prayed and prayed. But God said no, and told you why. If you're praying for something and God doesn't answer it, He'll also tell you why He's not answering your prayer.

He'll do that for you. He'll do that for all. So we should be expecting that.

I believe I should be praying about this, but maybe it's not the will of God. But I'll pray to faith. So you pray to faith, and it doesn't happen, and God gives an answer to that.

But pray to faith, otherwise, what's this all about? All this praying stuff, you know. What's it doing? Good question. I've been, you know, loving others.

It's not putting up with others. It's not somehow maintaining the right attitude to people for a certain specific period of time. It's not that.

I don't know of a stronger appeal in this area. In the case that came out of China, back in the year when they had this deal, young people were told they could go anywhere to China, and they were to target and kill two kinds of people, religious people, intellectuals, and wealthy people. And they killed thousands of them in the home.

Sometimes crowds, there might be five or six or a dozen in a street. They're under the cross. They're dead on the eve of their death.

And thousands were killed. They finally had to call a hospital. They were standing a little bit out of hand.

But in one case, they, a group broke into this house, and they murdered a whole family. But the mother survived. They didn't know her.

They thought she was dead. She wasn't dead. She was killed, but all her family were dead.

And a couple of months after she found out, the leader of that group, the murderer of the family, was living only two blocks from her place. So how did she want to live? She started praying for him and he might be saved. And then she heard he had a sick child and he had no money.

He couldn't take him to a doctor or hospital or anything. So she went to him. She didn't tell him who she was, and she offered to nurse this child back to hell.

Well, he was very glad of that. Thanked her and took care of the child for six weeks. And the child was healed.

And she took the child back to his father. And then she told the father who he was. And about that awful night, he sat there for a moment.

And then he fell on his face on the floor and began to weep. And he cried, to God, oh God. The God of this woman, come to me.

He got sick. Well, that's the kind of love God is talking about. Everything in the world can be tested and you're faithfully made united to it.

It's all part of living in the Christian Bible. So I'm supposed to be a welfare person. I'm not really.

Crying out on something like this. In the middle of Saskatchewan, it's a lot closer to home than China. I got a couple, Johnson's, she was adopted.

They went on a home visit to China. While they were gone, they left their children with her mom and dad. And the grandma and grandpa went for a walk and they were the kids.

And a car changed and ran into them. My mother was killed instantly when we got out. And the grandpa died a couple of days later.

My son, I had to turn away northbound versus Saskatchewan. We were the kids with her. That couple finally recoupled in China.

They finally got them home. And they were very, very sure of it. And then Blatch said, where is the young man that ran into my parents? And they told her.

And she went to see the police. He was in jail. And she asked if she could talk to these young men.

And they let her in. And she introduced herself to them. And she said something like this, you know, you killed my mom and dad.

And I miss them very much because I love them very much. But I want to understand that I don't hate you. I love you.

And I hope you'll come to know Jesus as your personal Savior. And God got saved right on the spot. You can imagine.

But that's what God's talking about. So we're talking about love taught practice. If it doesn't work, it's not really there.

Love speaks not alone. That's the closest to a definition for love defined in any Bible. Love speaks not alone.

So we should always look for other people that we can count on somehow. Passing them, encouraging them. Sometimes we, we shouldn't be scared.

We're always searching. You know, there's a verse that somehow reminds me of a verse like this. It's a calling to God.

Lord, it's time for your work. For everything's going to go well. Are you okay with that, sir? It's time, Lord, for your work.

They've been here a while already. But God calls back to heaven in Romans 13. It's high time for you to wake up soon.

That's all they've been doing, I can believe. So it's high time to wake up soon for ourselves, our mission here in the Holy Land. May the night be a stop sign.

The day is at hand. Let us all cast off the works of darkness. Let us cry out for the light.

Let us go about the rest of the day not in pride and indomitableness, not in sexual morality and lucidity, not in strife and envy, but put you on the road, Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill the rest at all. Remember how it hit me. I've been praying, Lord, it's time for your work.

And he came back. It's high time for you to wake up. And that's all it is.

Awake, brothers and sisters, on the rise and the death of Christ. Should there be a light, see that, that you walk circumspectly, that means carefully, exactly. Redeem in the time because the days are evil.

And I say it's a blessing to be filled with spirit of God in Ephesians chapter five. High time to wake up soon. Our mission for this man, Calvin and Colton, who lived in the states in the mid-1800s, never had invited in Bibles in churches ever there.

And it began as a divine movement. Churches were invited, but were not expecting it, nor were they praying about it, but just happened. But that kind of revival phased out over a period of time as Christians learned what they could do about physical and promotal, or what they could do to see the Bible come.

And he said, we learned that the Bibles would come if we prepared for them through giving of sin, walking in spirit, fasting and praying. And he was the one who said they were never, ever satisfied with insulated, that is, isolated convergence. We kept on praying and fasting and used to work in reading until the Holy Ghost came and took the work out of our hands and then made the whole community aware of God.

Then hundreds were converted and there were seniors in churches everywhere. And this is what he said, we came to the conclusion that those earlier manifestations of revival were sent by God to train us so we know how to do this. How to prepare for revival.

Not because it was like, of course, 1858. The United States had the same population then as Canada has today, about 30 million. They received 30,000 converts a week during that revival, as I mentioned before.

It was not a Christian revival, it was a third revival. And thousands were converted in front meetings. People would say, that's Michael Sacks in there, he's not a Christian, would you people pray for Sacks? The whole congregation said to pray for Sacks.

We didn't even say. This is how the movement went, it was all by God. It started in Perth, then this is what started in Hamilton, Ontario.

Few people know that, but that's where it began. Imagine the states, all the states. There's a book I'm sure every revival culture has it, it's called The Advent of the Century.

You want to read that? The Advent of the Century, it's a powerful, powerful book. The title came from a non-Christian businessman who saw the social effects of the revival and was so moved by that he said, this is The Advent of the Century. And then he got picked up on that, made the title of that particular book, The Advent of the Century.

Room price, 18 beer pots, I think they call them in those days, \$17,000 post-op. And then when I was still in business, they never had enough business to pay for the lights on Saturday night. I mean, so many people went in with them, it was all over the country.

And that goes to the account of this, we're just for a population of 899, we don't accept people converting to the revival. You can think of a small place, 450 people, 400 people converting, it's reviving. This is how it was, this is how it went.

But God is asking and saying, of course, when you hear it, I'm suggesting to the world, God, here, to what purpose is your life? To what purpose is mine? I keep asking myself that constantly. To what purpose is all this activity? There's nothing that's happening. Nothing's happening.

Oh God, thank you for giving us, Father has so many answers. There's such a great help, Father, to us. And you told us it's living, it's powerful, it's sharper than an egg to which you'd sow it.

Piercing you said it's an inviting sucker, soul and spirit, you were drawn to it now, it was then, it is a discerner, criticos, the critic, of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Thank you, God. Thank you for this time.

Oh God, give us what we've prayed. And I'm thinking to what the purpose for thy glory, Christ's name, is.

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