

A Call to Repentance

by Charles Stanley

True repentance is a process of agreeing with God that our behavior or thought pattern is ungodly, establishing in our thinking that sinful habits are displeasing to God, identifying what would please God, and taking steps to turn from sin.

Scripture: Isaiah 50:7

Topics: "Repentance", "Sanctification"

Description

Charles Stanley emphasizes the importance of true repentance, which involves recognizing, agreeing, and committing to turning away from sin and walking in godliness. Whether new believers or seasoned ones struggling with sin, all are called to practice Biblical repentance by aligning their lives with God's Word and seeking to please Him. The process of repentance includes recognizing our sinful behaviors, agreeing with God's standards, and making a commitment to follow His ways, empowered by the Spirit. Through studying Scripture and understanding God's will, believers can experience true freedom and transformation in Christ.

Transcript

2 Corinthians 7:10-11

We learned yesterday that true repentance of our sin includes:

- Agreeing with Him that our behavior or thought pattern is ungodly;
- Establishing in our thinking that this sinful habit is displeasing to God;
- Identifying - with the Spirit's help - what would please God; and
- Taking steps under the Spirit's power to turn from sin and walk in godliness.

Whether we are nonbelievers newly coming to faith in Jesus or believers wrestling with sin, we all need to practice Biblical repentance.

There are three key words in the repentance process: recognition, agreement and commitment. If we do not recognize that our behavior or thoughts are sin, then we will not see any need to confess them to God.

Recognition comes as we study God's Word and learn what God identifies as sin. We must then agree that God's pattern for life is correct and ours is wrong. The epistles to the Ephesians and Galatians are both helpful in revealing what pleases and displeases God. Without agreement, our confession would be more of an "I am sorry for the consequences" statement. Commitment is also necessary. Isaiah proclaimed, "Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame (Isaiah 50:7 NIV). We must commit ourselves to turning away from the sin and choosing God's way.

We who belong to Jesus can permanently change. Remember Christ promises that those He sets free will be free indeed. (John 8:36)

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