

**General Topics :: Does Repentance Come After Conversion?****Does Repentance Come After Conversion?, on: 2005/1/24 16:06****Does Repentance Come After Conversion???**

It seems to be a popular believe that repentance does not need to take place before conversion. Recently someone said in a forum that their pastor even said "repentance comes later".

**Is this true or is this a lie???**

Christ reveals to men the fork in the road at the time of conversion. One road is the road of sin which leads to death, the other road is the road of repentance leading to salvation. It is impossible to travel on both roads at the same time. You either walk with Christ in newness of life or you walk in the age old sins. It cannot be both.

How can a man live two lives? The only men who live two lives are con-artists. Con-artists fake one life while the other is their real life. Those professing Christians attempting to live two lives are also con-artists. They would have to be sinners pretending their conversion because a truly converted man would not pretend to be a sinner.

So does repentance come after conversion? That would mean salvation leads to repentance. Is this biblical? What does the bible say? The bible says the exact opposite! 2 Co 7:10 - "For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation"

So **the bible** says *repentance leads to salvation and not salvation leading to repentance.*

**Re: Does Repentance Come After Conversion? - posted by RobertW (), on: 2005/1/24 16:29**

Hi Bro. Jesse,

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;.

The teaching that repentance is not necessary for salvation is a false gospel. The evidence is in the absence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the so called 'converted.' Christ came to save us from our sin and not in our sins. Men are not saved from hell until they are first saved from sin. Here are some good quotes from Finney;

The Bible teaches that sin is forgiven when it is repented of, but never while it is persisted in. The Bible teaches that the grace of God can save us from sin -- from the commission of sin, or can pardon when we repent and put away sin; but it never teaches that sin can be forgiven while it is persisted in.

The impression of many seems to be, that grace will pardon what it cannot prevent; in other words, that if the grace of the gospel fails to save people from the commission of sin in this life, it will nevertheless pardon them and save them in sin, if it cannot save from sin.

Now, really, I understand the gospel as teaching that men are saved from sin first, and, as a consequence, from hell; and not that they are saved from hell while they are not saved from sin. Christ sanctifies when he saves. And this is the very first element or idea of salvation, saving from sin. "Thou shalt call his name Jesus," said the angel, "for he shall save his people from their sins." "Having raised up his Son Jesus," said the apostle, "he hath sent him to bless you in turning every one of you from his iniquities."

Let no one expect to be saved from hell, unless the grace of the gospel saves him first from sin.

God Bless,

## General Topics :: Does Repentance Come After Conversion?

-Robert

### Re: Does Repentance Come After Conversion? - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2005/1/24 16:32

It saddens me that we even have to argue points like this within the Church. The call to preach repentance along with forgiveness of sins is all over the New Testament; John, Jesus, and the Apostles all did it, so should we;

Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Luke 24:45-47)

In Christ,

Ron

### Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/1/24 17:26

1. Repentance as an event takes place before regeneration.

**Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Act 2:38 KJV)**

2. Repentance as a disposition takes place after regeneration.

**I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you. And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen. Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations. (Eze 36:29-31 KJV)**

It may be that the friend's pastor is of 'reformed persuasion'. Calvinists generally believe that everything begins with regeneration, and that a person cannot repent until they are born again. I DO NOT believe this but it may well account for the some of the confusion?

### Re:, on: 2005/1/24 18:01

It has been my experience that repentance for me has been a process. I think it just means turning from sin and seeking after God but there can be more to come after that initial turning. It started with a turning from my old life, perhaps at the beginning for entirely selfish motives and not even what I would necessarily call Godly sorrow in the beginning but gradually as I have sought after the Lord, He has brought me closer and closer to Him and with that I have found deeper repentance and what I would describe as repentance more now for the fact that I would grieve my Lord rather than because I am in a mess and need to get free and the thought now of being alienated from Him is awful. I don't believe in salvation before repentance at all and believe that we must repent in order to be saved but I do believe that deeper repentance can follow as He is gentle and reveals things to us when we can handle them.

### Re: - posted by NSCalvinist, on: 2009/11/17 11:44

Quote:  
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WELL SAID!

**Re: - posted by bible4life (), on: 2009/11/17 13:37**

Well i will say that you can't do nothing unless the spirit moves first in you to bring repentance, so we don't want to make repentance a work of the human flesh. What i think is taught by the sprouls and washers is that when we do repent that we first must be born from above born again, as john ch. 3 speaks about because the man in his unregenerated state will not repent and will not want the God of Bible and want righteousness. God must regenerate their heart and it brings forth repentance and saving faith. A person who has not regenerated and born again of Gods spirit our we saying in their flesh and in their will our coming to repentance. You have take the whole counsel of scripture and everything the scripture teaches. No man can see the kingdom of God before he has been born again. My friend was telling me before his conversion how he tried and tried to believe and repent and the Lord still did nothing but then one day the holy spirit brought forth true repentance and true faith, my friend tells me he believes that he was saved before the repentance but that the holy spirit brought forth it afterwards. Hey you might disagree mightily about this, but their many testimonies i believe even charles spurgeon who just could not believe and then one day they were born again of the spirit and they believed and i don't know all of charles spurgeons testimony but i remember something like that. Their our many people like sproul and what you call calvinists but i call biblical christians who believe that regeneration happens first and its happened in their own lives, can we believe in our own flesh and repent in our sinful flesh? I say this in kindness.

**Re: - posted by NSCalvinist, on: 2009/11/17 13:50**

A sinner has all the constitutional faculties that he needs to repent of his sins. A sinner is capable of repenting of his sins, which is why God commands him to and blames him if he doesn't. Jesus rebuked sinners for not repenting, which implies that they were capable of doing so.

With the ability to repent, sinners are still unwilling to repent. Their problem is not constitutional but moral. Therefore they need the Holy Spirit to influence them to do so. The Spirit takes the truth of Jesus Christ, who vicariously died as our substitute, and presents it to their mind. This truth influences them to repent, so that they are born again by the Word of God. Regeneration is through revelation.

Regeneration is not a constitutional change, since sinners already have the ability to obey God and are therefore without excuse. Men are given the ability to obey God at creation.

Regeneration is a moral change, when the Spirit of God brings a man to the point where he chooses to repent of his sins, because of the influence of the Gospel on his heart and mind. At conversion the Spirit makes us willing to do what God at creation made us capable of doing.

The Bible says that whoever is born of God does not commit sin and whoever does righteousness is born of God. This shows how being born again, or regenerated, is not a constitutional change but a moral change. A person is born again when they decide to repent and believe, under the influence of the Holy Spirit. We do not repent and believe after we are born again or regenerated. We are born again or regenerated when we repent and believe.

Repentance is not something that God can do for us. Repentance is our own choice. That is why Jesus rebuked the cities who didn't repent. It wasn't God's fault that they were impenitent. They could have chosen to repent but refused to do so, thus the rebuke. But while repentance is our own choice, which God cannot do for us, it is God who influences us to repent. Through instruction God grants us repentance. We never would have repented on our own. It is only because of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives that we have chosen to repent of our sins.

**General Topics :: Does Repentance Come After Conversion?**

**Re: - posted by Axe1338, on: 2009/11/17 14:58**

The definition of Biblical repentance means a change of mind that results in a change of action. That change of mind can ONLY be granted by God (Acts 11:18). That change can only occur when a person is regenerate, so God changes the unregenerate mind and gives man the ability to turn from sin. Repentance is a gift from God as is the obedience of faith. Hope this helps. God bless.

**Re: Does Repentance Come After Conversion? - posted by PassingThru, on: 2009/11/17 17:33**

I think that it is significant that "Repent..." is the first recorded word preached by John the Baptist and Jesus in the New Testament. It is a call to action, so even though God needs to grant us the capacity to repent, it still requires us to use our free will in a conscious response.

PassingThru

**Re: - posted by bible4life (), on: 2009/11/18 2:15**

i would look at ezekiel 36 and ch. 37 it is a great chapters on regeneration, God gives us a new heart and our free will always decide not to choose God, but i understand where you our all coming from but i believe they have to be regenerate d before they repent or it is possible it is all simultaneously.

**Re: - posted by hulseby (), on: 2009/11/18 11:21**

I believe that it is simultaneous. Repentance and conversion are two sides of the same coin.

**Re: - posted by Silo, on: 2009/11/18 14:41**

Paul was touched first. He was on his way somewhere when God made himself known.

THEN he had a choice to repent.

**Re: - posted by Leo\_Grace, on: 2009/11/18 15:28**

Only God really knows, but belief (faith) and repentance must be either simultaneous, or the former precedes the latter. Once cannot repent unless one believes in God.

Without God, the sinful man is happy living in his natural worldly environment. Without God, he would be content and would have no reason to repent.

**Re: Does Repentance Come After Conversion? - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2009/11/18 15:49**

I think it is not wise to say in a four step box how God converts a man. Jesus said "repent and believe"

Some may have faith preceded their repentance, others may have it at one moment, others may have faith first only to repent later, maybe a minute after faith maybe an hour i dont know.

One thing we know, one must repent and believe in order to be saved, and as everything it is a gift from God. And my personal conviction is a gift can be rejected, neglected and so on. But in what sequence it all comes down to, i think we could find testimonies from all over the theological camp with various sequences.

But it may be good to define what we mean by repentance? In my saving moment i turned towards God as my only hope in everything, i had little knowledge or thoughts on eternity at that moment, only life and the situation I was in. Some call that repentance, i chose to believe what he had done for me, and later when walking home, had a very powerful "born a gain" experience, had the testimony of the Spirit within me, i chose to stop living in some sins that i knew could not live in anymore, that was also a kind of repentance, and it continued for several days, the spirit showing me to get rid of music, language and words i used, and many many other things, that to was repentance and that i still do today.

So i think we need to define repentance, i think it is heresy to say one need to stop sin as a action before one can be born

## General Topics :: Does Repentance Come After Conversion?

n again. I didnt. But my heart was in such a state that if any one had convinced me i could be saved from cut my hand off, i would do that, i would have done anything to be "saved" from what i had become.

If that is faith or repentance or both at the same time i know not, I just know Christ became my all that evening.

So i am a bit cautious of people trying to set up a "system" how it works out, Gods ways are not ours. Not as in how Christ saves us, the transaction and the guilt blotted out and how we can have forgiveness, but how the "process" of regeneration is played out.

The apostle Paul was on his way to kill christians when God just stopped him... he had not a single fiber of a thought of either repentance or faith.

Spurgeon had several weeks of agony and anguish of his sins before placing his faith in the Lord, i would call those weeks a form of repentance leading up to conversion.

I think when God see our lives, he has all knowledge, he paints a picture that will lead to "perfect" repentance for each and everyone of us.

### Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2009/11/18 16:33

There is something about man that always compels him to theorize, to exact, to neatly and logically boil everything down to a precise and irrefutable formula. This is precisely why the atheists cannot accept God; but before we critique them, we need to know that this quest for "formulaic evidence" is also why there are so many sects and factions, denominations and debates among *us* on the other side of the wall too.

One side of the wall wrangles over God's existence, and utilizes empirical science (or lack of) to ostensibly prove yea or nay; the other side uses the same logic and mindset to endlessly wrangle over the logistics of how God functions within His Government. For both sides - for the believer and unbeliever alike - obviously, there can never be any resolve as long as the endeavor remains to confine God's sovereignty to some formulaic package the finite mind of man can process.

Whether it be the occurrence of Holy Spirit Baptism or the Born-Again experience, man has always sought to take it apart like a transmission engine in order to get an understanding of how it all runs (or how to prime it so that it will). If we can explain what comes first, then obviously we can break the rest down too. The Pentecostals have done this regarding the Baptism in the Holy Spirit; others have gone to great lengths in breaking down man's moral obligations, capabilities, restrictions, ad nauseum to the point that the mystery of the new Birth is no longer a mystery, but something to be categorized, hypothesized, legitimized.

I have found that the more I deign to understand in the salvific workings of God, the more I come to the inexorable conclusion that *I know absolutely nothing save that salvation comes through faith alone in Christ*. To go any further than this (as to what comes first, etc.), to me, is to venture into a realm God has purposefully left "dark" or "in part", and I find much inconclusiveness, strife, havoc and commotion with each step I take as result. To me, it's like stepping into a dark room and claiming to know the way as you knock down chairs and bark your shin on the coffee table.

Which is what most theology debates amount to, in my opinion.

Brother Paul

### Re: Does Repentance Come After Conversion? - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2009/11/18 17:03

Actually today i began a minor "study" or rather i would call it a search, to find out more about regeneration, not how it works out but more what happens after.

And it was a thrilling one i must say, even tho i am not finished yet to see what Christ has done for us, rather than "how" he has done it is to me a much more worthy conversation, just noting down verses earlier to see the contrast from self to spirit, old man to new man, made alive in him, dead to resurrected, to be a slave to sin to be seated in heavenly places, from a present jerusalem to a heavenly Jerusalem.

and when i was coming to the wellknown verses "christ in me", i was so struck by the discussions myself had had so many times, cal vs arminianism etc. How much energy in thought and effort i have laid on that, only to see what Paul says,

**General Topics :: Does Repentance Come After Conversion?**

what matters is a new creation....

that is what matters, but we so turn emphasis on "how". But the only thing that matters is a new creation, created by HIM, in HIM and for HIM to be transformed into HIM predestined to become like HIM just those 40 verses i noted down just was shining with brightness of that paper to me how easy we put emphasis on other things then what is the thing that matters.

and how God have dumbfounded the wise to make all that available to any man through faith in Christ....

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: (Col 1:13 KJV)

It doesn't matter whether we have been circumcised or not. What counts is whether we have been transformed into a new creation. (Gal 6:15 NLT)

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2Co 5:17 KJV)

I could write a book, thousands of volumes, and still how can you describe the greatest miracle that can take place since creation of the earth? God creating a new man out of an corrupt and evil man, haters of God, and giving such men, by his grace and transformation a chance to once somewhere in eternity to sit on his throne and reign with him?

its just so beyond comprehension what God has done, you cant understand it fully, yet we try figure it out.

That we would more realize what is ours once we have been regenerated, i feel after this search like there are an infinity of blessing to lay ahold of by faith in HIM. How i came into that, in what sequence matter not as much anymore, He purchased me, a divine transaction from old man to a new man.

i am just rambling on , just wanted to share some of my encouraged thoughts from seeing this today.

**Re: - posted by bible4life (), on: 2009/11/18 17:22**

Here was a sermon that i thought was really good by Paul Washer at peachtree baptist church and i thought it would be great for this issue.

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=13088&commentView=itemComments>

**Re: - posted by bible4life (), on: 2009/11/18 17:30**

i am going to put some old testament scriptures speaking about not only regeneration but the conversion of men. Ezekiel 36

19And I scattered them among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them.

20And when they entered unto the heathen, whither they went, they profaned my holy name, when they said to them, These are the people of the LORD, and are gone forth out of his land.

21But I had pity for mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen, whither they went.

22Therefore say unto the house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.

23And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.

24For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

25Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

26A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

28And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

29I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you.

30And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen.

31Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations.

32Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord GOD, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel.

33Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded.

jeremiah 31

31Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

32Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

33But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

exekiel ch. 11

16Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come.

17Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.

18And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence.

19And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

20That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

21But as for them whose heart walketh after the heart of their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their way upon their own heads, saith the Lord GOD.

Re: - posted by bible4life (), on: 2009/11/18 17:31

Ezekiel 37

1The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,

2And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.

3And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.

4Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

5Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:

6And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

7So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.

8And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.

9Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

10So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

11Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.

12Therefore prophecy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

13And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,

14And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

15The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,

16Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and for all the house of Israel his companions:

17And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.

18And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these?

19Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.

20And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes.

**General Topics :: Does Repentance Come After Conversion?**

21And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:

22And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all.

23Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.

24And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.

25And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.

26Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.

27My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

28And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.

**Re: - posted by bible4life (), on: 2009/11/18 17:33**

38And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:

39And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:

40And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

41Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.

42For thus saith the LORD; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them.

jeremiah 32

**Re: Does Repentance Come After Conversion?, on: 2009/11/18 21:32**

Quote:  
-----It seems to be a popular belief that repentance does not need to take place before conversion. Recently someone said in a forum that their pastor even said "repentance comes later".  
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Both are correct. It is before and after, more after than before.

When we first come to Christ, that repentance is basically an acknowledgment that we need Christ. The repentance that comes afterward is that of seeing our own ways when we seek the LORD. We are constantly turning away from things that we see in our lives that are not healthy for our spiritual maturity in Christ.

For example, David's prayer was that the LORD would search him and see if there be any wicked way in him, once revealed to him, he would repent, that is to say, he would turn away from it so that God would cleanse him of it. We have to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in mortifying the deeds of the flesh. The Holy Ghost reveals to us what is of the joint and m

arrow and the intents of the heart.