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Full Repentance

The first foundation of the Christian life is **repentance**. Matthew 3:2, Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:15, Hebrews 6:1.

Both John the Baptist and Jesus began their ministry by preaching the need of **repentance**.

Repentance is a call to everybody to confess their sins, turn from their sins, and surrender totally to the Lordship of Christ.

Speaking about people who had perished in tragic circumstances, Jesus said, **"I tell you... unless you repent you will all likewise perish."** Luke 13:1-5. Jesus repeated this twice, to give emphasis to how essential repentance is.

Without full, wholehearted repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word, we can never make any progress in the Christian life.

Without repentance, we have a divided heart between love of self and love of God.

Full repentance is a confession of all our sins, 1John 1:9, 7, receiving forgiveness, and is a renouncing of those sins before God.

Full repentance dethrones self, and enthrones Jesus Christ as Lord in our heart. Luke 6:46 - 49.

I accepted Jesus as my Saviour at 11 years old, but my Christian life was a mess until, at 19 years, I totally surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

I lay on the floor, face down, and surrendered everything to Him.

Then I got up and made adjustments to my life style as necessary, in relationships and activities, putting Jesus before all else.

Repentance is followed by faith in God and His Word. Mark 1:15, Hebrews 1:1, 11:6.

Repentance and faith are essential, initial, foundations for a strong Christian life.

Answered Prayer

In John 15:7, Jesus said, **"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you will, and it shall be done for you."**

We abide in Jesus by depending on Him in all we do, all the time, and looking unto Him in all we do. John 15:5, Hebrews 12:2.

It is depending on Him, for His mercy and grace in all things.

We keep His words abiding in us as we keep confessing or proclaiming the words that He has spoken to us. Matthew 4:4.

When the Lord speaks to us we take His word into our heart. Out of our heart we confess the word He has spoken. Matthew 12:34.

The words "confess", "confession", "profess", "profession", in the KJV; in the Greek New Testament, (*homologia or homologeo*), means **"to say the same as."** Hebrews 3:1, 4:14, 10:23, Romans 10:9. (Young's Concordance).

This principle of believing what God has said to us, and confessing it out of our mouth, is found in Deuteronomy 30:11 to 14, and is quoted by Paul in Romans 10:6 to 10, **as a clear statement of the Gospel word of faith which he preached.**

It is also found in Deuteronomy 8:3 and is quoted by Jesus in Matthew 4:4. See also, 2Corinthians 4:13, and Psalm 116:10.

Jesus promises that when we pray, whatever we desire, we are to believe that we receive it and we shall have it.

Mark 11:24.

In Matthew 21:22, it says, **whatever you ask in prayer, believing you will receive.**

Jesus says, **Ask and you will receive.** Matthew 7:7.

And in John 16:23, 24, Jesus says, In that day you will ask Me nothing, truly, truly, I say unto you, **whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give it unto you.** Up till now you have asked nothing in My name, **ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full.** (Our asking needs to be led by the Holy Spirit, and in agreement with God's Word, so that what we ask for, is in line with His will and purpose.) **The great JOY of answered prayer is our inheritance in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

JOY

When I think of **Joy**, (J.O.Y.), and what it means to me, I think that it means, **JESUS OUR YES** to all the promises of God.

This is what it says in 2Corinthians 1:20; for all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.