

## REPENTANCE, THE ROAD TO RECOVERY, AND THE DOOR OF RELEASE

(June 1999 – EKB)

**Main Reading:** *2Tim 2:24-26* (in my own words).

As servants of the Lord avoid arguments and be gentle to all, able to teach and explain the truth, patient, in humility showing others who are opposing the truth of the Word, **where they need to change their thinking, attitudes, behaviour.** Then, hopefully, God will be able to lead them through **His blessing of repentance to accept and believe the truth.** In this way they will have their eyes opened, escape the snare of the devil, and their slavery to do his will. *Jn 8:31,32.*

*Rom 2:4* **God's goodness** leads us to **repentance.** That is especially **God's mercy, truth and grace.** *Ps 89:14, Ps 107:1-32.* By mercy and truth iniquity is purged, *Pro 16:6, KJV.*

**Repentance is the escape route,** the pathway to freedom. It is a changing of thinking, attitudes and behaviour to line up with, and believe, the truth of God's Word, *Ac 2:36-39,41, Jn 8:31,32.*

Satan's snare and control **operates over people by his lies and untruth.**

As we faithfully, patiently and gently share the truth of God's Word with someone, the Holy Spirit is able to "open their eyes". As they refuse **untruth, the power of a sinful bondage, a false value of this world system,** the truth of God's Word sets them free through faith. *Jn 8:31-36, 2Cor 3:17, Gal 5:1,13.*

### **Example 1: Repentance and faith bring salvation.**

One day while walking along a country road in central India, a young man ran up alongside me and asked if I was a Christian. I said I was and asked if he was a Hindu. And, yes he was. We chatted a little while and then I asked him what he was relying on to get to heaven? He told me a number of things such as visiting the temples, offering sacrifices, pilgrimages, and helping needy people. My next question was, **"How many of these good things do you have to do to get your sins forgiven?"** His reply was, "I don't know!" So I told him immediately that the only thing that could cleanse away his sins was the blood of Jesus Christ. I then told him the basic Christian message of the Cross and Resurrection. The Holy Spirit wonderfully opened his eyes. He renounced the untruths of Hinduism and became a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. We met Srinu over many years after that, visited his home and family, (who were Hindu), and rejoiced in his strong faith in Jesus, despite much opposition. **Praise God everybody!**

### **Example 2: Repentance and faith bring release.**

For years I had been bound by the sin and habit of anger. It ruined my life as a Christian for some fourteen years. I struggled to overcome it, but the more I struggled, the more I came under its power. I was constantly confessing, asking for forgiveness, and promising God I would not be angry again. I thought that I had to overcome anger by my own determination and effort. **One day someone showed me that Christ had already defeated the power of anger, and had totally set me free by His death on the Cross and resurrection,** *Rom 6:6,11.* For two weeks I believed and confessed this truth with thanks and praise, and the power of God through His

Word and the Holy Spirit brought me full release from anger. **Praise God everybody!**

**Example 3: Repentance and faith bring freedom.**

A Christian brother came to visit and shared that he had a problem of lying. He told me that the Head Teacher of the school where he had taught had come into his room one Monday morning and asked to see his lesson plans for the week which were supposed to be written up in the weekend. He told the head teacher that he had written up the lesson plans but had left them at home. This was not true. The teacher told him to bring them the next morning. So after school that day on his way home, he called in to pray, repent and make a change to tell the truth from that time on. The next morning, he took the lesson plans to show the teacher who checked and okayed them. Then he confessed his lie to the Head Teacher who became very angry and considered having him sacked from his job. This did not happen. **Repentance was the escape route to freedom for this Christian brother from the bondage of lying when under pressure.**