

## **Time to Repent!**

The wonderful gifts of our Living God include His Blood, His Word, His full authority, and His priceless gift of repentance.

With sincere repentance, by exercising your free will to choose His way based on His Word, instead of your old self focus, you and I come into His Kingdom. (Matthew 4:17). Then, with the help of the indwelling Holy Spirit, He assists us to cleanse from old sin patterns. There's no condemnation in Christ; no guilt. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). We are not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Wanting us to experience abundant joy, those in His Kingdom He already calls His royal priesthood, even though all of us have fallen short of the glory of God. He calls us to be holy as He is holy. The more we cleanse from old sin patterns, the more we are filled with His Holy Spirit as His clean vessel, ready for Him as His Bride. (Matthew 25: 1-13; Ephesians 5: 25-27). He asks us to dedicate ourselves as a living sacrifice apart from the world, seeking Him above all else. It's the least we can do; it's our rational, logical act of service, our worship to Him (Romans 12:1).

In Revelation 3:19-21 the Risen Christ calls us to be zealous to repent. He knocks on the door of our hearts and minds, encouraging us to "dine" with Him, where we can ask Him which old sin stronghold is best suited today to be removed, to be replaced with His Word as our eternal path to purity. He calls us to be overcomers to sit with Him on His throne, as He overcame and sat on His Father's throne. In the severe shaking that has begun and He has allowed, which is about to deepen in His perfect timing, we each need to cleanse to be as clean a vessel as possible, to hear His instructions and to minister His love to the many who don't yet know Him and who will be in shock and fear.

The repentance process is simple. Take time to be with the Lord, inviting Him to "dine" with you. There's no rush. Experience His Love, His Peace. As you feel moved by His Holy Spirit to deal with any of the sin issues cited below, ask Him where that sin first appeared in your life. Perhaps you only have a residue of that sin. Ask Him if it's a generational curse. Ask Him to show you how it shows up in

your life today. As you see the power it still has as a stronghold, confess it, and then choose to repent, sincerely desiring to remove it forever to be replaced by His Word. His Word is divinely powerful to destroy all falsehoods, all filters, all strongholds that have wrongfully taken the place of Christ. ( 2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

After repentance, then receive the freedom, the Joy of the Lord! Joy follows repentance. And then there's one last step in true repentance: walk out, speak out your new Godly character, "bearing fruit worthy of repentance." (John 15: 1-8; Hebrews 12: 10-14). This will be a witness to others, seeing your new changed character. Invite them also into the Kingdom through repentance!

There's no shortage of personal and national sins from which to choose. We ALL fall short of the glory of God. Begin today to deal with one that especially speaks to you. Begin, and the Lord will support you.

These first seven are an abomination to the Lord (Proverbs 6:16-19); you may want to ask Him to help you with one of these first:

- a proud look
- a lying tongue
- hands that shed innocent blood
- a heart that devises wicked plans
- feet that are swift in running to evil
- a false witness who speaks lies,
- one who sows discord among brethren

Another eight sins keep us out of heaven (Revelation 21:7-8):

- the cowardly
- unbelieving
- abominable
- murderers
- sexually immoral
- sorcerers
- idolaters
- liars

Here are some more; as you read the Bible you'll find others:

apathy  
failing to hallow the Father  
failing to keep the Sabbath holy  
failing to honor one's father and mother  
outbursts of wrath  
adultery  
failing to stand for God's Covenant plan for your nation  
failing to stand for Israel  
leaving Jesus as your first love  
lukewarmness  
failing to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace  
not working effectively to do your share to grow His body in love  
gluttony  
fornication  
judging others  
unforgiveness  
mammon, love of money  
greed  
sloth  
envy  
racial prejudice  
stealing  
covetousness  
apostasy  
failing to honor Holy Matrimony  
failing to protect children  
failing to love your neighbor  
forgetting the poor

Repentance is also the key for the Lord to heal a nation. His Word to King Solomon in 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 is true today: *"When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."*

Our forefathers in the United States in the face of war, drought, or pestilence, used this key spiritual "weapon" over 800 times in the past 400 years to call on God's Solution to heal our land. The last such call was in 1918. It's time now to invoke His Solution with national days of repentance. The words of President Abraham Lincoln included in his April 30, 1863 Declaration of a "Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer" speak to us today: "*...it is the duty of nations, as well as of men to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is Lord... We have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God; we have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us! It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.*"

Clearly it's time for each of us to repent. God bless you as you begin your repentance journey. And God bless you as you join us on a national day of repentance.

