

Nehemiah 10:1-29

When God grants repentance to His people, He gives them the desire and ability to set their hearts and minds on making a true, visible change.

Nehemiah: 9:38 *"Because of all this we make a firm covenant in writing; on the sealed document are the names of our princes, our Levites, and our priests."*

Repentance is Serious Business

In Hebrew, the definition of "repent" is to "return, come or go back." It is a complete reversal of one's attitude and values. It is a turn away from sin; a turn back toward God. It is both a gift from God and a command.

The pattern of repentance laid out in Nehemiah:

1. Hearing the Word (8:1-8)
2. React to the Word (8:9-12): Remorse, Worship
3. Obedience to the Word (8:13-18)
4. Worship, Confession, and Worship (9:1-37)
5. Commitment to Obey the Word (9:38-10:29)

The Source of Repentance

Repentance is a gift from a merciful God, given freely to those He intends to save.

It comes from hearing the word: Neh 9:9, Acts 2:37

God provides it because He is kind: Romans 2:4, Acts 11:18

The Fruits of Repentance

1. Remorse: Neh. 9:9: *"For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law."*

Repentance displays itself in sorrow or grief for the ways in which people have offended God. A genuine understanding of one's sin for what it is, the opposite of God's pure and holy nature, will lead one to remorse. Coming face to face with God's pure light will expose sinful deeds for the horrible corruption that they are.

2. Commitment to Change:

Neh. 9:38: *"Because of all this we make a firm covenant in writing; on the sealed document are the names of our princes, our Levites, and our priests."*

Repentance is marked by this kind of attitude adjustment plus action. In cases of genuine repentance, the Bible shows is that the person doing the repenting will make a mighty effort to stop sinning.

Repentance is a return to obedience

Application:

Repent early, Repent often

Acts 17:30 : The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent

Repent like you mean it

Rev 3:19: "Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent."

Why we should repent (the Benefits)

1. Salvation without regret

2 Cor 7:10 *"For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death."*

2. Sins blotted out

Acts 3:19: *"Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out..."*

Jer 31:34: *"For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."*

3. Times of refreshing in the presence of the Lord

Acts 3:19-20: *"Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord"*