

07. Repentance

Repentance means an about-turn in our lives. That is what helps us to turn towards God. God has to see that a man chooses Him before He can forgive his sin. God doesn't force anyone to accept what he does not want. God has given you a free will. If you don't want what He offers, He won't thrust it down your throat. The Bible says that Jesus stands at the door of your heart and knocks. He waits for you to open the door because He is a gentleman. He will never force you to do anything that you don't want. He wants you to respond to His invitation.

To be united with Christ is something like getting married. Here is a man who says 'Yes, I am willing to marry you' to a girl, but the marriage is not complete until the girl also says, 'I am also willing.' When both express their willingness, then only does the marriage take place. Now a man may have said he wants to marry the girl and he may have to wait five years before the girl says, yes. That is how it is with God. He says to you, 'I want to be united with you. I want to forgive your sins, I want to come and live in your heart and I want to bless you. I want to change your life, and I want to deliver you from your bad habits.' But He won't do it until you say, yes. He is not going to force Himself into a marriage with you if you are not interested. That is why so many people in the world live without God.

Now you see a lot of people in this world living with religion. To live with a religion is not the same as living with God. There is a tremendous difference. There are so many religions including the Christian religion. People usually have a religion because they were born into it. They were born into a particular family and so they go to a particular place of worship. But there is a lot of difference between that

07. 悔改

悔改的意思是，回转。这个回转，使我们转向神。神需要看到一个人选择了祂，才能去原谅那个人。如果人不愿意，神不强迫任何人接受祂。神给了你自由意志。如果你不愿接受祂所提供的，祂不会硬塞进你的喉咙。《圣经》说耶稣站在你的心门口敲门。祂等待着开门，因为祂是一位绅士。祂永远不会强迫你做任何你不愿意做的事。祂希望你能够响应祂的邀请。

与基督的结合是类似于婚姻的。男人对一个女孩说，“是的，我想要娶你”，然而只有当女孩也说，“我也愿意”，这婚姻才可能完成。当两人都表达他们的意愿，他们的婚姻才能进行。现在，这个男人已经说他愿意娶这位女孩，但直到她说“我愿意”以前，他可能得等上五年。我们与神就是这样。祂对你说：“我愿意与你结合，我想要赦免你的罪，我想要住在你的心里，我想要祝福你。我想要改变你的生活，我想要使你脱离各种坏的习惯。”然而，直到你说“我愿意”之前，祂是不会去做的。如果你不感兴趣，祂不会来强迫你和祂结婚。这就是为什么世上这么多人，活着却没有神。

你其实看到，这世上很多人，是有宗教的。然而，有宗教的生活，和有神的生活，是有巨大区别的。这世界上有许多宗教，也包括基督教。人们经常因为出生在某种宗教的环境里，而有一个宗教。他们因为出生于某种家庭，因而去特定的地方去敬拜。但这和与神结合是不同的。耶稣基督来世上，不是为了开始一个新的宗教。不是的！这是个误解。耶稣基督的确通过很多东西来教导我们，像是仪式或每个主日去教会之类

and being united to the person of God. Jesus Christ did not come to start a new religion. No, that is a misunderstanding. Jesus Christ did not come to teach us to go through many rituals, and to go to Church every Sunday. No. He primarily came to bring us into a relationship with God as our Father; into a personal relationship with Him; into a marriage, like I said. He has already said yes when He died on the cross for you, and rose up from the dead. Now He is waiting for you to respond to Him just like the girl had to say yes to the waiting boy. And the moment you say yes, your marriage is over. You are united with Him, forever. But in order to do that (say yes to Him), you have to do what the Bible calls you to - repent.

Repent is a very simple word which just means 'to turn about'. Now you have seen a military parade. You have seen perhaps the leader of the parade saying 'about-turn'. When that command is given, all the soldiers turn 180 degrees to the opposite direction of what they were facing before. That is an about-turn and that is basically what repentance really means. We are born with our backs to God. We are not really interested in God. The Bible says that no one in the world seeks out for God. A lot of people are religious, but to seek for God is something quite different from being religious. We are born seeking our own profit and gain. Even the religious people are seeking their own profit and gain. Think of all the people who go to various places of pilgrimage. What are they going there for? They are going there to get some benefit for themselves. And there we see that it is really selfishness; they are no different than the non-religious businessman who is also seeking his own interest when he seeks to make money in the marketplace.

的。但祂来世上首要的，是为带领我们与神建立个人的亲密关系，使神成为我们的父，就像我之前说的，让我们接受这个婚姻。当祂在十字架上的时候，祂已经对你说了“我愿意”，尔后从死里复活。现在祂在等着你的回应，就像是姑娘要对那个还在等待的男孩说“我愿意”。当你说出“我愿意”的时候，这个婚姻就成了。你和祂永远的结合了。但是，为了说这个“我愿意”，你必须像《圣经》里告诉你的，去悔改。

悔改是个非常简单的词，就是“完全转向”的意思。当你看阅兵的时候，领队的说“向后转”。当这个口令一出，所有的士兵都会转 180 度，转向和原来完全相反的方向走。基本上这就是“悔改”的意思，就是向后转。我们生下来都是背向着神的，都对神不感兴趣。《圣经》说这世界上没有人寻求神。这世上有很多人是有宗教的，但是这与寻求神是非常不同的。我们生下来，就一直寻求自己的利益。甚至有宗教的人也是在寻求自己的利益。想想所有那些去不同地方朝圣的人。他们是为了什么去？他们去是为了给自己带来好处。从这我们能看出，这是多么的自私，他们和没宗教的生意人，是没有差别的，生意人为了寻求在市场中赚钱，同样都是在为了寻求自己的利益。

So to turn to God means to turn away from seeking just my own way in life; to say, 'Lord, I want to turn around from everything that dishonours you and displeases You. I want to turn around and face You. Till now my back was to You and my face was towards the world, towards sinful pleasures; having my own way, pleasing myself. Now I want to turn around and put my back to all those things and face You, and seek to please You.'

The Bible calls repentance in 1 Thessalonians, 1:9 as 'a turning to God from idols.' If we worship anything other than the true God - it could be money, it could be self - that becomes like an idol in our life and that turns me away from God. That thing becomes my God, that thing is uppermost in my mind. Repentance is to turn away from all those things and turn to the one true God. A pretty girl whom you love could be your idol; who could be like God in your life to occupy so much time. It could be money, your job, your house, your car; it could be anything. Unless we are willing to turn from the worship of these things and say, 'God, Creator of the Heavens and my Creator, I want You to have the first place in my life' (that is repentance, to turn around and make God central in our life), we cannot have a relationship with God.

Now, very often, we find it easy for us to deceive ourselves. We can think that, because we have said these words, we have repented. But the Bible also says that we must bring forth fruits that are in keeping with our repentance. How do we prove that we have really turned from our old way of life? One way would be, if you have stolen money from someone in the past, or if you have cheated the government of taxes, then once you have repented of it, you are going to return it. You are going to go to that person and say, 'I am sorry, I stole some

所以，“转向神”的意思是，转离寻求只有自我的生活方式，说“主，我想要转离一切有损你的名和不讨你喜悦的事。我想要转而面对你。一直到今天以前，我一直都是背对着你，面朝向这个世界，面向着这罪恶的快感，任凭着自己的方式，取悦自己。现在我想要转向，把背转给这个世界的各种乱七八糟，而把面朝向你，来寻求使你喜悦。”

《圣经》在帖撒罗尼迦前书 1 章第 9 节里说悔改是“离弃偶像，归向神”。如果我们敬拜除了真神以外任何东西——可以是钱，可以是你自己——那都变成我们生活的偶像，而使我们远离了神。那个东西就成了我的神，那个在我心里占据最重要位置的东西。悔改，就是离弃一切这样的东西或事情，而归向唯一的真神。你爱的漂亮姑娘可以成为你的偶像，成为像是你生活的真神，占据大量的时间。这东西也可能是钱财，你的工作、房子，你的车，可以是任何东西。除非我们愿意停止崇拜这些东西，并说：“神，天地的创造者，我的创造者，我想要你在我生命里占据第一的位置”，否则我们就无法与神建立关系。这就是悔改，转向神，尔后以神为我们生活的中心。

很经常地，我们发现自我欺骗是非常容易的。我们可能会想，因为我们说了这些话，就是已经悔改了。但《圣经》还说，**我们要结出果子，与悔改的心相称。**用什么能证明我们真从原来的生活方式里转向了呢？有一种方法，比如你曾经偷了某人的钱，或是骗过政府的税，如果你悔改了，就要还回去。你要去对那个人说：“对不起，我曾经偷了你的钱。你可能还不知道这事，这是那笔钱，和利息，一并还给你。”如果你骗了政府的税，就意味着要把钱还给政府。如果你坐火车没买票，就要去把票钱给火车站。这样，就能够证明你是真心要悔改。否则，就只是耍嘴皮子罢

money from you. Perhaps you didn't know about it. Here is the money with interest that I am returning to you.' If you have cheated the government of taxes, it would mean returning that money to the government. If you have travelled in the railways without buying the ticket, it would mean repaying that money to the railways. Then, it would prove that you are serious about your repentance. Otherwise they would be mere words.

Now a lot of people turn to God with mere words. There is a verse in the Bible where God says, these people turn to me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from me and their worship is a mere tradition. That is how it is with most religious people in the world; their religion is one which never causes them any inconvenience. Do you know how inconvenient it is to go back and return money which you have taken wrongfully from somebody? It is humiliating, but that is the proof that you really want to give up that way of life. It also means that if you have lost your temper at somebody, and shouted at somebody, or called somebody by a bad name, you should go to that person and say, 'I am sorry for what I did. That was my mistake, please forgive me.' See, those are just a few words. It takes only fifteen seconds for you to say it to somebody. But you will discover it is so difficult for you to do it.

Why is it so difficult for you to say those ten or fifteen words to somebody? - Because of pride, we are so proud. That is the reason why many people cannot turn to God. Christ has died for our sins, but we have to turn towards Him in order to receive that forgiveness. We have to turn away from that old way of life that we have chosen. And we have to say, 'Lord, I want to receive what you give.' To say that, I have to repent - there should be a turnabout. Otherwise, if I just say with my words to God that I

了。

现在很多人归向神，都仅仅是口头上的。神通过《圣经》说，有些人只是嘴上归向祂，心却离祂很远，敬拜只是个传统而已。这世界上大部分有宗教的人，其实都是这样；他们的宗教从不会给他们带来丁点的麻烦。你知道回去退还那些不该拿的钱有多麻烦吗？而且非常丢脸，但那能证明你真的想要放弃原来的生活。这也意味着，假如你曾经对谁发脾气，对人吼，或是给别人骂名，你需要对那个人说：“抱歉我曾经做过的。那是我犯的错，请原谅我。”你看，这就只有几个词。也就需要十五秒。但是你将发现，它有多难。

为什么对人说十几个词有这么难？原因是骄傲，我们都太骄傲了。这就是很多人没法归向神的原因。基督为我们的罪而死了，但我们需要转向祂，从而收到那份宽恕。我们需要从以前旧的生活方式转向。我们还需要说：“主啊，我想要接受你给予的。”说这个，就需要悔改，需要完全的转向。否则，如果我只是嘴上对神说对不起，却不愿意把对别人做过的错事纠正，那只能说明，我们归向神的心不是认真的，也可能说明我们只是想很便宜地得到神的宽恕。你知道吗，这份宽恕不是廉价的？你知道吗，神必须把祂自己的儿

am sorry and I am not willing to set right with man the things I have done wrong to man; it would only mean that I am not really serious about turning from my old way of life. It would mean that I want to get forgiveness from God cheaply. Do you know that forgiveness is not cheap? God had to send His son Jesus Christ to earth to die? And he had to go through all that suffering to purchase our forgiveness. If you want it cheaply, if you don't even want to acknowledge your sin before man and confess to that person, then you cannot get that forgiveness.

So, repentance means that I acknowledge the guilt of worshipping things other than God. I need to come to God and say, 'Lord, You alone are worthy to be worshipped. You, whom I cannot see with my eyes - the Invisible Creator of this universe - You are the One worthy to be worshipped. I am sorry that I have spent my life worshipping created things. I want to turn to You.' Repentance doesn't mean that you have to give up your job and become a hermit or give up your family or any such thing. It is not giving up earthly things as much as giving up an attachment to earthly things. There is a lot of difference. God may still allow you to have your home, your job, your family, but don't be attached to them, don't make them your god. In fact, making them your god destroys you. It is not a sin to use the comforts that modern civilization provides us, but it is a sin to love those comforts more than we love God.

See, God has created our bodies in such a way that we can experience the pleasure of food, sleep, and many other things like that. There is nothing wrong in experiencing these pleasures. But if we make these things more important than God, then those things have become idols in our lives. One more

子耶稣基督送到地上来为此而死？而且祂必须经历各种折磨来为我们换回这份宽恕。如果你试图要便宜地得到它，连对人坦白承认自己的过错都不肯，那么你根本得不到这份宽恕。

因此，悔改意味着承认自己爱慕其它事物超过神。我需要来到神面前说：“主，你是唯一值得敬拜的。虽然我不能用肉眼看到你，无形的宇宙创造者，你是唯一值得敬拜的。对不起在过去的日子，我爱慕那些你所创造的东西。我想要归回你。”悔改不是说要你放弃工作去做隐士，或是放弃家庭之类的。悔改是要你放弃对这些事物的依恋，而不是放弃这些事物本身。这两个有很多区别。神仍然允许你拥有房子、工作或家庭，但祂不要你依恋这些东西，不要让这些东西成为你的神。实际上，把这些东西当作神会毁了你的。利用现代文明所提供的方便不是罪，但如果你爱这些舒适方便胜过爱神，就是罪了。

你看，神造我们身体的方式，使我们能够体验到食物、睡眠，和许多事物的美好。体会这些美好是没有错的。但如果我们把这些感受看得比神本身更重要，这些事物就成了我们生活的偶像。另外还有一件事：如果我们不饶恕别人，那么耶稣和我们在天国里的父亲也不会饶恕我们。所以这就是我们要做的另一件

thing: if we don't forgive others, then Jesus said that our Heavenly Father will also not forgive us. So that is another thing we need to do. If we are really repentant, we will forgive every single person who has harmed us, just like God, our Heavenly Father, has forgiven us.

事。我们如果真的悔改，就要宽恕曾经伤害过我们的每一个人，就像神，我们天国里的父亲，宽恕了我们每一个人一样。