

The Fruit Of Repentance

Explain how to give tithes and offering

I want to start by asking you 3 questions...

1. Are you faithful to God always or just to a location weekly? If you leave the location excusing your sin, you have your answer!
2. Are you faithful to God always or just when life is easy? If you only praise Him when it's easy, you have your answer!
3. Are you faithful to God always or just when you get your way? If you throw a fit when He doesn't obey you, you have your answer!

The Fruit Of Repentance is the title of this message.

Are you living FOR God?

Fruit Of Repentance

A lot of people say that they're living for God, but the fruit of repentance is nowhere to be found!

So this is a word for the, "Don't judge me", "Christians shouldn't judge", "How dare you offend me with the truth!" crowd:

Listen...TRUE LOVE does not sit idly in silence while the person they claim to love is headed for a cliff and is too blinded to see it!

SIN is SIN and the wages of sin is still death!!!

Sin has never been, is not and will NEVER be OK with God!

The devil has deceived so many people into thinking that "love" means "letting me do what I want with no consequences"!

And when someone loves them enough to tell them the truth, it is mistakenly perceived as hate!

But they are unfortunately going to find out when they stand before a loving God on judgment day that God is both "love" and "Justice"!

Grace is given to all who will humbly REPENT and receive that grace through faith in Christ; all others will be held accountable under the Law of God!

And He is perfectly just!

Those who reject the grace offered by Christ have only the horrific TERROR of God's wrath to look forward to!

No sin will escape His wrath except that which was placed under the blood of Jesus!

Those around you may tell you that "because God is love, you'll be OK when you stand before Him because He understands that you couldn't help being the way you are because after all, He made you that way".

But we were ALL born into sin and ALL need to REPENT and turn away from that sin regardless of what kind of sin it is!

Repentance = met-an'-oy-ah: Reformation, reversal or change of heart and way of thinking...a 180 degree turn in direction.

John the Baptists said in:

Mt. 3:8 - Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

(HCSV) - Therefore produce fruit consistent with repentance.

(JB Phillips) - Go and do something to show that your hearts are really changed.

In Genesis, it was fruit that took us out of a relationship with God, and now it's fruit that takes us into and keeps us in a relationship with God!

I've heard it said that the main 3 fruit of repentance are humility, urgency for change and dependence on God!

So how is repentance walked out?

1. Confess your Sins!

This happens when the fruit of humility is present.

1Jn. 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

It's not just saying, "I'm a sinner"...

Confess= hom-ol-og-eh'-o – To come into agreement or covenant with God about your sin.

It's when you see your sin like God sees it, not just little harmless sins, but something vile horrid and putrid!

And through humility, you admit that you have willingly embraced such a vile horrid and putrid lifestyle and are now denouncing it and coming into covenant with God for an entirely new life!

And according to 1Jn. 1:9, when we REPENT, God empowers us to not only be forgiven, but also to be cleansed of that unrighteousness!

In other words, it has no more power over us!

2. Confirm your Sorrow!

Repentance is more than just saying, "I'm sorry";

It's proving it out through action!

This happens when the fruit of urgency is present.

With repentance comes the awareness of the seriousness of our sins and the desire that flows from that: to get this horrible problem taken care of right now!

Luke 19:1-10

1. Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through.
2. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.
3. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd.
4. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.
5. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."
6. So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.
7. All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a `sinner.'"
8. But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."
9. Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.
10. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

Illus: J. Edwin Orr, a professor of Church history has described the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit during the Welsh Revivals of the nineteenth century. As people sought to be filled with the Spirit, they did all they could to confess their wrong doing and to make restitution. But it unexpectedly created serious problems for the shipyards along the coast of Wales. Over the years workers had stolen all kinds of things, from wheelbarrows to hammers. However, as people sought to be right with God they started to return what they had taken, with the result that soon the shipyards of Wales were overwhelmed with returned property. There were such huge piles of returned tools that several of the yards put up signs that read, "If you have been led by God To return what you have stolen, Please know that the management forgives you and wishes you to keep what you have taken."

3. Control your Self

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 - It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body (KJV- possess his vessel) in a way that is holy and honorable,

How can this possibly be done?

This happens when the fruit of dependence on the Holy Spirit is present.

Gal. 5:16-23

16. So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

17. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

18. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

19. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;

20. idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions

21. and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23. gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

John 5:1-9

1. Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews.

2. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades.

3. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie--the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.

5. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

6. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

7. "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."

8. Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."

9. At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath,

John 5:14 - Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you."

What was Jesus saying? REPENT!

John 8:3-12

3. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group
4. and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.
5. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"
6. They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.
7. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."
8. Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.
9. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.
10. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"
11. "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."
12. When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

What was Jesus saying? REPENT!

In fact, the first thing Jesus ever preached was, REPENT!"

Matthew 4:17 - From that time on Jesus began to preach, "REPENT, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

Matthew 11:20 - Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not REPENT.

Mark 1:15 - "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. REPENT and believe the good news!"

Mark 6:12 - They went out and preached that people should REPENT.

Luke 13:3 - I tell you, no! But unless you REPENT, you too will all perish.

Luke 15:10 - In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who REPENTS."

Luke 17:3 - So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he REPENTS, forgive him.

Jesus to the church in Laodicea:

Revelation 3:15-16 - I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

Revelation 3:19 - Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and REPENT.

The Apostles also followed Jesus example in proclaiming the need for repentance:

Peter:

Acts 3:19 – REPENT, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to REPENTANCE.

Paul:

Acts 17:30 – (Paul) In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to REPENT.

2 Corinthians 7:10 - Godly sorrow brings REPENTANCE that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

... And there are many more!

Ezekiel 33:8-9 - "When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked

man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself."

Illus: The story is told of a famous rabbi who was walking with some of his disciples when one of them asked, "Rabbi, when should a man repent?" The rabbi calmly replied, "You should be sure you repent on the last day of your life." "But," protested several of his disciples, "we can never be sure which day will be the last day of our life." The famous rabbi smiled and said, "Exactly".

Illus: In the 1800s Gypsy Smith was a great revivalist. When asked how to have revival he said, "go home, lock yourself in your room, draw a circle around yourself w/ chalk, and ask God to start a great revival w/in that circle! When God has answered your prayer the revival will be underway!"

Hosea 13:6 - When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me!

Deuteronomy 8:17-19

[17] You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me."

[18] But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

[19] If you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed.

2 Chronicles 12:6-7

[6] The leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, "The Lord is just."

[7] When the Lord saw that they humbled themselves, this word of the Lord came to Shemaiah: "Since they have humbled themselves, I will not destroy them but will soon give them deliverance. My wrath will not be poured out on Jerusalem through Shishak.

Confess your Sins, Confirm your Sorrow and Control your Self through the power of the Holy Spirit!

REPENT and experience all of the benefits of the love of God!