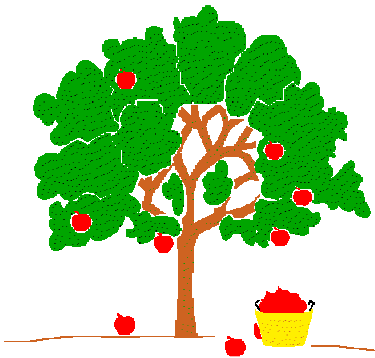


BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED – GOD GAVE US REPENTANCE (IV)!



[4] The Fruits Of True Repentance.

He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

Proverbs 28:13



The first fruit is **Confession**. One who refuses consistently to confess known sin in his life has not repented at all. In the New Testament, the baptism of John the Baptist was known as a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. **Mark 1:4** informs us that those people who were baptised by John the Baptist, as they were baptised, they confessed their sins. If we go back to the Old Testament, we find that in Nehemiah's time, those who were convicted of their sins, they separated themselves from all foreigners, they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. Confession of sin is one of the fruits of *true repentance*. Have you confess your sins?

Confession is self-accusing. It is saying, "*I have sinned.*" By nature, all of us do not like to do that. We like to accuse others, to blame others, but never ourselves. Therefore, some progress has been made, if a person confesses his sin. Yet not all confession of sins are true confessions, are confessions which are acceptable to God. Saul confess his sins in **1 Samuel 15:24** ~ *I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.* If we examine the "confession" of King Saul carefully, we will find that it was not a true confession. In his "confession", he was trying to blame others and excuse himself. This is never so with true confession.

- True confession is voluntary. You saw your sins and you confess it freely, willingly, unforced. If a person is being pressurised or even taught to confess his sins, then we have every reason to question if that confession is genuine. The prodigal son charged himself with sin and confessed his sins before his father opened his mouth. It was a voluntary confession.
- True confession is sincere. Even though in confessing our sins, we use our mouth, yet true confession is not just with the mouth. It is from the heart, you really mean it even as you say it. Some can say sorry very easily, but they don't really

mean it, they don't really feel the weight of their sin. That is not so for David. As he confesses his sins, he says **Psalms 38:4** ~ *For my iniquities have gone over my head; Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me.*

- True confession is specific. A wicked man acknowledges that he is a sinner in general. A true convert acknowledges his particular sin. David in his confession in **Psalm 51** did not say, "I have done evil" but he says, "I have done this evil". He was very specific because true confession is specific.
- True confession justifies God. A truly repentant man, as he confesses his sins, he will not try to push some of the blame to others or even to God. Instead, he will declare that God is just in His dealing with him, that God is holy and righteous. Compare Adam's confession of sin with that of David's. Adam said, in **Genesis 3:12** ~ *The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I ate.* Adam tried to push some of the blame to the woman, to Eve, and also some of the blame to God. But how different was David's confession in **Psalms 51 : 4** ~ *Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight; That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.* Here, we find no trace of him blaming Bathsheba, or God, or anyone else. He only blames himself for that sin.

The second fruit is Forsake. **Isaiah 55:7** ~ *Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.* There is no true repentance if a person still holds on to his sin, and refuses to part with it. This forsaking of sin, this turning from sin to God --- it must be observable. **True repentance** is a full 180 degree turn; a turn with the whole heart, a turn from all sin, a turn to God and a turn with no return. It is not 90 degrees or 360 degrees, but a 180 degrees turn. And there must be the "full purpose and endeavour after new obedience".



God commands all men everywhere to repent. Repentance is absolutely necessary for all persons and from all sins. Jesus says in **Luke 13:5**, "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." Till the sinner repents, God will have no communion with him. Repentance fits us for mercy, but not merits it. If we repent, our sins are pardoned and forgotten, and our conscience will have peace. If we do not repent, we will perish. Have you repented? Is it a true repentance? Examine yourselves. Do not be deceived. If you have not repented before, not repented at all, then repent today! Repent now!! Repent before it is too late!!!