

21T16d Now What? (Part 4) Repent

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table.

Now What? We have been asking this question. Once you are a Christian, Now What? What should I do? How should I do it? How do I act? and on and on and on. I know the questions because I have asked these questions myself over and over during my life. But honestly, did you ever get an answer to those questions?

Well, the short answer to all these questions is the Bible. But I know that is not very specific. Today I want to ask this Now What question, REPENT. What does this mean.

I looked up the word repent in the Webster dictionary. The definition is “to turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one's life, or to feel regret or contrition, or to change one's mind.

To be honest these are horrible definitions if you are a Christian.

The English translations of the bible have between 30-50 uses of this word depending on your translation. In the Old Testament, there are many words translated repent from Hebrew each literally mean to turn back or return and, in some cases, to be sorry. In the New Testament there are many words translated as repent from Greek each literally meaning to change one's mind and purpose.

This is one of those cases where the language or languages does not do justice to the concept God wants for us. I think this is why we have the Hebrew and Greek language usages so we can pull them together to better understand God's intent. To repent is much more than regretting what we have done or feeling convicted by our sin. Of course, that is part of it. But repent also mean to change our mind and purpose, meaning we have to stop thinking about the things we did and stop thinking the way we did when we committed that sin. We change our purpose or direction. Simply we have to change the way we think if we truly repent. But that's not all. Repent also means to change direction. In Hebrew we get the sense of turn back or return. After we are convicted of a sin and we change our way of thinking, then we have to return to God and His way of thinking and acting. We turn back to the way of truth according to God and abandon our old way.

In Matthew, Mark and Luke Jesus repeatedly says, *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* (Luke 4:17 NKJV)

Jesus expands on this with His parables of the lost things. The lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son. Listen to the Lost coin parable, *“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!’”*

Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15:8-10 NKJV)

Again, it is this concept of returning to the Lord. When we repent, we stop doing what we were doing, we stop thinking the way we thought when we did the sin, we turn away from it and return to God.

In Ezekiel, the prophet Ezekiel says, *“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord GOD. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord GOD. “Therefore turn and live!” (Ezekiel 18:30-32 NKJV)*

God says stop doing what you are doing or die. Turn away from it to live. Again, it is this sense of admit you are wrong, in your mind you don't want to do it anymore and you come back to God.

I have heard people say “I'm saved, yet they live like hell “. They are convicted yet continue to live in open rebellion against what God wants. An example could be a couple living together but not married. This is wrong in the eyes of God according to the Bible. If you are a follower of Jesus, then you have to repent. In this case it means, stop what you are doing. Either get married or move out. It means stop thinking about doing the sin. Either get married or stop your sexual relation with the other person. Then you go back to studying the Bible, attending church and fellowshiping with other believers so you can have support and encouragement not to go back to that sin. It works this way for any sin you are convicted of by the Holy Spirit.

The importance of repenting cannot be overstated. If you continue in that sin, your conviction over it will become less and less. This is not because it is alright with God. Quite the contrary, this happens because you are slowly hardening your heart to God's voice. God has given us free will and what this means is God will let us choose. He will convict us it is wrong but if we ignore Him, we will slowly stop hearing His voice. You are still in sin, so God will not be able to have a relationship with you. You have chosen the sin over God, and He will honor your choice. Even if it extinguishes your love for him. You will face the consequences now and miss the benefits of a close relationship with God new and potentially risk eternal separation from God if you do not repent.

I know this may not have answered all your questions about Repent. I'll leave you with this, God wants a relationship with you. Jesus died to pay the ransom for our sins. But God can only forgive you if you repent of those sins. Meaning you stop doing whatever that sin is. Now this does not mean we are sinless as Christians. It means we actively try not to sin and when we do, we repent. We turn back to God and away from those behaviors God wants us to stay away from. We have to choose Jesus to be our Lord and Savior every day. There are no part-time Christians. You are either with Jesus or you are not. Please join me following the King of kings and Lord of lords, my savior,

my master, my lord. King Jesus. Nothing in this world it worth more than King Jesus. Keep the main thing the main thing. Focus on King Jesus.

Father God. Thank you for forgiving me. Thank you for showing us the way to your forgiveness. Help us to recognize our sin and repent. Help us to return to you. Help us to keep you the main thing in our lives. I pray in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table today, I hope you'll join us for the rest of the series "Now What?"

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See you next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.

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