

# Thriving in the Midst of Big Trouble

## *The Practice of Repentance*

World Outreach Church  
Sermon Discussion Guide  
Sunday Sermon: **July 17, 2022**



We want to understand how to flourish in seasons of disruption, confusion, and the astounding rate of change happening around us. Until now, the Church has been asleep and unconcerned. But God, in His mercy, is waking us up. And it's going to take a determined, consistent response from Christ-followers to respond to the ungodly change confronting us. The question is, do we have the courage to adopt and advocate for a biblical worldview? Well, we have put together a bit of a toolkit to help us flourish in these times, and one of the tools we can employ as a daily discipline is *repentance*.

### I. BEGINNING OF A FOUNDATION FOR MATURITY = PRACTICE OF REPENTANCE

#### John the Baptist

Matthew 3:1–3 <sup>1</sup> *In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” <sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”*

#### Jesus’ Message

Mark 1:14–15 <sup>14</sup> *After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”*

Luke 24:46–47 [Post Resurrection] <sup>46</sup> *He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”*

#### Peter’s Message on the Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:37–38 <sup>37</sup> *When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup> Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

#### Paul’s Ministry

Acts 17:30–32 <sup>30</sup> *In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but **now he commands all people everywhere to repent.** <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.” <sup>32</sup> When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.”*

Acts 20:19–21 [Message to Ephesian Believers] <sup>19</sup> *“I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews. <sup>20</sup> **You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.** <sup>21</sup> I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that **they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.**”*

1. Share a time in your life when you remember making a conscious decision to turn away from something you knew was wrong and chose a different way instead.
2. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word “repent?” What does the Bible say about repentance?
3. How has being in community helped you grow as a Christ follower?

### II. EXPRESSIONS OF REPENTANCE

Daniel 9:1–6, 17-19 <sup>1</sup> *In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom— <sup>2</sup> in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. <sup>3</sup> So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.*

#### <sup>4</sup> **I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed:**

*“O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands, <sup>5</sup> we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. <sup>6</sup> We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. . . . <sup>17</sup> “Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, O Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. <sup>18</sup> Give ear, O God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. <sup>19</sup> O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name.”*

#### A. Confession and Repentance

Proverbs 28:13 *He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

Daniel 9:20–23 <sup>20</sup> *While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the Lord my God for his holy hill—* <sup>21</sup> *while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice.* <sup>22</sup> *He instructed me and said to me, “Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding.* <sup>23</sup> *As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision.”*

1 John 1:9–10 <sup>9</sup> *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* <sup>10</sup> *If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.*

Matthew 26:73–75 <sup>73</sup> *After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away.”* <sup>74</sup> *Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!”* *Immediately a rooster crowed.* <sup>75</sup> *Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.”* *And he went outside and wept bitterly.*

## B. Remorse, Repentance, & Confession

Matthew 26:33–35 <sup>33</sup> *Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.”* <sup>34</sup> *“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.”* <sup>35</sup> *But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.”* *And all the other disciples said the same.*

John 21:17–19 <sup>17</sup> *The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”* *Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?”* *He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”* *Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.* <sup>18</sup> *I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.”* <sup>19</sup> *Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”*

### **Peter & the Non-Jews**

Acts 10:14–16 <sup>14</sup> *“Surely not, Lord!”* *Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.”* <sup>15</sup> *The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”* <sup>16</sup> *This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.*

Acts 10:27–29 <sup>27</sup> *Talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people.* <sup>28</sup> *He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean.* <sup>29</sup> *So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?”*

Acts 10:34–37 <sup>34</sup> *Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism* <sup>35</sup> *but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.* <sup>36</sup> *You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.* <sup>37</sup> *You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—”*

Acts 11:1–3 <sup>1</sup> *The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.* <sup>2</sup> *So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him* <sup>3</sup> *and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”*

4. What’s the difference between the way a Christian works through regret and the way someone who doesn’t know Christ might work through it?
5. What does it mean to truly put the interests of others ahead of our own? What are some specific obstacles we face in doing this (i.e., Peter and his Jewish background)?

### **Proclamation:**

I testify as to what the Word of God says the blood of Jesus does for me:

Through the blood of Jesus, I am redeemed out of the hand of the devil.

Through the blood of Jesus, all my sins are forgiven.

The blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, continually cleanses me from all sin.

Through the blood of Jesus, I am sanctified—made holy, set apart to God.

Through the blood of Jesus, I am justified—made righteous, just as if I’d never sinned.

My body is a temple of the Holy Spirit—redeemed, cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

Therefore, Satan has no place in me, no power over me, through the blood of Jesus.