

**Searching His Word**  
God's Word Reveals His Plan - Repent  
By Russell Earl

As we continue our study on what a person must do to be saved, we come to our third step: repentance. While some may not agree, the Bible is very clear about God's terms for man's salvation. While we know God is the only one who can save us, there are still some who use their own ideas for salvation instead of God's Word. We find, however, that after a person has heard the message and desires to have an obedient faith in God, that person then must repent of their sins.

God desires for no one to perish but that all come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). What does the Bible mean when it says repent? Repentance involves three aspects: (1) a change of heart, (2) a change of mind and (3) a change of action or lifestyle. Let's look at these steps in God's word.

*"...that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness"* (Eph 4:22-24). In verse 22 we see that we must have a change of heart toward our past sinful actions. In verse 23 we determine in our minds we want to be right in the sight of God. In verse 24 we change our actions and our lives by putting on the new man.

If we want to be right in the sight of God we simply cannot continue in whatever sins we were once involved in. If you want to follow God, it doesn't mean you have to be perfect but it does mean you repent when you sin and strive to live a life that is pleasing to God. *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?"* (Romans 6:1-2)?

The Bible simply wants us to understand what we must do to receive salvation. If we are being taught anything else then we can rest assured it's not what God intended. *"Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"* (Acts 2:37-38). We see from Acts 2 and Romans 6 that if you want to be pleasing to God you must repent of your sins. What you must ask yourself is: are you willing to repent to make yourself right with God?