

Repentance

The word repentance means “a change of mind upon reflection.” A man stops and thinks about God, God's Laws, the times he has broken them, and the consequences and decides to forsake sin and turn to God. This change of mind produces a change of heart and life. [These are elements in repentance].

I. Conviction.

“Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”—Acts 2:37. See Jno. 16:8.

II. Contrition.

“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”—2 Cor. 7:10.

III. Confession.

“For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin *is* ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, *and* be clear when thou judgest.”— Psa. 51:3-4.

IV. Renunciation.

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”—Isa. 55:7.

V. Restitution.

“And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore *him* fourfold.”—Luke 19:8.

VI. Reformation.

“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”—2 Tim. 2:19.

“Bring forth therefore fruits meet (i.e., ‘answerable to amendment of life,’...) for repentance.”—Matt. 3:8.

(Arthur J. Smith, *Without Excuse*, Chicago, Illinois: Glad Tidings Publishing Co., 1907, 71-72; text and paragraph structure modified)

