

“Repentance: Gift or Command?”

Lesson Text: **Acts 11:18— Act 17:30.**

I. Repentance Is A Major Part Of Our Conversion.

A. **Acts 3:19**, “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,”

B. Repentance defined: “To change one’s mind or purpose.” (Vine’s)

C. Many misconceptions about repentance:

(1) One cannot repent until regenerated.

(2) One cannot repent without the Holy Spirit from God.

(3) One has no ability to repent until God acts directly on their heart.

D. That’s what Calvinism teaches; Quote by John MacArthur: “Repentance is not a human work. Jesus said in **John 6:44**, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.” (**Acts 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:25**)

II. Repentance As A Gift.

A. It is based on two premises:

(1) That we actually are born depraved and cannot repent without help.

(2) That anything I do in my salvation nullifies God’s grace (**Romans 4:4**).

a.

B. If repentance is a gift that must come from God, then why don’t all repent?
(**2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 18:31; Luke 7:30; Matthew 14:3-5**).

C. Illustration of a father who wants his children to succeed....

D. A closer look at **John 6:44 (and 45); Acts 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:25-26**.

E. If repentance is only given as a gift, why does God command repentance?

III. Repentance As A Command.

A. **Matthew 3:2,8; Luke 24:46-47; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30.**

B. God’s commands are personal, not optional, and demand action!

C. Illustration of this in **Matthew 25:14-30** (parable of the talents).

D. If repentance is a gift only, then why does God hold men accountable?
(**Matthew 11:20-24; Revelation 2:1-5**).

IV. A Proper View Of Repentance.

A. It is both a gift and a command— **Titus 2:11-12; Ephesians 2:8-9**.

(1) God does help us to repent by:

— Giving us instruction on how to repent (**vs. 12**).

— Giving us the incentive to repent (**Jonah 3:4; Luke 13:3**).

— Giving us the opportunity to repent (**Revelation 2:18-23**).