

Book of Hebrews Part 14: 6:1-2; Repentance for Salvation

Presented on (12/8/2018)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPxREJq4t7A> or <https://rumble.com/embed/vbb8pd/?pub=4>.

***Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

Last week we broke into chapter 6 and were confronted with what the writer calls the elementary principles of the Mashiach. These principles are what the writer identifies as the milk of the word. Paul simply calls it the milk, and the Apostle Peter references we are to drink the pure milk of the word; we are to grow there by. The interesting thing about this is the writer goes on to articulate the composition of milk, and he specifically lists out six things. The first thing mentioned is repentance. Then we have faith, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. These six principles genetically make up the milk of the word.

Last week we looked at our first one, faith. We are going to be looking at these one by one. This week we're going to look at repentance. I'm going to go in a very similar fashion as to what we did last week with faith. We're going to begin peeling back layers by looking at different parts of Scripture to really develop a deeper understanding of what repentance is. As a bonus, we're going to be employing the help of some very well-known, profound Titans of the faith. I'm referring to Charles Spurgeon, David Wilkerson, and Leonard Ravenhill. These are men who are very familiar with the milk of the word. They had a deep understanding and articulated it the way we find it being articulated in Scripture. These men knew the gospel. Today we are going to be looking at what they had to say. They had a lot to say in regard to our subject matter, repentance, so we'll be looking at that. We will also be looking at the word of God, so today is going to be packed.

I want to start very basic by looking at some of the words associated with this topic so when we go to Scripture and look at the passages where God is calling for repentance, for a turning back from sin, we know what they say. We want to know what these words mean in the languages of our Bible, which are Hebrew and Greek.

The first one is שׁוּב (shuv). This is where we get the word תשובה (teshuva), which means repentance. שׁוּב means to turn back, to return. This is explicitly in the context of returning to God. We're turning back to Him.

To articulate this, let's go to the Torah. The LORD said there are two paths; you can either choose life, or death, but these pathways are linear. In other words, draw a straight line. On this line you have two options. You can either walk to the LORD God of Israel, or you're walking away from Him. There's no

middle ground. There's no side pass. It's either you have your back turned to the Most High, or you are walking towards Him; you have turned towards Him. That's what repentance really is. For a formal definition, you were walking to your own death. You're walking toward the devil. When you repent, you turn your back on the devil and no longer worship or serve him. Instead, you walk towards Yeshua; you walk to the LORD. So this is a formal fashion of repentance. There are some other terms used in Hebrew such as נָחַם (*nocham*) which also means repentance.

Let me take you into the Greek. The Greek word ἐπιστρέφω, which is the equivalent for the Hebrew word נָחַם, refers to returning, to turning back, or to repenting. There are also other Greek terms such as μετάνοια. You want to pay close attention to this term because it actually refers to a change of mind. We can find this in Romans 12:2. What does Paul say? **Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** You're having a change of mind.

This is what repentance is. You no longer think the way you used to think. The things you used to value in the world you do not value them anymore. Instead, you value the things of God. This is what repentance really is.

With that said, I want to break into the word of God. There is one special passage I want to open with. We need to establish something about repentance before we go any deeper, and in 2 Peter 3:9 we find it. This is what we read—**The LORD is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance** (emphasis added). The very first thing you must understand about repentance is it is the heart of the LORD that you turn to Him. It is His desire. He yearns for that; He is desperate for you.

Why is this important? It's important because I know the devil, and I know the lies he is whispering in your ears. I know he's telling you, "You're no good, and God doesn't want you. There's no point in turning back to God. Look at how you have messed up your life. Look at some of these other people. They've been going to church every Sunday, or even every Saturday. The regular attenders look so prim and proper, but look at you. You're a mess. God doesn't need that; God doesn't want that. You don't fit in." I know all the lies that he's whispering to you. It's a lie. The truth is God is desperate for you to turn back to Him. He yearns for that. It's in His heart because He loves you. Yeshua tells us He will leave the ninety-nine sheep and go get the one.

Think about that. He is willing to go after the one, and that one is wallowing in sin. He is in bondage. He's addicted to the ways of the world. He has all these issues and Yeshua will leave the ninety-nine sheep to go get that one. You're the one.

That is the thing you need to understand. When Yeshua came, He said—I **did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance** (emphasis added, Mark 2:19). That is who He is going after; therefore, do not listen to the lies of the devil who is saying, "There's no hope for you, and God doesn't want you. You're too filthy. It isn't going to do you any good to turn back to Him because that will all be profitless. What profit are you really going to have?" The reality it, it's very profitable. You will receive eternal life if you turn your life back to Yeshua.

In 2 Peter 3:9 there is a second thing I want to point out that is crucial. It is the statement he makes right before he says—**but that all should come to repentance.** It says, He is—**not willing that any should perish.** This is stated in conjunction with—**but that all should come to repentance.** What does that tell

you about repentance? It tells you if you do not accept this elementary principle, if you do not embrace repentance, you will die.

The writer just created panic here. He created urgency, if you will, to embrace repentance. He's put it to the highest of heights. This now takes precedence over anything else in your life. Nothing could possibly be more important than that, which is salvation. Repentance is salvation. You need to understand this is one of the most important points we are going to make today. It is salvational.

Let me take this a step further and take you to Matthew 3:1-2 where we are going to build on this. In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² and saying, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!**" (Emphasis added).

There is something you need to understand about John the Baptist's ministry. His entire ministry is encapsulated in this statement alone. This is his total ministry. The foundation of his ministry, what he went out and got the people to do, was to repent? That's all he focused on.

He's John the Baptist. He was baptizing people in a baptism of repentance. He called people to come back to the LORD, and he carried a big stick, if you will. He rebuked the respected leaders calling them a brood of vipers and asked them— **Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?** (Luke 3:7). His ministry was totally encapsulated in this elementary principle of repentance.

Now, let me take it even further just to have a little bit of historical context. We find Yeshua making this statement in Matthew 11:11—**Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist.** This statement obviously excluded Yeshua Himself.

Think about that. The greatest man ever born among women outside of Yeshua is John. So when we look at men like Noah, Job, Daniel, Joseph, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Elijah, Elisha, and King David, all these righteous and holy men of God, John was greater than all of them. What was John's ministry? His ministry was repentance. That was his ministry.

It wasn't just that. When you think about John, why was he sent? He was sent to prepare the way of the LORD. That is interesting because when the LORD comes on the scene, what is Yeshua's message? Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. The words of Hebrews 6:1 are the same as the first recorded words of Yeshua's ministry. Those words by Yeshua are the gospel. They are the milk of the word; the elementary principle of repentance.

Does it seem pretty important to you? Repentance is critical, and if that weren't enough, you know, for some people they would say, "Well, that's before Yeshua was crucified. Things change after He was crucified and resurrected." To respond to that idea, look at what Yeshua commissioned His Apostles to do when He gave them a Ministry. Luke 24:47—**and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem** (emphasis added).

Repentance and remission. Does that sound familiar? You have to pay attention to this because this is interesting. Look at the structure. Repentance is mentioned first, and then remission of sins. If you go back to Hebrews 6 look at verses 1 and 2, what will you notice regarding the writer's first elementary principle? The first one he lists is repentance. The very words of Yeshua state that repentance is supposed to be done. As you go through the remission, and you go through faith in Yeshua, those first two things are what the writer of Hebrews mentions. It is repentance and faith, or you could say remission of sins. It's the very same structure.

This is the gospel. You know what the problem is. The problem is this gospel is being perverted today. The devil has come out, and he has genetically modified the gospel. He's given it a facelift, if you will. He's made it a little bit lighter. So what he's done is he's just completely lopped off the whole repentance piece, and we'll just go with the remission of sins. When you go into these churches, I'm telling you right now, that's all you will hear.



There's no talk of sin. There's no talk of Hell and judgment. There's only talk such as, "God loves you as you are. He's such a loving God. Don't worry about that." In those churches, we constantly find men and women putting their arms around the people comforting them in their sins.

I want to read to you a quote by David Wilkerson because the things I am literally seeing with my own eyes and hearing with my own ears about the church today is something David Wilkerson saw long before I did. I'm talking about seeing this back in the 70s. He started coming out against the church, and they hated him for it because he saw what was happening. Listen to these words. This is what he says—[God hates the LUKEWARM GOSPEL OF HALF-TRUTHS that is now spreading over the Globe. This gospel says, 'Just believe in Jesus and you'll be Saved. There's nothing more to it.'](#) It's completely conceptual; there's nothing more to it.

He goes on and he says—[It ignores the Whole Counsel of God, which speaks of Repenting from former sins, of taking up your Cross, of being conformed to the Image of Christ by the refining work of the Holy Spirit. It is totally silent about the Reality of Hell and an after-Death Judgment \(emphasis added\).](#)

The gospel being preached today says nothing about hell, and Wilkerson saw this back in the 70s. He saw it was creeping into the church. Isn't it interesting he brings this up regarding the church being totally silent about hell and judgment? What was that other elementary principle that we just read? The end is judgment. Judgment is one of the six elementary principals (Hebrews 6:2). One of the pieces that make up the gospel is the judgment of the Living God. Do you understand the fact of judgment is the driving engine that will drive you to repent?

This is the motivation that there is going to be an account. There's going to be a hellish judgment and I'm telling you this is a judgment that no one will be able to help you. Can you imagine being in a situation where there was no help. When you stand before Yeshua at judgment, no one can intercede for you. He's the only intercessor; it stops with Him. Therefore, when He gives the command for the angels to take you into the pit of hell that is it. You want fear? That's fear. Where is this fear? Why is it not being preached today?

The true, biblical gospel is an awakening of the conscience where the terror of eternal judgment is met with the hope of eternal salvation. That's what the true gospel is. That's what true repentance is. Now, however, we have a gospel going about that is designed by false prophets.

I have to tell you something. This gospel I'm seeing today is what David Wilkerson saw way back in the 70's and preached against. This gospel existed in Israel with the false prophets. This is exactly what the false prophets did; and this is exactly what we see happening today. We should not be stunned, even though I am, even though I have to pinch myself, we shouldn't because we've seen it before.

Look at Jeremiah 23:14—I have seen a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem [these are the prophets of God!]: They commit adultery and walk in lies; they also strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns back from his wickedness (emphasis added). Do you understand what false prophets do? This is what they do. They will come and comfort you when they're supposed to be convicting you. They will come and give you relief when they should be rebuking you in love, not with pride or arrogance making you feel bad, but pulling you out of the fires of hell.

This is scary because this is what's going on. This is the new movement. This is the new gospel.

We continue with Jeremiah 23:14—All of them are like Sodom to Me, and her inhabitants like Gomorrah. Jumping to verse 17—They continually say to those who despise Me. I want to stop there and look at the statement—who despise me. What did Yeshua say in John 14:15? If you love Me, which is the opposite of hate and despise, you will keep My Commandments. What is the problem here? They're not keeping His Commandments, and Yeshua identified these are the ones who despise Him.

Continuing in Jeremiah 23:17—'The LORD has said [They claim to be speaking on behalf of the LORD], "You shall have peace" '; And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you' '(emphasis added). So you can live like hell, and you will inherit Heaven? They tell you "Don't worry about it. You're a child of God. Remember what Christ did for you on the cross? That's what you need to remember. That's what you need to believe." However, there's nothing about repentance. This is twisted, perverse, cunning, and seductive. It took Israel down.

Do not be deceived and don't think it's something new that has happened today. This is nothing new. The fact this is happening is all the reason we have got to rise up against it. Personally, I won't shut up about it, and I'm happy to keep coming against it. People don't want you to talk about this. The devil doesn't want you to bring light into a dark situation because he wants his delusion to reign. Amen?

Long before me or David Wilkerson, Charles Spurgeon saw this happening to the church. This is one of the most beautiful articulations of the gospel I've ever read outside of the Bible. Listen to what Spurgeon says—The gospel is a reasonable system, and it appeals to men's understanding; it is a matter for thought and consideration, and it appeals to the conscience and the reflecting powers. In other words, this is not a brainless operation. We need to be intelligent and have our wits about us when we think about what is going on here. Spurgeon had his wits about him.

Spurgeon goes on—Hence, if we do not teach men something, we may shout, "Believe! Believe! Believe!" but what are they to believe? Each exhortation requires a corresponding instruction, or it will mean nothing (emphasis added).

This is exactly what David Wilkerson said. They go out and preach Jesus, but there's nothing more to it. This is exactly what Spurgeon sees, and then he goes on—"Escape!" From what? This requires for its answer the doctrine of the punishment of sin. "Fly!" But whither? Then must you preach Christ, and His wounds; yea, and the clear doctrine of atonement by sacrifice.

So he's going through this methodically. He says we cry out judgment is coming. Why? To answer that we have to talk about the doctrine of sin. Judgment is coming because of sin and the wages of sin is death.

But what do we do? Where do we fly? Where do we go? Well now we need to talk about Yeshua. We have to talk about the answer, the antidote to the sin, which is the atonement, the blood.

Spurgeon goes on—“**Repent!**” Of what? Here you must answer such questions as, what is sin? What is the evil of sin? What are the consequences of sin? (emphasis added). We get that answer looking at 1 John 3:4—**Whoever commits sin also commits Lawlessness, and sin is Lawlessness** (emphasis added).

Sin is Torahlessness. Sin is abandonment of the Commandments of God. It is the rejection of the Commandments of God. That's what it is. What an amazing statement!

If you're going to go out and preach repentance, you have to preach Torah. You have to bring the Ten Commandments to the discussion. The Commandments, however, are the things that the church, metaphorically speaking, is ripping from the pages of the Bible every day just to get rid of them. It has even been reported that people like Ian McKellen, who acted in LORD of the Rings, would go into a hotel and rip out Leviticus 18 and Leviticus 20 from the Bibles in the room because those chapters talk about homosexuality.

The church today is doing this. It is one thing to do it in a hotel room to a Gideon's Bible. It's another thing to literally have this happening in the church.

Let me take you to Psalm 119 where it's going to explain repentance this way— How can a young man cleanse his way? **By taking heed according to Your word** (emphasis added). That's it. Do you understand what it really means? So when we looked at the Hebrew שׁוּב and the Greek ἐπιστρέφω, what does it mean to turn back to God? It means you stop listening to the council of the world and instead take the counsel of God. You start reading His word and His Commandments, and you apply them to your life. You walk in them. This is true repentance. Amen? We take heed according to His word.

You know, the gospel is not simply a conceptual experience. Look at what Leonard Ravenhill says— **There's a difference between changing your opinion, and changing your lifestyle.** He made this statement because he saw exactly what Wilkinson and Spurgeon saw. Ravenhill came out vehemently against the church because he saw they were delivering a conceptual gospel. He said, “This is insane. It's not conceptual.” It's a radical change in your heart that radically changes you from the inside out.

People will come up to you and say, “Man, you are so different. You are completely unrecognizable.” I can tell you personally when I had my radical life transformation I had people literally come up to me and say things like, “You don't think the way you used to think. Something is different; something is weird. You don't think the way you use to.” This was because I didn't reason the way I used to reason. I didn't respond the way I used to respond. This happened because I was flooding my mind with the word of God, and He was teaching me how to walk. He was giving me the wisdom He has. Unless I'm operating on His level, unless I'm applying His wisdom, I'm a fool.

Spurgeon says this—**Faith which refuses to obey the commands of the Saviour is a mere pretense and will never save the soul** (Charles Spurgeon, *All of Grace*). Talk about powerful words. You better know if you talk like this today you will be met with opposition. People will come against you for speaking like this. You will hear things like, “How dare you; you can't say this. You're not a judge; only God is the judge of me. God is loving; you are a legalist trying to earn your salvation.”

What Spurgeon said is absolutely a biblical fact— **Faith which refuses to obey the commands of the Saviour is a mere pretense and will never save the soul.** It's a delusion. That is why he calls it pretense; these people are delusional.

Spurgeon goes on and says—**If the professed convert distinctly and deliberately declares that he knows the LORD's will, but does not mean to attend to it, you are not to pamper his presumptions, but it is your duty to assure him that he is not saved.** Who talks like this today? Nobody. You can't challenge someone's salvation whether they are walking with the LORD or not. You don't know them. That is what you will hear today.

Here's the deal. When you see someone who confesses Yeshua, but they're not walking His Commandments, according to Scripture it is your responsibility to talk to them. You are to go brake the yoke of delusion. It must be broken. It will not happen unless you open your mouth and talk to them. Life and death are in the power of the tongue. Keep your personal perspective out of it; instead, bring the power of God's word. His word will do the rest. Amen?

In Ezekiel 33:8, we read this—**When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.** So the next time you're in a situation that feels uncomfortable, and you don't want to say anything, yet you say you love these people, what are you supposed to do? I'll be the first to step in line and say I have not always been the guy who has done this. We get in situations with people, with even fellow believers, where they're bearing this yoke of delusion on them. They have this pretense they're saved, but they will not obey the Commandments of God. They hear the word Torah, and they get absolutely angry. It is your responsibility according to Ezekiel 33:8 to talk to them.

You need to sit down and say, "Can we just chew on the word of God?" Do it with love, with the prodding of the Holy Spirit who is gentle and merciful. There's no pride or arrogance. There's no loftiness involved. It's totally humbling yourself and doing whatever you can to bring them back into right standing with God because there is mass delusion in the church. This fact of delusion cannot even be debated. It's so overt. It's unbelievable.

James 5:19-20 shows the beauty of this. **Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.** Do you understand this verse it talking about salvation? When you go to pull people out of a fire, it makes a difference. The devil is going to tell you it isn't going to matter what you say. He has told me that a thousand times, "It doesn't matter what you say, Daniel, They are not going to listen anyways." Am I the only one who hears the enemy's voice saying, "It's pointless to even try? They're just so wrapped up in their stupidity it isn't going to matter"? We are not humble, and we're not thinking about the power of the word of God. We're not thinking about the fact if they don't turn their going to die. We're not thinking about the fact their blood is on your head.

We don't think about any of these things; instead, we think about ourselves. We are uncomfortable and too tired to talk about these things with people. I know I have personally felt that way. God help me and have mercy on my soul because too many times I have said, "I just don't have the energy for this right now."

However, we're pulling people out of the fire. Your actions in this life can affect the salvation of other people. I never thought about that until I got into the word of God and He started revealing these things. Until then, I had no idea how influential we can be.

Why do you think James wrote this? Why do you think Ezekiel wrote these words? Because God is using us. We are the hands and feet of Yeshua. We're supposed to be the body. We're supposed to be going out and telling people about salvation. This is powerful!

I want to take you back to Psalm 119:9-10 because we are not done with this passage—⁹ **How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.** ¹⁰ **With my whole heart I have sought You** (emphasis added). So this passage is all about what repentance is, and there's an aspect here you need to understand—**with his whole heart**. That's what it requires. You leave nothing of the world in your heart. No desire. No lust of the flesh and lust of the eyes. No pride of life. Everything is laid at the cross because of what Yeshua did for you. You leave it and you pick up your cross and follow Him. It's a total heart situation. You're seeking Him.

Look at that verse again and look at this heart. That is what I really want you to focus on. He tells us—¹⁰ **With my whole heart I have sought You**; and then goes on and says—**Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!** What is the heart of someone who has embraced the gospel of repentance? What is the key component of the gospel? Repentance. What is their heart's desire? **Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!** That is what it is. It is not, "Your Commandments don't really matter; Yeshua did away with the Commandments. They are made null and void, and they are just suggestions." No! The heart of someone who has embraced the gospel is "Whatever your will is LORD; whatever pleases You. Show it to me." That's the heart of the Living God.

We, however, have too much of the world in us. We want to justify our lifestyle. We want to live just enough Christian to where we feel good so we can go to bed at night in our delusion. This is scary!

Continuing in Psalm 119:10-11—¹⁰ **Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!** ¹¹ **Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You!** This is instrumental because the devil wants to come and rip it out of your heart. He does not want that word in your heart because that's conviction. Godly sorrow produces repentance, and it leads to salvation. The devil only wants to kill that conviction.

I want to bring this to life by sharing a real-life story from the Bible. This is the story of Manasseh. He was the king of Judah. As you read about him, you will realize he was one of the most wicked men mentioned in all of Scripture. It is not just he was a wicked king, but he was one of the most wicked of wicked men that is mentioned the entirety of Scripture. I want you to see the power of repentance. This is powerful.

Let's go to 2 Chronicles 33:1-3—¹ **Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem.** ² **But he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.** ³ **For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah [Who was one of the most righteous kings mentioned in all of Scripture] his father had broken down; he raised up altars for the Baals, and made wooden images; and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.**

So Manish is destroying what Hezekiah had built. When you look at the word images in the Hebrew, it really is more defined by the word Asherahs. Asherah was the goddess of fertility and happiness, and she was always placed next to the altar of Baal because she was the consort of Baal. That becomes imperative to understand when you see what Israel did. Israel took Asherah and made her a consort of Yahweh the God of Israel, which is syncretism. They brought these two together. We know there are to be no other gods with Him. He was very clear on this matter.

So returning to 2 Chronicles 33:3-5—³ and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. ⁴ He also built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem shall My name be forever." ⁵ And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

So it was just not enough that Manassah was building altars for Baal and Asherah, he brought them into the Temple of God. Now, what does that sound like? Right now we are in the Feast of Hanukkah, right? What is Hanukkah? It is the celebration in remembrance of the rededication of the Temple. The spirit of antichrist went through and totally desecrated the Temple, and this is what Manassah did. Are you getting the context regarding how evil Manassah was?

Moving to 2 Chronicles 33:6—⁶ Also he caused his sons to pass through the fire in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom. I've been at the Valley of Hinnom. What happened there was that before Israel entered the land, the pagans who were in the land were offering their children to the god Molech. This is what they were doing, and then Manassah started giving up his children as blood sacrifices to demons. This is pure and utter wickedness.

Continuing in 2 Chronicles 33:6 ⁶ he [Manassah himself] practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger. In other words, he was a witch. He was a warlock, and he was in total witchcraft.

Jumping to verse 9-10—⁹ So Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel. ¹⁰ And the LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen.

Think about how God destroyed the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hittites, and the Hivites. God destroyed all these nations and others because of how utterly wicked they were. They were giving their children to demons. They were doing all these things Manassah did.

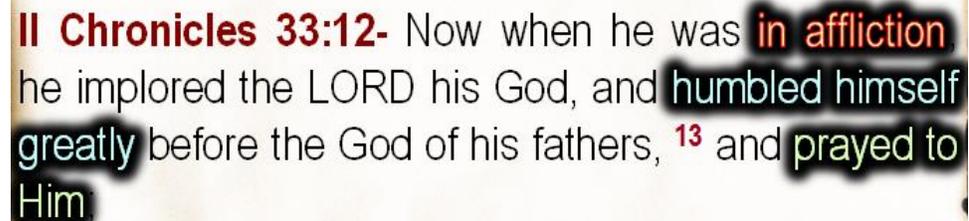
Going to 2 Chronicles 33:11—Therefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon. Because of all these things, God opened the door to the adversary for destruction. Manasseh is being carried off, and his life is literally a living hell at this moment.

Going to 2 Chronicles 33:12—Now when he was in affliction. This is important because this is a turning point of every person's life. Manasseh is experiencing pain, suffering, torture, and torment. He is afflicted. Why is this important to know? When we go to Scripture, one of my favorite passages in all the Scripture is Psalm 119:71. This verse says—It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes. Verse 67 says—Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.

So affliction is critical. By sorrow the heart is made better. So when mourning starts to plague your heart, there is a development process that actually happens. This is why Paul in Romans 5:3-4 says—³ **And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;** ⁴ **and perseverance, character.** Sometimes your greatest purpose is often times found in your greatest pain. So this affliction is critical.

Continuing in 2 Chronicles 33:12 **Now when he was in affliction, he implored the LORD his God.** I need to stop here. What's one of the elementary principles? It is faith in the God of Israel. So what did Manasseh do? Did he turn to Baal or Asherah? No. Scripture says he turned to the LORD. And then he—**humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers** (2 Chronicles 33:12). Then it says—**and prayed to Him** (2 Chronicles 33:13).

If you want to know what repentance looks like, pay close attention here because repentance will include affliction, humility, and there will be prayer.



II Chronicles 33:12- Now when he was **in affliction** he implored the LORD his God, and **humbled himself greatly** before the God of his fathers, ¹³ and **prayed to Him**

What does 2 Chronicles 7:14 say? **If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven....** What we are literally seeing here is the formula for true repentance. Prayer is a huge component of that. Show me a man who has embraced repentance and you will see a man that despite not knowing how to talk to God will be praying. He will embrace prayer. He may fumble over his words, but he will bring them out.

Let's take this to another level so you can feel the weight of this story. In the Bible, the prayer Manasseh prayed is not recorded. It's not recorded in 2 Kings or 2 Chronicles, but it is recorded in the Apocrypha. In the Apocrypha, we have a book that is literally called The Prayer of Manasseh. It is his prayer ascribed to this situation. You can also find it in the Dead Sea Scrolls. There are fragments of these various prayers that were attributed to Manasseh.

I am going to take you to the Apocrypha and show you this prayer. This is powerful; let this sink in. **Prayer of Manasseh - Thou, O LORD, according to thy great goodness hast promised repentance and forgiveness** (emphasis added).

Think about Manasseh. This guy was a Satanist. He practiced witchcraft and gave his own children to be murdered for demons. Now he is turning to the God of Israel and says, "You have promised repentance and forgiveness." I'm going to tell you right now the entire Bible is dedicated to the reality of repentance and forgiveness. It is true; God has promised—**hast promised repentance and forgiveness to them that have sinned against thee: and of thine infinite mercies hast appointed repentance unto sinners.**

Note how he does not say the righteous. He recognized this. Yeshua said He came to call the sinners to repentance, not righteous men. Manasseh recognizes this and is saying, "All the promises You have

made in the Bible, God, refer to me. I am a sinner. These promises are for me. The whole point is—**that they may be saved** (Prayer of Manasseh, Dead Sea Scrolls). The wicked of the wicked can be saved.

Moving on in his prayer—**Thou therefore, O LORD, that art the God of the just, hast not appointed repentance to the just, as to Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, which have not sinned against thee; but thou hast appointed repentance unto me that am a sinner** (emphasis added).

This reminds me of the story in Luke 18 where two men go up to the Temple and are praying to the LORD. One is a Pharisee full of himself who said, “I'm glad I'm not like this tax collector and anyone else. I pay my tithe and do all these wonderful things.” The other man is a tax collector. Tax collectors were to be scorned. The people of God hated the tax collectors. They were totally seen as betrayers of Israel, and this tax collector is on his face weeping, “God be merciful to me a sinner.” Yeshua tells us this tax collector was justified rather than the Pharisee. That is an example of the power of repentance.

Moving on in his prayer—**for I have sinned above the number of the sands of the sea**. What is he doing? He's confessing his sin. This is repentance. **My transgressions, O LORD, are multiplied: my transgressions are multiplied, and I am not worthy to behold and see the height of heaven for the multitude of mine iniquities**. In other words, the yoke of his iniquities are so heavy, which reminds me of David in Psalms where he says—**My iniquities have gone over my head** (Psalm 38:4). In other words, when you are confronted with your sin, you feel the weight of that, and it gives birth to life.

Continuing on—**I am bowed down with many iron bands**. That's important to realize, in this prayer you can see he is in bondage. How many people do we know, if not you yourself, who are literally in bondage, and the reality is too much for you to accept, so you ignore it? Manasseh confesses he is in bondage.

Continuing—**that I cannot lift up mine head, neither have (I) any release: for I have provoked thy wrath, and done evil before thee: I did not thy will, neither kept I thy commandments**. This is what he acknowledged. He said, “I had my back to you. I rejected you, and I was serving the devil. He recognizes this and confessed it.

I have set up abominations, and have multiplied offences. Now therefore I bow the knee of mine heart, beseeching thee of grace (emphasis added). This Satanist murderer, the one who actually seduced others to do wickedness, is pleading to the God of Israel. He is not pleading to Baal or Asherah. He is confessing his sin, and he's crying out for grace. Welcome to repentance! This is what it looks like.

Now I want to take you back to the story in 2 Chronicles 33:12 to see God's response. So Manasseh had prayed to God. This is how God responded—**and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God** (emphasis added). This is the power of repentance!

I hope there is nobody here more wicked than Manasseh. I would hope that would stand to reason. I hope that would be a logical assumption. If not, that's okay because there's hope for you.

There is the power of repentance, but you must embrace it. You have to turn from following the evil one, and from doing his ways. You have to turn back to the counsel of God. You have to give your heart completely over to God—**How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word** (Psalm 119:9). This means we embrace His Commandments. We love His Commandments.

Jeremiah says this in 3:22—**Return, you backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings** (emphasis added). He is calling out to sinners. He is the LORD God who heals. Look at Psalm 103:2-3—² **And forget not all His benefits: ³ Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases.** This is the God we serve. Our God is not dead; He's very much alive. Amen?

Let me show you the promises of God regarding repentance and restoration. Nehemiah prays a prayer similar to that of Manasseh's prayer. This is what we read in Nehemiah 1:7-8—⁷ **We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. ⁸ Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations** (emphasis added).

So Nehemiah reminded God of what He had said. Then Nehemiah continues in verse 9—⁹ **but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name** (emphasis added).

No matter how far the enemy has taken you away from God, He will go get you. If you are living a life of hell, He will come get you. If you are a prostitute and you turn immediately praying and ask the LORD to forgive your sins and take you out of that lifestyle, he will take you out. It is the same with drugs or any other addiction people are involved in. If you give your heart over to the LORD, you will experience the power of God. This is a scriptural fact.

I share these Scriptures with you because you have got to let the word permeate into your heart so you can start walking in power. If we are children of the Living God who created heaven and earth, we should be children of power. We talked about faith last week. We need to increase our faith, right? You cannot possibly convince me you have power over demons when you don't even have power over your flesh. It's impossible. Don't delude yourself. Acknowledge and say, "O God, be merciful to me a sinner." Then grab onto His ways.

Ezekiel 33:11 say—**Say to them: 'As I live,' says the LORD GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live** (It's the heart of God. He's compassionate. He's loving. This is His cry). **Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'** God is calling out to the world in love.

Continuing in Ezekiel 33:12—**When I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, but he trusts in his own righteousness and commits iniquity** (emphasis added). Every time I come to this passage, I pause because today you look at these people who's trust is in their own righteous. These are people who confess God, and they believe He is real, and they say, "I'm a Child of God"; however, they begin to trust in their own righteousness. These are the people that get comfortable walking in sin.

That is the reason John the Baptist called out to the Pharisees, these righteous men—**"You brood of vipers...do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'** (Matthew 3:7 & 9). John said this because they thought because they were descendants of Abraham they were fine.

So you get comfortable sinning because your confidence is in something that is a total lie, fiction, that the enemy created such as— **You will not surely die** (Genesis 3:4). No! You break the Commandments, you will surely die. Go back and read about this even in the Garden of Eden. It is a lie that keeps getting

repeated. It is a brilliant lie on the part of the devil. The irony of looking at this passage today is when we want to tell our friends about the Torah, the Holiness of God, and we want to talk about the Commandments, the Holiness of Shabbat, but we are accused of being the self-righteous ones. We are accused of trying to earn our own righteousness and trusting in our own righteousness in that works are going to get us into heaven. It's the exact opposite. Your rejection of Torah is you trusting in your own righteousness. The Scripture proves it. This is exactly what the Scriptures say, and that's what's so scary. The devil flips the conversation up on its head; he flips it totally upside down

Back to Ezekiel 33:13—but he **trusts in his own righteousness and commits iniquity**, none of his righteous works shall be remembered; but because of the iniquity that he has committed, he shall die (emphasis added). They were walking with God; they were with God, however—**none of his righteous works shall be remembered; but because of the iniquity that he has committed, he shall die.**

So you can say to yourself, "I've been serving the LORD for 20 years. I'm totally fine." Have you walked away from Him? If so, you're not fine. Who do you follow? Who do you serve?

Moving on to Ezekiel 33:14-15 where we again can hear about the love, compassion, and mercy of the LORD—¹⁴ Again, when I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' if he turns from his sin [Lawlessness] and does what is **Lawful and right**, ¹⁵ if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has stolen, and **walks in the statutes of life without committing iniquity** (emphasis added).

In 1 John 3:7 we read—**He who practices righteousness is righteous.** This is what Ezekiel is saying. Ezekiel continues in 33:15-16 by telling us if we practice righteousness—**he shall surely live; he shall not die.** ¹⁶ **None of his sins which he has committed shall be remembered against him; he has done what is Lawful and right; he shall surely live.** Isn't that amazing?

So you can have a righteous man walking with God who all of the sudden gets comfortable in his salvation thinking it can't be removed, and then he begins to commit iniquity. As a result, all his righteousness is forgotten. However, here in these verses you have this wicked Satanist who comes to faith, he starts keeping the Commandments of God, and all his sins are forgotten.

That is an amazing thing. This is repentance. This is the truth of the Gospel.

I want to close with Charles Spurgeon. He gives us this wisdom—I do not believe that any man can preach the gospel who does not preach the Law. I just proved that today in Scripture. You cannot preach the gospel without preaching the Law. **The Law is the needle, and you cannot draw the silken thread of the gospel through a man's heart unless you first send the needle of the Law to make way for it. If men do not understand the Law, they will not feel that they are sinners. And if they are not consciously sinners, they will never value the sin offering (Jesus). There is no healing a man till the Law has wounded him, no making him alive till the Law has slain him."**

Think about that. Isn't this powerful? As we see this revival of the Holy Spirit going through this entire globe of Christians and even non-believers coming to the faith, they're clinging to Torah. However, the more we start clinging to the Torah, the more offensive we are going to get to the enemy.

So don't lose hope or faith. Instead, cling to the truth of the gospel.