

## REPENTANCE & CONFESSION - DAILY DEPENDANCE

Repentance means to turn around, to change your mind and to alter course. True repentance is evidence of those who have saving faith in Jesus Christ. (2 Cor 7:10) This was the message Jesus proclaimed,

*Luke 13:3 "...unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."*

In fact, not only was this His message, it was His mission,

*Mark 2:17 "...I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."*

Repentance and forgiveness go hand in hand (Luke 24:47).

Those who find repentance are truly forgiven and loved by God.

Confession is also a necessary part of the kind of repentance God is looking for. 1 John 1:9-10 says,

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us."*

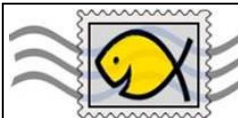
If we do not confess our sins to God (and if it's against someone else, to them also, cf. James 5:16), then it suggests that we don't think we have sinned, or that the death of Jesus is unable to restore us. God, therefore requires our repentance because it is a demonstration of honesty and dependence on grace and the sufficiency of Christ's life, death and resurrection..

Repentance is also God's way of restoring us to fellowship with the Church (2 Cor 2:3-11; Gal 6:1 ).

As you consider the verses above, notice that God uses His servants (other members in the church) to help bring about repentance and restoration.

Finally, God disciplines us and calls us to repent as a means of grace (Rev 3:19). We should seek repentance with all our hearts.

Repentance is a gift from God that allows us to go on in the faith and persevere (Acts 11:18; 2 Tim 2:25). It is an act of kindness on God's part (Ps 78:38; Rom 2:4)



**THIS, THE SCRIPTURES  
TEACH AND THIS WE  
BELIEVE ABOUT...**

## PERSEVERANCE



"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand." John 10:28

# PERSEVERANCE

Heb 6:4-12; Acts 27:21-31

In the New Testament, 'saints' are ordinary believers. They do not turn their faith on and off – but continually believe forever. Thus, they are saved and never lost.

## ALL TRUE BELIEVERS PERSEVERE TO THE END

Specific texts make it clear that true believers will never be lost, but will persevere to the end (see Jhn 10:27-30; Rom 8:28-30; Eph 1:13-14; Phil 1:6; 1 Pet 1:3-5)

1. The writer of Hebrews speaks of “things belonging to salvation” (Heb 6:9). What might these “things” be?

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2. By implication, then, what are the things “belonging to destruction” (Heb 6:4-8)

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## Therefore

**The basis of our perseverance are things belonging to the crucifixion. Justification, Adoption and Sanctification - Things belonging to Jesus' perfection, yet reckoned to us. This is a truth giving unspeakable comfort. But it does not lead us to take our salvation for granted, and to live as we please, as we shall now make clear...**

## THOSE WHO DO NOT PERSEVERE TO THE END ARE NOT TRUE BELIEVERS

We are not talking here about 'backsliders'. There are such people. But backsliding in Scripture is exceptional, never normal. It is a temporary condition, eventually repented of – never a settled state in which a believer is remains permanently. (Lk 22:32)

The Father chose His people to be His Holy people; the Son died to purify them; the Spirit gives them a new nature (Eph 1:4; Tit 2:14; Ez 36:26). Those who fail to bring forth the characteristics of the new nature cannot be considered to be part of the people of God.

This is the Lord's teaching in the figure of the Vine (John 15:1-11). Only those who consistently bear fruit are true branches and real disciples (v8). All others only appear to be joined to Him; but are ultimately lost (v6)

Nowhere in the New Testament is a professing believer who has failed to persevere in bearing the fruit of Christ's' righteousness permitted to think of himself as a child of God (Rom 8:13; Gal 4:11, 5:19-26; Heb 3:6,14, 6:4-8; 2 Pet 2:20-22)

3. Discuss the relationship between promise and warning in Acts 27:21-31?

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## Therefore,

**Do not say that just because you have made a profession you are 'eternally secure'. Take steps to ensure that you do persevere by:**

- Daily dependence on Jesus' atonement to secure righteousness, Holiness and Adoption (1 Cor 6:11; Eph 1:13)
- Daily dependence on God's help. (Phil 2:12-13; 2 Pet 1:10)
- Rejecting sin (Matt 5:27-30; Rom 8:13)
- Use the means of grace (Acts 2:42)