

A silhouette of a person in profile, facing right, with their hands clasped in prayer. The background is a gradient from dark blue at the top to a warm orange and red at the bottom, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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MINISTERING TO
PERSONAL NEEDS

Repentance

Repentance is the first word of the preached Gospel (*Matthew 3:2; 4:17; Mark 6:12; Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38; 20:21*)

It is important to know what repentance is not. It is not the conviction of sin. It is possible to even tremble with conviction of sin, but if that doesn't translate to some response of "repentance," it means nothing.

It is important to know what repentance is. It involves a changing of the soul-life—the mind, will and emotions (the three realms of the soul).

Repentance has implication relative to the mind of man:

- The Mind: It means to change one's mind, thought, purpose, views regarding a matter; it is to have another mind about a thing. We need to have another mind about God, about man and about sin, etc.
 - 1 Timothy 6:5
 - Romans 6:5
 - Philippians 2:5



- The Emotions: It means we have a godly sorrow for sin.
 - 2 Corinthians 7:9-11
 - Luke 18:13
 - Luke 15:18-20
- The Will: It means a changing of the will or disposition
 - Luke 15:18-20

It is important to know how true repentance is demonstrated:

- Godly Sorrow
- Abhorrence of Self
- Confession of Sins
- Forsaking sin or putting off old man
- Burning bridges
- Godly hatred for sin
- Turning to the Lord or putting on the new man
- Restitution where possible



Faith

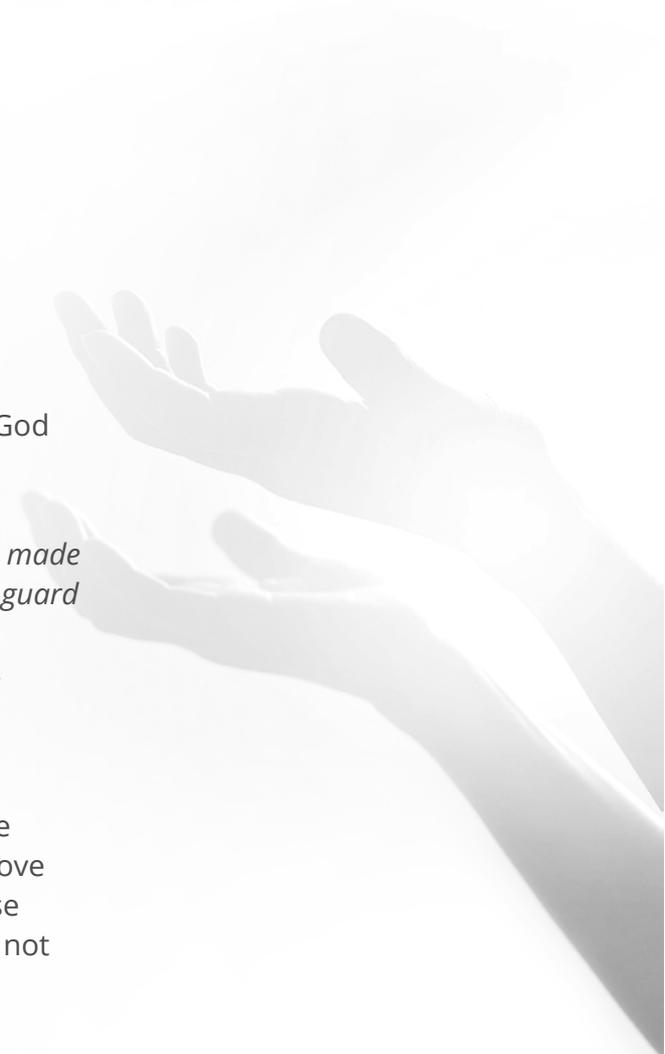
Faith is trust, assurance and confidence in God. Living faith is shown by service and obedience to God. God will increase our faith if we fervently ask and draw close to Him.

- Faith can be defined in several ways:
 - Webster: *“Trust, firm persuasion, assurance, firm conviction, confidence in another’s **word.**”*
 - Hebrews 1:1: *“Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of things (we) hope for, being the proof of things (we) do not see and the conviction of their reality – faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses.”*
- Faith in God is essential in the new birth process. True repentance and faith are inseparable. They are mutually dependent on each other.
- Faith is necessary to please God

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6)



- There are opponents to our faith:
 - The voice of Satan
 - Mental doubts
 - Discouragement
 - Insurmountable circumstances
 - Lack of financial provision
- God gives faith to those who seek it. Faith is increased by drawing closer to God through prayer and the study of His Word, the Bible.
 - Paul told the Philippians to *“Be anxious for nothing [don’t worry], but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).*
 - They believed God’s Word, and they obeyed His commandments. As they listened and followed Paul’s instruction on giving their cares to God in believing in prayer, their faith (belief and trust) was increased.
- Faith is only as strong as the thing to which it is anchored. A person might be full of faith even if she doesn’t feel it. She must be willing to act in faith—to love an enemy, to protect the weak, to respect a grumpy teacher—simply because she believes that what God says is true, even if her emotions and reason do not compel the action.



Praying For Salvation

Salvation, commonly referred to as “being saved,” means deliverance or redemption from sin and its consequences.

We are told in Romans 5:8 that God demonstrated His love for us through the death of His son, because of our sins.

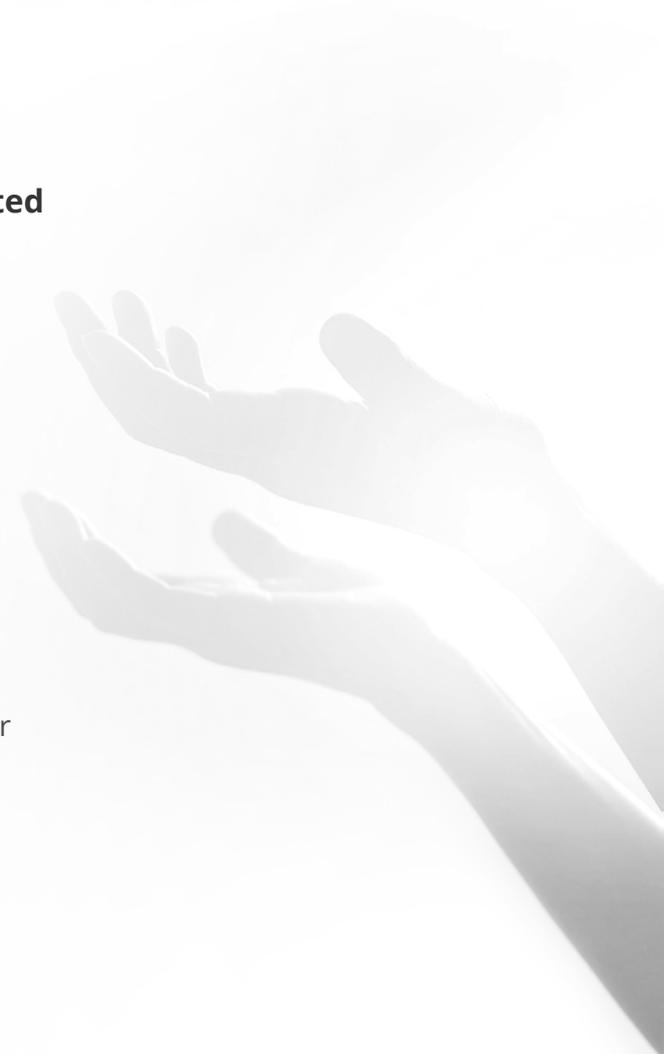
Ephesians 2:5 tells us *“even though we were dead because of our sins, [God] gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved.”* In order to receive salvation, we have to be born again.

Use your testimony as a witnessing tool—your personal testimony is the most powerful tool in witnessing to your faith in Christ.

- You should write out your testimony in a succinct form
- You should practice sharing your testimony in 10 minutes or less
- You should include the following elements:
 - Your life apart from Christ (do not glorify the life of sin)
 - What brought you to a point of decision for Christ
 - The changes in your life since receiving Christ
 - Your experience of water baptism and the baptism of the Spirit
 - The challenge of separating from the old life
 - The importance of your identification with a local church and other believers

Become familiar with the “Roman Road” passages and the associated truths:

- Romans 3:23
 - All people on earth are sinners
 - Sin separates us from God and keeps us from fulfilling our destiny
- Romans 6:23a
 - The penalty for sin is death
 - The death that is referred to is both physical and spiritual.
 - Eternal death is separation from God
- Romans 6:23b
 - Christ died on the cross to pay for the penalty for our sin. He became our sinless substitute.
 - Because of what Christ did, God offers to us a free gift of eternal life.
 - In order to receive that gift, we must reach out and accept it.



Encouragement is imperative. Encourage them in steps toward a decision. Discuss the following questions:

- Do you realize that Jesus died on the cross for your sin (*Romans 5:8*)
- Are you willing to repent of and turn away from your sins (*Acts 17:30*)
- Are you willing to receive Christ into your life as the Lord of your life? (*John 1:12*)
- Are you willing to begin a new lifestyle under the direction of the Word of God?

Talk them through the “sinner’s prayer.” Repeat a prayer along these lines:

Dear Lord, Today I realize that I am truly a sinner. I realize that my sins have separated me from God. I call upon You as the only One that can save me. I thank you that You love me and that you sent your Son to die in my place on the cross. I repent of all my sins and all of those things that have separated me from You. I am willing to put away my sinful ways and live the way that You have designed for me to live. I acknowledge You as the Lord of the universe and the Lord of my life. I believe that Christ died for me and rose again from the dead. I want to live a life that pleases You in every way. Help me to know what to do. Help me to do what I know is right to do. Thank You for saving my soul.

Ask them to pray to God additionally in their own words.

