

Real Repentance

Genuine spiritual mourning for sin is the work of the Spirit of God. Repentance is too choice a flower to grow in nature's garden. Pearls grow naturally in oysters, but repentance never shows itself in sinners unless divine grace works it in them. If you have one particle of real hatred of sin, God must have given it to you, for human nature's thorns never produced a single fig. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh." (John3:6).

True Repentance has a distinct reference to the Savior. When we repent, we must have one eye on sin and another eye on the cross. But even better is to fix both eyes on Christ and see our transgressions only in the light of His love.

True sorrow for sin is eminently practical. People may not say they hate sin if they are living in it. Repentance makes us see the evil of sin, not merely as a theory but experientially as a burnt child dreads fire.

We should be as afraid of sin as the victim of a mugger is afraid of thieves. We must shun sin, and shun in it everything, in great and little things, as we shun little vipers as well as great snakes.

True mourning for sin will make us guard our tongues, lest we say a wrong word. It will make us watchful over our daily actions, lest we offend in anything. Each evening, let us close the day with painful confessions of our short-comings. Each morning, let us wake with an eager prayer that God will hold us back from sinning against Him.

Sincere repentance is continual. Believers repent until their dying day. Repentance is not intermittent. Other sorrows yield to time, but repentance grows with spiritual growth. Repentance is so bittersweet that we thank God we are permitted to experience it until we enter our eternal rest. -- Charles Spurgeon, Morning & Evening