

SAVING FAITH INVOLVES REPENTANCE!

Amazingly there are professing Christians who do not believe that repentance is necessary for salvation. They do not believe that repentance is involved in saving faith. What Bible are they reading?

Repentance is not additional to faith but is an **ESSENTIAL ELEMENT** contained within it. Repentance literally means “***to have a change of mind***”.

A saving faith is a change of mind kind of faith. It is descriptive of the heart's response in salvation. Repentance so aptly describes the response of saving faith that sometimes it is used as a synonym.

For example, in 2 Peter 3:9 it says that God is “*not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance*”. But it was also Peter who said that by his mouth, “*the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe...purifying their hearts by faith*” (Acts 15:7-9). So, Peter clearly believed people are saved by FAITH and yet he also believed saving faith essentially involves REPENTANCE.

The Old Testament clearly taught the necessity of repentance. Isaiah 55:7 was a call to repentance: “*Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.*”

John the Baptist came on the scene saying, “*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!*” (Mt. 3:1-2) The kingdom was being presented to Israel on the condition of REPENTANCE (cf. Isa. 40:3-5).

Jesus then followed His forerunner with the same message saying, “*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*” (Mt. 4:17) Jesus made the necessity of repentance very clear saying, “*unless you repent you will all likewise perish*” (Lk 13:3,5). Following His resurrection Jesus said, “*repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations*” (Lk. 24:47).

The apostles taught the necessity of repentance. On the day of Pentecost when the Jews asked Peter and the apostles what they should do, Peter responded by telling them they should REPENT (Acts 2:38).

Paul summarized that his ministry consisted of “*testifying to Jews and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Acts 20:21). In presenting his great treatise on the gospel Paul in Romans 2:4 said, “*the goodness of God leads you to repentance*”.

The great issue in the Day of the Lord is the matter of repentance. In Revelation 9:20-21 it shows that in spite of the horrific judgments yet, “*they did not repent*”. In Revelation 16:11 it says, “*They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.*”

Thus, we see all the way through the Bible REPENTANCE is seen to be an essential component of true saving faith. We are saved by FAITH ALONE, but it must be the right kind of faith – it must be a CHANGE OF MIND kind of faith.

“True belief and true repentance are twins”. – Charles Spurgeon

2 Timothy 2:19 (ESV)

19 But God’s firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”