

When Jesus Demanded Repentance

Written by Bill Perkins

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

—Matthew 3:8

"Repent and believe the good news."

—Mark 1:15

Most people hear "repent" and picture behavior:

Stop sinning. Start obeying.

Turn around. Walk the other way.

But the Greek word is metanoia—

a change of mind.

Not a change of behavior.

Not a surge of emotion.

Not a public display of sorrow.

Jesus declared:

"Repent and believe the good news."

Not "repent and behave."

Not "repent and prove."

Just "repent and believe."

Repentance is the change of mind

that makes faith possible.

To repent is to change your mind about:

- Yourself — not innocent, but guilty.
- Your sin — not safe, but deadly.
- Your Savior — not optional, but the only way.
- His death — not symbolic, but substitution.
- His resurrection — not rumor or myth,
but the moment death bowed to its Master.
- Faith — not one of many gates, but the only way in.

You may not know this about Jesus:

the gate was narrow, but it was open.

Where does my mind still resist changing—
about myself, my sin, and my Savior?

Repentance happens the moment I change my mind—
about myself, my sin, and the Lord Jesus.

It's when I stop trusting myself
and start trusting Him.

And in that moment,
I enter through Jesus—
the narrow gate.

Father, I've spent so long trying to fix myself—
thinking that if I could just get it right,
You'd accept me.

I thought I had to prove something
before I could receive anything.

But today I see it differently.
I don't need to clean myself up.
I need to come to You.

I'm not asking for credit—
I'm asking for mercy.
I'm not good—
I'm guilty.

And that's why I need Jesus.
I believe He died for me,
rose for me,
and welcomes me as I am.

I now stop trusting myself
and start trusting Him.

I enter through Jesus,
the narrow gate—
the only way that leads to life.

In His name I pray, Amen.