

“The Most Excellent Way”

Attitude of Victorious Living: “Repentance”

Jesus said, “Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted” Matthew 5:4

“I believe Jesus Christ can and will create in me a new way of life.”

Called • Choose • Commit • Change

Faith • Promises • Power

James 1:13-25: Whenever you feel tempted to do something bad, you should not say, "God is tempting me." Evil cannot tempt God, and God Himself does not tempt anyone. **14** You are tempted by the evil things you want. Your own desire leads you away and traps you. **15** Your desire grows inside you until it results in sin. Then the sin grows bigger and bigger and finally ends in death. **16** My dear brothers and sisters, don't be fooled about this. **17** Everything good comes from God. Every perfect gift is from Him. These good gifts come down from the Father who made all the lights in the sky. But God never changes like the shadows from those lights. He is always the same. **18** God decided to give us life through the true message He sent to us. He wanted us to be the most important of all that He created. **19** My dear brothers and sisters, always be more willing to listen than to speak. Keep control of your anger. **20** Anger does not help you live the way God wants. **21** So get rid of everything evil in your lives—every kind of wrong you do. Be humble and accept God's teaching that is planted in your hearts. This teaching can save you. **22** Do what God's teaching says; don't just listen and do nothing. When you only sit and listen, you are fooling yourselves. **23** Hearing God's teaching and doing nothing is like looking at your face in the mirror **24** and doing nothing about what you saw. You go away and immediately forget how bad you looked. **25** But when you look into God's perfect law that sets people free, pay attention to it. If you do what it says, you will have God's blessing. Never just listen to His teaching and forget what you heard. - ERV

“The grief of repentance is never loss in any way; not to experience this grief, that is loss indeed.” — R.C.H. Lenski

A truly repentant person has come to understand Jesus as Lord over every area of life. That is why they can believe Jesus will change their life. The idea that God will bless an unrepentant believer is contrary to scripture and common sense. God is looking for people whose hearts are completely His. 2 Chronicles 16:9 says, “The eyes of the Lord move to and fro through the earth to strongly support that person whose heart is completely His.” There is no way to be that person without daily repentance, so we run to God with everything and experience the joy of being in Christ with our sins paid in full and Jesus truly on the throne of grace ministering to our hearts. In this we cannot lose. Do not be deceived, God is the Father of lights and He loves you. Within that truth, you must do business with what you see about yourself and repent into His loving grace and mercy.

Hebrews 4:13-16: God’s word is alive and working. It is sharper than the sharpest sword and cuts all the way into us. It cuts deep to the place where soul and the spirit are joined. God’s word cuts to the center of our joints and our bones. It judges the thoughts and feelings in our hearts. 13 Nothing in all the world can be hidden from God. He can clearly see all things. Everything is open before Him. And to Him we must explain the way we have lived. 14 We have a great high priest who has gone to live with God in heaven. He is Jesus the Son of God. So let us continue to express our faith in Him. 15 Jesus, our high priest, is able to understand our weaknesses. When Jesus lived on earth, He was tempted in every way. He was tempted in the same ways we are tempted, but He never sinned. 16 With Jesus as our high priest, we can feel free to come before God's throne where there is grace. There we receive mercy and kindness to help us when we need it. ESV

“Believe your beliefs and doubt your doubts; do not make the mistake of doubting your beliefs and believing your doubts.” —Charles F. Deems