

## Repentance

Acts 9:3-5

### 1. Introduction

The most difficult thing in the world is to change myself. Nothing can be more difficult than this. If you can change yourself, you can change the world. However, we sinners cannot change ourselves; we need Christ. In order to receive Christ, we need to repent. But without the work of the spirit of God, we cannot repent.

### 2. Experience of Moses and St. Paul

When God called Moses in the wilderness, God asked him to take off his shoes because his shoes were defiled by Satan. God is pure, and a pure God cannot receive impurity. Which should be changed, purity or impurity? God or man? If impurity should be changed and not purity, then it's not God who needs to change, but man. Fallen man's direction must be changed. This changing of direction of life is called repentance.

There has been no one whose life has not changed when they met with God. St. Paul's experience was a dramatic conversion. When he was struck by the light of God, his life changed completely, 180 degrees, and he became the most powerful disciple of Jesus. However, this kind of dramatic conversion rarely occurs.

### 3. Our Repentance

Our conversion or repentance is a gradual one, usually brought about by the truth of God. By the truth of God, we realize our own sin, and repentance starts.

#### a. Realization of sin

We can understand sin by the word of God, but in order to realize our own sin (what an impure person I am!!) we must pray. Only prayer will let us realize our sin.

#### b. Denial of sin

We cannot stand to see our own sin. We can hate sin.

#### c. Repentance

Sometimes, the next moment after we ask forgiveness, we burst into tears of repentance: “Heavenly Father, please forgive me in the name of Christ our Lord!”

d. Confession

Not matter how many times you shed tears with God, until you open your heart to an elder and tell everything, you are not free.

e. Commitment

You must resolve never to repeat that sin gain, and show it through your actions.

4. New Life

When you really repent, and talk to and pray together with an elder, you feel so free. Many months or even many years of burden and guilt disappear. You feel so free, so refreshed, so revitalized, and very strong. You have to be pure, otherwise you cannot be strong. You can be more confident in yourself, and you can now see the pure and beautiful aspects of your own nature – the image of God.

Because God forgave you, God will not judge you, and Jesus will not judge you. Then Satan cannot say anything. Other brothers and sisters are not qualified to judge you, and most important, you are totally unqualified to judge yourself. You are free and your conscience will release you.

You will feel like a tree budding in the spring season, filled with new life and hope. You can now challenge new life!