

April 24, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Acts 3:19 *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the LORD. (NIV)*

The Greek word for *repent* is **metanoesate** which means *to change one's purpose, direction, heart and mind*. I have known many people who have joined the church, been baptized, and regularly attend church services that seem to not understand the change that should come through salvation. Now I am certainly not a judge of someone's heart. Only the LORD knows what is in a person's heart. But I believe scripture is replete with instances of real change that comes with a true relationship with Christ. Luke writes about one of them just a few chapters later. His name was Saul; a leader of the very religious Pharisees. Read the account of his conversion in **Acts 9**. After he met Jesus, everything in his life changed; even his name (Paul). He had been brutally persecuting Christians. He was in charge of the stoning of Stephen. He believed that his only hope was in the law. He was wrong. His only hope was in the giver of the law! Just a few days later we read in **Acts 9:19-22** *So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?" But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.* True repentance is turning from our own way to the only way, Jesus! We must have a change of heart and direction. We must choose to follow Him as LORD. When this happens, the scripture says that we become a new creation. The old is gone and the new has come! If nothing changed when you "joined the church or were baptized," it might be because there was no repentance. The outcome of repentance is: *so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the LORD.*

Dear LORD, help us to be a people of repentance instead of independence. We must trust totally in You. Help us to turn from our wicked ways. We need Your refreshing touch. In Jesus Name, Amen.