

Foundations pt2 – Five Points of Real Change

Dr. John Carmichael

[Heb 6:1-3 NASB95] 1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do, if God permits.

- Change is change. Some are sorry they got caught. Some are ready to make a change.
- Christianity is not an accessory. It is an abandonment. Change in values. Change in goals. Everything. Not adding to our lives. We burn everything to live for Him.
- The nominalism in today's church is partly due to the lack of understanding of what "repentance from dead works" involves.
- Definition: Repentance from dead works is REAL CHANGE.
 - Repentance means to turn FROM sin/self/Satan TO Jesus/Gospel/Kingdom. FROM and TO. Very important.
 - Dead works means sin. Dead in sins, transgressions, trespasses. (Eph. 2:1,5 & Col. 2:13)
- Christians are just ignorant of it OR have deluded themselves into thinking is not necessary OR (a deeper situation) they do not understand the difference between positional righteousness and personal righteousness.
- There are many voices in the church who teach this differently. Armenian vs Calvinism. John Bevere vs Jonathan Shuttlesworth. Let's let the Word of God settle the issue.
- If you do not have a functional understanding of repentance from dead works, you will fall. That is what the writer of Hebrews is saying in the passage.

What does a functional understanding of repentance from dead works involve?

Here are five points of understanding of repentance from dead works (real change.)

I. Repentance from dead works involves a decision.

- a. Notice the preaching of John the Baptist, Jesus, and Peter.
 - i. [Mat 3:2 NASB95] 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
 - ii. [Mat 4:17 NASB95] 17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
 - iii. [Act 2:38 NASB95] 38 Peter [said] to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- b. In each case, the preacher is calling on the people to make the decision to respond. The response: repent. Jesus preached repentance (present, active, imperative) as an ongoing action.
- c. It is a change in mind and action from something (sin/self/Satan) to another (Jesus).

II. Repentance from dead works is a work of God.

- a. V. 3 – if God permits.
- b. [2Ti 2:24-26 NASB95] 24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses [and escape] from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.
- c. Repentance requires a dependency upon the Holy Spirit. Human will is not powerful enough to fully produce genuine repentance.

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III. Repentance from dead works will be accompanied by deeds or actions.

- a. Jesus said it like this. [Mat 5:29-30 NASB95] 29 "If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 "If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.
- b. Paul preached "performing deeds appropriate to repentance, as did John the Baptist (Luke 3:8). [Act 26:20 NASB95] 20 but [kept] declaring both to those of Damascus first, and [also] at Jerusalem and [then] throughout all the region of Judea, and [even] to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.
- c. Sorrow only is dead. Sorrow that leads to change is salvation. They changed what they were doing. [2Co 7:9-10 NASB95] 9 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to [the point of] repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to [the will of] God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. 10 For the sorrow that is according to [the will of] God produces a repentance without regret, [leading] to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.
- d. From sin. Make whatever changes are necessary. If it causes you to stumble, aggressively deal with it.
- e. To Jesus. Prayer life. Bible reading. Faithful participation in church. Fasting.
- f. Not just from sin, but to God. Not 90 degrees, but 180 degrees.

IV. Repentance from dead works is a regular process.

- a. This is not a one-time occurrence.
- b. Jesus - Lord's Prayer. [Mat 6:12 NASB95] 12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
- c. John, the Apostle - [1Jo 1:8-9 NASB95] 8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- d. Paul - [Rom 8:13 NASB95] 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
- e. Live a life that regularly processes repentance through faith and prayer.

V. Repentance from dead works is a response to the goodness and severity of God.

- a. The motivation is the goodness and severity of God.
 - i. [Rom 2:4 NASB95] 4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?
 - ii. [Rom 11:22 NASB95] 22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.
- b. The more we consider how much God loves us, the more we want to serve Him.

- **Jesus is calling us to live a life of repentance of dead works from a decision empowered by the Holy Spirit, accompanied by action that is part of a regular process motivated by the goodness and severity of God.**