



LifeBridge
BAPTIST CHURCH

November 6, 2022
Worship Service
Pastor Chris Regas
WeAreLifeBridge.com

JAMES: Real Faith, Real Life

Lesson Eighteen • James 4:6-10

The Lifestyle of Repenters

Whether It's Jonah, Jesus, or Paul the Message Is the Same:

Keep on repenting and believing the good news!

We are called to be REPENTERS.

Repenting is what true believers do not just to resolve conflict but to reflect Christ.

The Lifestyle of Repenters

1. Kneeling DOWN. James 4:7a

➤ Submitting to God is a **BLESSING** not a curse.

➤ Submitting to God is a **REFUGE** not a prison.

Psalm 2:12; 18:2; 34:8; 46:1; 62:7-8

2. Standing STRONG. James 4:7b

*Submission keeps your heart **SOFT** toward God and
your will **STRONG** against the devil!*

➤ In **CHRIST** as your armor. *Ephesians 6:1-17a*

➤ With the **SWORD** of the Spirit. *Ephesians 6:17b*

➤ By **PRAYER** with the church. *Ephesians 6:18-20*

3. Drawing NEAR. James 4:8a

Is God distant? Ask yourself: Who moved?

4. Washing UP. James 4:8b

*Clean hands and pure hearts speak to sinful **ACTIONS** and
the selfish **ATTITUDES** that birth them.*

Both need confessing and forsaking!

5. Getting SERIOUS. James 4:9

*Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you
want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.*

*Let your laughter **TURN** into mourning and your joy into gloom!*

Misery! Mourning! Moaning!

Two Warnings

➤ Weep over the **RIGHT** things.

➤ Weep but don't **WALLOW** in guilt.

6. Staying LOW. James 4:6, 10

➤ The heart of repentance is **HUMILITY**.

➤ The hope of repentance is **JESUS**.

Embrace the Lifestyle of a Repenter

Break off your affair with the world today. Take these six decisive steps to repent
and restore the joy of your salvation.

Not yet a believer?

Repent and receive this Jesus as your Savior and Lord.

Already a believer?

Then you're a Repenter! Live a lifestyle characterized by this kind of repentance.

For more on being a repenter see handout.
Next steps? Scan to connect.



CHRISTIANS, WE ARE REPENTERS!

by Trevin Wax

When I was living in Romania and learning the language, one of the first words I encountered was *pocăit*. Roughly translated, it means “repenter.” It was a derogatory label given to evangelical believers last century. There were cultural “Christians,” and then there were *pocăiții* - “repenters” who believed an ongoing life of repentance was essential to the Christian life.

As a Baptist, I was one of the repenters. What separated our church from cultural Christianity we came into contact with was our insistence on repentance in response to God’s unmerited favor. In light of God’s grace, we called people to repent of their sins, their self-justification, and devote themselves wholly to Christ.

Ten years later, the necessity of repentance has become a watershed issue in the fading days of Christendom in the West. Contrary to popular belief, the evangelical church is not dying. Declining, perhaps. But wherever grace-driven repentance is preached and an out-of-the-mainstream lifestyle expected, people are still coming to faith.

I pray that in the West, we will be like our Romanian brothers and sisters: dissatisfied with the idea of being Christian in name only, and passionate about living as “repenters” who have tasted the goodness and grace of God and can never be the same again.

Below are ten characteristics of repentance I hope we can all say with honesty.

Christians, We Are Repenters

We repent of living for ourselves, and so we commit to trading our personal kingdom agendas for the kingdom agenda of Jesus Christ.

We are repenters.

We repent of making God out to be more like us, and so we ask God to change our hearts and make us more like Him.

We are repenters.

We repent of our silly attempts to justify ourselves before God and make ourselves pleasing to Him through our own efforts, and so we ask Him to save and sustain us in His unwavering grace and help us rest in Christ’s work on our behalf.

We are repenters.

We repent of our hypocrisy and self-righteousness, and so we ask God to deliver us from doublemindedness and help us seek

His righteousness above all.

We are repenters.

We repent of valuing most what other people think, and so we ask God to help us value most what He thinks.

We are repenters.

We repent of withholding areas of our life from God’s command, and so we ask God to invade and overcome every part of us – our hopes, our desires, our dreams, our thoughts, our actions – and show us how to love Him and love others from a whole heart.

We are repenters.

We repent of seeking a life of ease and comfort, and so we ask God for the courage to pick up our crosses and follow Christ no matter the cost.

We are repenters.

We repent of all the good things we have failed to do, and so we ask God to open our eyes to the opportunities for us to shine His light in a dark world.

We are repenters.

We repent of serving ourselves and our own interests, and so we ask God to empower us to serve others in the name of His Son.

We are repenters.

We repent of taking pride in our own repentance, and so we ask God to remind us that salvation is all of grace and to humble us before the cross.

We are repenters.



"But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you."

James 4:6-10

"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. 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. For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter."

2Corinthians 7:9-11

"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?"

Romans 2:4

"Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance;"

Matthew 3:8