

Thinking Differently IX — Dr James McDonald Study Notes 2016-10-09

Gen. 31:7 Jacob gets a dose of his own medicine, but his mindset changes, and he sees that God has blessed him, and that he doesn't have to make it by hook or crook.

Gen. 31:9 "God has done this" **V. 42** He's changing! His thinking is changing! He always took things into his own hands; now he's letting go and letting God handle it.

"Nothing is different until I think differently." Jacob is beginning to think differently.

32:10 "Steadfast love, faithfulness", "Not worthy", No longer "I'm shorted and I'll handle it"; now he's much more humble!

"I'm not what I should be; I'm not what I could be, but I'm not what I was!!"

He wrestles, but knows he needs God's blessing. "I won't let you go until you bless me."

II Cor. 7:8-11

The most frequently used word in both old and New Testaments for changing our thinking is Metanoia in the Greek = "repentance."

Repentance isn't a place we visit occasionally; it should be a place we live. Not just a place to go when I'm cornered and have to make some major changes, but a place I return to daily no matter how life is going for me.

Repentance is a really good thing. It is the message that is in the mouth of every Old Testament prophet.

Repentance is the essence of changing our thinking; turning away from what we thought was right, what we thought was correct, and turning to a new way of thinking and acting.

Changing our thinking is what opens us to God's salvation to begin with.

Repentance is crucial to our entire walk with the **Lord**; *salvation wasn't the only thing we were wrong about!*

Repentance is a gift from God **Acts 5:31**; "give repentance"; **Acts 11:18**; **II Tim. 2:25**; God gives it to us and we can reject it.

We should be prolific in our repentance.

Rev. 2:5 Remember, repent, redo. **Rev. 3:16, 19**

Repentance is a recognition of sin, followed by heartfelt sorrow, resulting in a change of mind and thus behavior.

We need to come to the end of ourselves and come to our senses.

If we are trapped in a cycle of sin and confess, it's because we haven't repented.

Have to turn from something to something else and exchange my belief in something to believe something new.

Revival is what we need, and this comes as a result of repentance.

The father said that the prodigal son "was dead and is alive again, lost and is found"; that's revival.

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Bringing back from the dead; finding who we truly are again.

5 Marks of Genuine Repentance II Cor. 7:8-11

II Cor. 7:8 His letter was basically "REPENT!!"; hated to have to grieve them but. **VV. 9-10**

1. **Grief over sin. V.9** "godly grief" or "sorrow according to the will of God."

Grief proceeds confession. **I Jn. 1:9** is preceded by "sorrow according to the will of God"; can't say what God says about sin until I see what God sees. Our sins grieve Him, so we should grieve.

This is soul pain; worldly grief is not like this. It is a grief that is too late; "I'm sorry" sorry you got caught, but you are not grieved that you failed God.

2. **Repulsion towards sin. V. 11** "vindication, indignation" repulsed by what you used to enjoy.

Used to please you; now it sickens you.

You see it for what it really is, nasty, repulsive, ugly sin.

3. **Restitution toward others. V. 11** "Avenging of wrong" they weren't taking vengeance but getting things straight with those they wronged.

They were avenging the wrong *they* had perpetrated.

When repentance takes place, we want to make it right with those we've hurt.

The prodigal son got up and went straight to his father who he had offended.

You're not fully right with God until you've done your best to be right with those your sin has injured.

4. **Revival towards God. V.11** "What fear, what longing, what zeal"; your relationship with God is fired up again.

Discipline is revived towards God.

5. **Future Focus.** "Repentance without regret"; looking forward to the years that remain. Part of God's restorative process is that after we repent, we are able to have a positive outlook on what's ahead.