

DAY 15

MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 13

"God's reckless grace is our greatest hope, a life changing experience." —Timothy J. Keller

"God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance..." Romans 2:4

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Repent. It's a familiar word but what does it really mean?

Early on in my walk with Jesus, I remember learning about repentance. I had so much shame and guilt. I had this long list of "sins" that I should stop doing. I'll spare you the details but you might have looked at my life and said the same thing. Stop it. That is a limited view of repentance. Merely abstaining from acts of sin doesn't change my mind or my heart. My motivation was to look like a "better Christian." This isn't real repentance.

The Biblical definition of repentance is to "change one's mind and thus change one's direction...."

Internal transformation only happens when I return to God. We see in the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15) how enthusiastically the father welcomes his lost son back. The son, "comes to his senses" and starts the journey home to confess his sin to his father, prepared to beg to live as a hired hand in exchange for food and shelter. But the father sees the son approaching and runs to meet him with open arms, to restore him and be with him. Jesus is explaining our Heavenly Father and His eagerness to receive us as we repent. God moves towards us not to make us some moral superstar but rather to embrace us as His child. This love is what motivates us to repentance.

Romans 2:4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

Repentance isn't one and done but rather a constant state of my heart. To repent is to RETURN to God. It's only in His constant presence as His child, I get to live the life He desires for me. Let His love for you drive you to repent and receive His embrace.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, please awaken our hearts to You. Help us to repent of our self will and self improvement. Forgive our wayward and divided hearts. Show us quickly when we are not walking towards You in thought or deed. Help us to live our lives before You in gratitude for your forgiveness and the gift of being Your children.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Father, so many in our city feel alone and anxious and broken. Open the eyes and ears of those who need to know You. Reveal Yourself to people all across our whole region. Make hearts pliable and ready to receive Your salvation. We ask You Father to save our community and move to dispel the darkness with Your steadfast love.

REPENT



Contributed by Susan Wesley, Care and Support Associate | Clear Creek Community Church
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