

1.4.B.(3).Baptism of Repentance. Mark 1:4-6

Baptism of Repentance: Mark 1:4-6.

⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a **baptism of repentance** for the **forgiveness of sins**. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, **confessing their sins**. (Mk 1:4-5)

Background:

- Preparing Way for the Lord: messengers, angels, apostles, evangelists.
- Repentance: metanoia
- Baptism: death and rebirth

Focus:

- Baptism of Repentance: (1:4)
- Forgiveness of Sins (1:4)
- Confessing their sins. (1:5)

Consider:

¹⁰ The thief comes only to **steal** and **kill** and **destroy**. I came that they may have **life** and have it **abundantly**. John 10:10

God's promise to you in Jesus Mashiach is *good new life*. And, the only way that you can enjoy this new life is to be spiritually *reborn* into the very life of God.

So, this very *real* transition from one state to another—from spiritual death to life, is picture by

the word “baptism” which presents a clear *before* and *after*. The waters of baptism represent the old life of being *dead* in sin and the world, living a Godless life entirely ruled by one’s sin-corrupted flesh. Being immersed in the waters of baptism portray the totality and utter helplessness of being dead in sinful flesh. But, rising out of the water, the disciple enters a new state, being *reborn* into a new life by the Spirit.

So, there are two important aspects of baptism—to first leave and reject the old life of death in sin. This is depicted by John’s ministry of preaching a “baptism of repentance.” The second reality takes place by the Holy Spirit, which is a *baptism—a rebirth by the Spirit* into the new reality of God’s spiritual family and Kingdom.

For you as a disciple, consider the great separation between these two states of old and new, between death and life, for *sin, death, and Godlessness* has no place in the new life of God’s

family and Kingdom. So, for you to fully experience the spiritual power and growth of the Spirit, keep these two realms apart—never seek to sully your new life in God’s family and kingdom with *unrepentant* or even worse, *self-rationalizing fleshly aspects of the fleshly life*. Rather, repent fully of what is dead and passing.

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have **crucified the flesh** with its passions and desires. Galatians 5:24

To ***repent*** is to be so convinced in your mind about the *horror* and *unacceptability* of the corrupted things of your old life that you are willing to reject them, abandon

Case Study: Take the very fleshly need to retain “self-rule” and control over your life. Many who have come to Jesus Mashiach have been unwilling to *repent* of this idolatry which deprives Mashiach of His Lordship, instead finding religious language to rationalize their fleshliness. Controlling leaders are called “visionary,” while self-guided behavior is “Spirit-led.”

and give them up completely to the Lord for destruction—to be “put to death” and excised from your life by the Spirit (Romans 8:13). To give up the “old” and unholy aspects of our lives to the Lord for cleansing is called “crucifying” the flesh, letting the cross of Mashiach *redeem* what was broken and dead to restore it to a Spirit-enlivened reality. So, men who *give up* their fleshly lusts toward immorality entrust their sexuality to the

Lord, who *redeems* it. Some may eventually find marriage partners, while others may be called to celibacy in this life.

Walking in Repentance: the Light of Fellowship.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that **God** is **light**, and in him is **no darkness** at all. 6 If we say we have **fellowship** with him while we **walk in darkness**, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we **walk** in the **light**, as he is in the light, we have **fellowship** with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son **cleanses** us from all sin. 8 If we say we have not⁹ sin, we deceive **ourselves**, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we **confess our sins**, he is faithful

and just to **forgive** us our sins and to **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:6-9.

The reality of your new life in Jesus Mashiach is that you now live in the *light* of God's near fellowship, the presence of his surrounding presence in your life. So, the sins that you commit impact this fellowship, bringing a foreign element of death and darkness into your life. So, once you are aware that you have sinned against God, that you are surrendering to the *flesh* and its lusts, or that some aspect of the world—a secret idolatry, or an ambition *opposing* the Lordship of Jesus Mashiach—anything that convicts your heart of wrong-doing, confess this immediately to God and repent.

Be sure to follow these steps in your repentance:

- **Conviction:** Based on the Word of God and the Holy Spirit's instruction, you will know

what is sinful and the *evil* to turn from. Do not harden your heart to his Word, nor given in to the fleshly impulses that tempt you. For, what you live by will *exert rule and power* in your life.

- **Confession:** Once you are convicted, confess your sin immediately to the Lord God. Do not hide it nor spend any time justifying why you fell. God knows that you still live in a body which is *dead in sin*, but it is the Spirit-enlivened life which must rule your soul. So, be honest, be contrite, and confess. Remember, God will not play any religious games with you, so be sure that your words that you speak in confession are backed by a *heart repentance*. Be convinced that you are intentionally choosing *life* and rejecting *death* and judgment. Hate the sin as if you would hate a cancer *stealing your life*. Hate it and give it to the Lord for crucifixion.

Surrender is the only action worthy of your confession. Give it to the Lord.

- **Consecration:** When you repent of and reject your sin, surrendering it to the Lord for his power to *forgive and cleanse*, do not simply muster up your motivation or fleshly ability to do better. Rather, as you surrender your sin to the Lord for cleansing, consecrate—offer your life back to God to do his will. In this way, your surrender of sin is accompanied by an openness once again to his power, that he might work through

you. For, when you consecrate your self which sin had just now commandeered for the flesh—when you consecrate your Self back to the Lord, you now also surrender to the Spirit's power and leading.

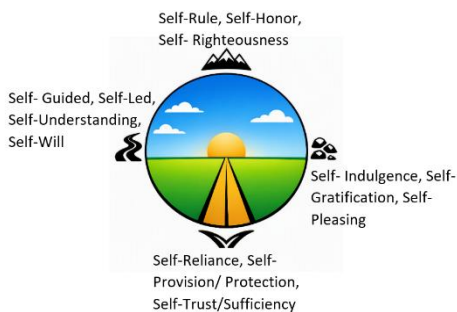
Case Study: In my life-long struggle against lust, I remember a turning point at the beach in Hawaii. In the past, I would find myself confessing non-stop for my errant lust and gazing at the scantily clad women. I'd confess and resolve to change. But, after falling yet again, I confessed and surrendered. I offered my gaze to the Lord, to be directed by His Spirit. This led not to striving by rest.

From What should I repent?

Unlike *fleshly religion*, which seeks to perform some appeasing deeds but to leave the flesh and its antics intact, to repent is not to selectively

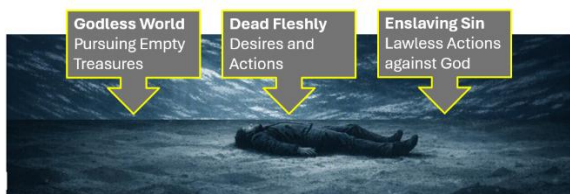
choose egregious sins to avoid or arbitrarily choose actions to avoid that meet your community's norms and propriety. Rather, we reject all things of your past, Godless life that stand against the Lord and his will. Even good and societally acceptable dreams, can become idolatrous, robbing the Lord of his proper worship and allegiance, so must be turned from. For example, a desire for one's family is a good thing, but when one's family becomes the center and highest value of one's life, even dictating matters of faith, then this idolatry must be repented of.

So, start first with your heart, and think again if there are any barriers or threats to Jesus Mashiach's place in your life as Lord:



15 Do not love **the world** or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the **desires** of the **flesh** and the desires of the **eyes** and **pride of life**—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15-17

Repent of the ways of the world, the flesh, and Satan's enslaving sin:



Question:

Further Discovery: