

Fruits Worthy of Repentance

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:
FRUITS WORTHY OF REPENTANCE
Bible Text: Matthew 3:8

Prayer

Our Righteous God, we say thank You for Your faithfulness upon our lives, for Your protection and compassionate love that does not fail, accept our thanks in Jesus name, Lord, we are going into Your word today, minister to us by Yourself, open our understanding, take control of today's study in Jesus name. Amen

Introduction

Let's quickly go into the topic before us today as the Holy Spirit takes total control, speaking to us all directly.

Bible Text

Matthew 3.8 - Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,

Study

When John the Baptist saw that the Pharisees and the Sadducees were coming to him to be baptized, he told them to bear fruits worthy of repentance. He emphasized that they should let their lives prove their change of hearts because he knew them well—strong-hearted people whom the law could not change but had changed the laws to suit themselves.

Coming out for an altar call is not sufficient proof of a changed heart; it's about saying it from the heart, believing in Christ, and having faith. A major problem the church faces today is that many people do not bear fruit worthy of repentance; their ways of life are far from what God sees as transformed. From the altar to the pew, if a person truly repents, everything about them will change because there is no correlation between the life of sin and a life of righteousness.

The evidence of repentance is the fruit of transformation; any repentance that doesn't result in a transformed life is false. Deception is possible,

which is why John quickly warned those coming for baptism that it goes beyond the act; it's about having a genuine change. Unfortunately, many have been baptized, and their lives didn't change; some even got worse. Some don't distinguish between baptism and repentance; baptism is a declaration of repentance and giving one's life to Jesus Christ. John didn't want the Pharisees' and Sadducees' case to be just a public bath; he warned them.

Are you still with me?

I remember my first baptism; I said the sinner's prayer, but nothing changed. It was only after a new encounter with the Lord, where I repented genuinely, that I knew something had happened to me. Convicted, I got baptized, and that brought peace. Genuine salvation must precede baptism. If genuinely saved and not yet baptized, it's compulsory as a Christian preparing for heaven. Those not genuinely saved shouldn't bother with baptism; it would be recorded as going to the river to swim.

What qualifies anyone for baptism is genuine repentance. **Acts 2:38 KJV** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in

the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Peter told the people to repent and be baptized, not be baptized and repent.

John preached repentance at baptism, urging belief in the One to come after him for the remission of sins. **Acts 19:4 KJV** Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

Those to be saved must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, as He has come to die for all once and for all, so that people can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

There has been an argument on what name we should be baptized with; some say in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, while some say it is in the name of Jesus. This is not really controversial, as many take it. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself said **Matthew 28:19 KJV** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

The essence of this statement the Lord made was to show the essence and joint work of the Trinity in the work of redemption and salvation of the soul of man. It is also to prove that They are One and work together to bring total redemption to mankind by believing in Him. So when one is baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, it is an act of faith, and baptism would still be linked to Christ. So it is not wrong to be baptized that way, but correct.

The apostle baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. **Acts 8:16 KJV** (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) **Acts 10:48 KJV** And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. **Acts 19:5 KJV** When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. The apostles did this because they understood the deity of Jesus Christ very well, and Paul made it clear in **Colossians 2:9 KJV** For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

He explained that in Jesus Christ, the fullness of the Godhead continues to dwell in bodily form, giving a complete expression of the Divine nature. Therefore, since the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

are in Jesus Christ, baptizing in the name of Jesus Christ is the same as baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Therefore, it is not wrong to baptize in the name of Jesus Christ; it is also correct. Any other name used than this is not recognized or accepted by God. And baptism must be by immersion and not by sprinkling or by making a sign of the cross; such forms of baptism are not recognized by God.

John knew that the Jews always prided themselves in being descendants of Abraham. So, He did not stop at telling them to bear fruit worthy of repentance but went further to expose their thoughts to them, opening their eyes to reality, which they might have closed their eyes to. **Matthew 3:9 KJV** And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

They must not think they have Abraham as their father even when they refuse to genuinely turn away from their sins. The major issue John was addressing was the matter of sin; to continue living in sin while claiming to have an advocate will lead the soul to death. Some continue in their

sins and keep shouting, "we have an Advocate with the Father," not knowing that one day when they finally land in hellfire, the Advocate would turn His back on them.

There is no one genuinely saved that will not look for a way to stop sinning. Being a Jew does not mean they should continue in their sins. They easily thought, since they are Abraham's descendants, they would be excused from God's judgment because they are God's beloved people.

Not knowing that all those who come to the Lord Jesus Christ are God's special people. **1 Peter 2:9 KJV** But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: With God, there is no partiality. No matter who a person is, if they do not live a life that pleases God, they will be condemned.

Say, may I not be condemned

John warned them, saying they should not claim to be Abraham's children when they fail to repent. Abraham worked perfectly before God, so if they claim to be his children, they are expected to walk the same way he walked, but unfortunately, it was

the contrary. It is very easy and interesting to link oneself to a good man even when one is not good. Truly, these men were of Abraham's descendants by physical birth but not by spiritual birth.

So, they should not take pride in their physical link to Abraham but get a link to him by spiritual birth through the Lord Jesus Christ. John the Baptist says if they would not do this, God is able to raise children for Abraham even through stones. This is to fulfill God's promise that He would make him a father of many nations.

John was talking about spiritual children, then he made it clear that the time they are in now is the time God's ax of judgment has begun working, and it is starting from the root, just the same way it will start from the house of God. **1 Peter 4:17 KJV** For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

This is why every wise soul must do what is expected of it to escape because no one will be able to endure God's wrath.

My brother and sister, you know yourself very well more than any other person knows you. Do you

bear fruits that show you have truly repented? Dear brother, what is a condom still doing inside your pocket? What are pornographic videos doing on your phone, sister? Why are you hiding those nude pictures and videos in a safe folder on your phone? People see you as a child of God, but inwardly you are worse than an unbeliever.

You, landlord, why are you making life miserable for your tenants yet you call yourself a Christian without any evidence of repentance in your life. Why do you mistreat those who work for you, refusing to pay them as at when due? You are still like those who have not encountered Christ at all. **Leviticus 19:13 KJV** Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning.

Why should you invest the money of the workers working for you to get interests or trade with it before paying them as they keep suffering and asking for their wages? You are wicked for doing this, and it's because you have not repented genuinely.

Deuteronomy 24:15 KJV At his day thou shalt give him his hire, neither shall the sun go down

upon it; for he is poor, and setteth his heart upon it: lest he cry against thee unto the LORD, and it be sin unto thee. Why not repent now?

Going to church will not save you. Singing in the choir, preaching, and teaching in church, even sleeping in the church will not save you if you do not repent! Everyone living around you already knows you as a street fighter. They are now avoiding you and making a mockery of the name of Christ just because of your bad character! You were baptized but not transformed; you were ordained by the church but a disdain to the heavens.

Your name is written with capital letters in the church's register but missing in the Lamb's book of life, It is this beer that you refuse to leave that has removed it from the book of life. You struggle for recognition on earth but do not care if heaven does not know you. You fight for positions in the church but are never concerned if your name is written in the book of life. Dear brother & sister, why not repent genuinely today and start amending your ways? You claim to be saved, yet your lascivious dressing keeps sending brothers to hell, killing them before they die! Bear fruit worthy of repentance, beloved.

God's judgment will start from His house. You can still repent now before it is too late. Jesus Christ wants to see the evidence that you have repented. Be sincere with yourself and change. May the Lord help us all to do what is expected of us so as not to face God's judgment. Amen.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp +2347067511039 and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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