

Repentance

Repentance is essential to our walk with God and to our life. The Hebrew word for it is “Teshuvah”. The root means to return. Our rabbis describe it as when a man after conviction, changes his ways in respond to God. Only after facing the same test and passing is the repentance valid. They teach that if a man says I shall sin and repent no atonement is given.

There are two sides to repentance, man and God. Jeremiah instructs us of our responsibility (Jer 3:22) “Return, O backsliding children, I shall make your backslidings cease.”

Moshe tells us that the purpose of God’s correction is to bring us to repentance. Deut 4:30-31 “In your distress, when all these words shall come upon you in the latter days, then you shall return to יהוה your Elohim and shall obey His voice. For יהוה your Elohim is a compassionate Ėl, He does not forsake you, nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.”

Repentance opens the way to God’s forgiveness and restoration. Our rabbis tell us that the power of repentance is disproportionate to its effect. It is like finding a hidden treasure which will take you out of the power of evil and destruction.

However man on his own strength cannot achieve repentance as as Jeremiah says “Lam 5:21: Turn us back to You, O יהוה, And let us turn back, Renew our days as of old.” Rav Saul (Paul) says the same thing in Roman 7:24-25: Wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this body of death? Thanks to Elohim, through Yeshua Messiah our Master! So then, with the mind I myself truly serve the Torah of Elohim, but with the flesh the law of sin.

He continues to teach us that in Yeshua by his spirit we have power over the law of sin and death “Rom 8:1-2: There is, then, now is no condemnation to those who are in Messiah , who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the Torah of the Spirit of the life in Messiah has set me free from the law of sin and of death.

Yeshua tells us that we need the Father to draw us to him. John 6:44-45: “No one is able to come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him. And I shall raise him up in the last day. It has been written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by יהוה.’ Everyone, then, who has heard from the Father, and learned, comes to Me.

Rav Saul expressed it that way “Php 2:12-13 Work out your own deliverance with fear and trembling, for it is Elohim who is working in you both to desire and to work for *His* good pleasure.

Repentance is a two way street. We need to allow the work of the Shechina (The Holy Spirit) in us to change us into the new man and woman of God as Rav Saul says “Eph 4:24: and that you put on the renewed man which was created according to Elohim, in righteousness and set-apartness of the truth.”

The sacrificial system demonstrates the importance of repentance. The first step was conviction , followed by Teshuva. Next come restitution, followed by confession, sacrifice and finally atonement.

Yeshua said in Revelation 3:20 :“See, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I shall come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

The leper who repents is restored and anointed as the priest were.

Yochanan states in 1Jn 1:8-9 If we say that we have no sin, we are misleading ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is trustworthy and righteous to forgive us the sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Thank God for his mercy and the sacrifice and atonement of his son who is accessible to all through repentance as God desires no one to perish but to repent and have eternal life as Yeshua said in John 6:40 “And this is the desire of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him should possess everlasting life. And I shall raise him up in the last day.”