

## Hope and Joy in Repentance

**Matthew 9:13- But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.** (KJV)

Believers drawn to God's love and away from the perils of sin seek repentance. Focusing on Christ's Cross is effective in addressing the sin that ruins the soul. Every person is a definite sinner and benefits by constantly seeking to repent. Repentance takes conscious action and effort with a firm love to draw near to God. Cleansing the self of sin requires the Lord God's help and a desire to be free of sin. Hope and joy in life are experienced in unity with the Lord through repentance.

**Mark 1:4- John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.** (KJV)

The Gospel offers guidance for believers heeding the message to repent of sins. Serious believers heed the Gospel teachings on repentance and apply them to life. Every moment of the day is an opportunity to reject sin and to seek repentance. Repentance frees the believer of the burden and shackles of sin inhibiting growth. Joy and hope originate in the living and loving God made possible by repentance. God's Holy Church fosters and encourages constant repentance during earthly life.

**Luke 15:7- I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.** (KJV)

The dreariness and despair overshadowing life are removed through repentance. Believers become new in Jesus Christ when sin is firmly rejected in daily life. New found freedom and joy result when Christ is embraced and sin is repelled. Effort is necessary to repel sin that is impeding the relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is within reach of every person desiring to be renewed and free of sin. Personal relationships improve when family members actively repent and forgive.

**Acts 19:4- 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.** (KJV)

Marriages improve when husbands and wives value forgiveness and repentance. Taking the initiative in a marriage to repent is a step toward improving family life. Love grows when husbands and wives practice forgiveness and repentance of sins. Prayer and fasting facilitate repentance and reveal God's wisdom for marriages. Jesus Christ guides believers in the ways to increase love for others in daily life. The Gospel encourages repentance to increase hope, love and joy in family life.

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Sts. Isaac, Dalmatus and Faustus. August 3/16, 2023. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic