



Repent: The Foundation of the Gospel

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near.

Repent and believe the good news!"

Mark 1:14-15 (NIV)

Prayer Focus: John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by preaching that people should prove by the way they lived that they had repented from sin and turned to God. His message was relentless and uncompromising, even at the risk of offending those he called a "brood of vipers" (Luke 3:7-8). Jesus did not soften the message when He began to preach after John's arrest. After being baptized, filled with the Holy Spirit, and then spending 40 days in the wilderness—Jesus immediately reinforced the foundation of the gospel: Repent! There was no attempt to make the gospel appealing to the masses by downplaying the issue of repentance. If Jesus Himself ties repentance and belief together as the means of salvation, then any gospel preached minus the power of repentance is a false gospel. If our churches are filled with "believers" who have not embraced the critical place of repentance, we have done a disservice by not telling them the truth. The gift of repentance is an expression of God's kindness to us (Romans 2:4).

Day 1: Praise God that He offers repentance to us as the pathway to salvation.

Day 2: If you have not truly repented before the Lord, take time now to deal with the sin in your life.

Day 3: Confess to the Lord your heart's desire to turn from sin and walk in true belief in Him.

Day 4: Pray that the importance of repentance will not be downplayed in the message of salvation in the Church.

Day 5: Pray that those who consider themselves "believers" will also walk in a lifestyle of repentance.

Day 6: Pray that your church will not hesitate to speak of the need for repentance.

Day 7: Ask God in His kindness to do a powerful work of repentance among the people in your community.

Taken from the book "Come, Lord Jesus: transformation prayer guide"

Published by Prayer Transformation Ministry, Minneapolis

Jesus Christ as Our Saviour

It's all about Jesus! How often have you given intellectual assent to that truth? But do you live with the assurance and passion in your heart that Jesus is truly the *only* way, the *only* truth, and the *only* life? If you are not clear on this, you will soon be facing confusing and fearful times in a world that shakes with uncertainty.

Jesus made the declaration Himself in John 14:6: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." Jesus does not acquiesce to popular opinion, tolerance, or political correctness. He does not make exceptions for those who might be sincere yet believe in another god. He makes no allowance for truth to be relative to culture. He does not ask us to package Him in such a way that unbelievers can accept a watered-down version of His Lordship. It's Jesus as He is—Savior of the world. Take Him or leave Him, but don't try to redefine Him.

The most powerful prayer in all of Scripture is the prayer that Jesus Himself offered in John 17. In part, He prayed: "*Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. For you have given him authority over everyone in all the earth. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth*" (vs. 1-3, NLT).

Everyone on earth comes under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. So whether you believe in Him or not does not change His power, place, and position as your only hope for a Savior. It is only through Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection to life that we have any hope at all. Your eternal life depends on your belief in and obedience to Jesus: "*And all who believe in God's Son have eternal life. Those who don't obey the Son will never experience eternal life, but the wrath of God remains upon them*" (John 3:36).

As you encounter the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior in this next section, you will be confronted with the truth: *It's all about Jesus!* Repent and believe, which means *truly repent* and *turn from sin*, believing that Jesus is your only hope for salvation from the eternal wrath of God!

It is not about simply "praying a prayer," although prayer is the means of calling out to Jesus for His grace. It is about a true heart change and surrender of your life to Jesus Christ. Don't be counted among the many who will one day regret the reality of John 16:9: "The world's sin is unbelief in me." Now is the time to repent and believe!

Transformation: Jesus in Our Midst

As we pray about transformation; we need a common definition of what a truly transformed community might look like:

A transformed community is:

- A neighborhood, city, or nation whose values and institutions have been overrun by the grace and presence of God.
- A place where divine fire has not merely been summoned, but has fallen.
- A society in which natural change has been disrupted by invasive supernatural power.
- A culture that has been impacted comprehensively and undeniably by the Kingdom of God.
- A location where Kingdom values are celebrated publicly and passed on to future generations.

Community transformation is indicated when:

- Political leaders publicly acknowledge their sin and dependence on God. (2 Kings 11:17-18; 23:1-3; Jonah 3:6-9).
- New laws, curricula, and business practices are put into effect (2 Chronicles 19:4-10; Nehemiah 10:31).
- The natural environment is restored to its original life-nurturing state (Leviticus 26:4-5; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Ezekiel 34:27-31).
- Economic conditions improve and lead to a discernible lessening of poverty. (2 Chronicles 17:3-5; Psalm 144:13-14; Isaiah 60:5-7; Amos 9:13).
- There is a marked change in social entertainment and vices as Kingdom values are integrated into the rhythm of daily life (Ezra 10:1-4; Nehemiah 8:10, 16-17; Acts 19:17-20).
- Crime and corruption diminish throughout the community
- (2 Kings 12:13-15; Nehemiah 5:6-12; Isaiah 60:17-18).
- Volunteerism increases as Christians recognize their responsibility to heal and undergird the community (Isaiah 58:10-12; 61:1-4).
- Restored hope and joy leads to a decline in divorce, bankruptcy, and suicide (Nehemiah 12:27-28, 43; Isaiah 54:11-14; 61:3-7; Jeremiah 30:17-19; 31:11-13; Hosea 2:15).
- The spiritual nature of the growing socio-political renewal becomes a hot topic in secular media (2 Chronicles 20:29; Nehemiah 6:16; Isaiah 55:5; Ezekiel 36:36; Acts 19:17).
- Overwhelmed by the goodness of God, grateful Christians take the embers of revival into surrounding communities and nations (2 Chronicles 17:9; Isaiah 61:6; Acts 11:20-26).

(Source: The Sentinel Group)

About Prayer Transformation Ministries

This prayer guide is written and published by Prayer Transformation Ministries, a ministry located in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. Since 1993, Prayer Transformation Ministries (PTM) has worked with the prayer movement in the Twin Cities, the state of Minnesota, and the nation.

Prayer Transformation Ministries *provides Christ-centered awareness, training, and equipping for personal and societal transformation.*

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Prayer Transformation Ministries serves by:

- Teaching/writing on principles of revival and transformation.
- Encouraging local churches to develop "cultures of prayer."
- Publishing prayer guides devoted to united prayer.
- Networking intercessors and prayer movements.
- Giving leadership to citywide catalytic prayer events.
- Producing *Call to Prayer* radio spots.
- Encouraging a children's prayer movement.
- Training and networking local church prayer leaders.

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