

Progressive Repentance - Is “Progressive Repentance” Described in the Bible?

1. An Error of Method in Conversion

What I’m told: “Progressive Repentance”

- Get Baptized now, repent later
- Repent a little bit at a time.
- Don’t teach repentance before baptism.
- Do not require it. “Hammer” baptism.

Once baptized, is the person ever taught or encouraged to repent? I am told NO!

2. Bible teaching about Salvation

Obedience to the Gospel:

Notice the order of these steps!

1. Hear the Gospel – Rom. 10:17
2. Believe the message – Rom. 10:9-10, 17
3. Recognize & repent of sins – Acts 2:37-38
4. Confess your faith in Christ – Rom. 10:9-10
5. Baptism in the Father, Son, and Spirit specifically and only for forgiveness of sins

3. There Is A Logical Order To This!

1. Can I believe what I have not heard?
2. Can I confess Christ if I do not believe?
3. Can I repent if I do not believe I’ve sinned?
4. Will baptism cleanse if I have no faith?
5. Will I be forgiven of sins I have not repented of yet?

Apparently, there are some who say yes!

4. Bible teaching about repentance

1. Repentance is necessary for salvation
2. Repentance comes before baptism
3. Repentance comes before salvation

The Bible says nothing about “stages” of repentance or “partial repentance” before baptism.

5. On the Day of Pentecost

Repentance Preceded Baptism

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

38 Then Peter said to them, "**Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins**; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

6. Even Before Pentecost...

Genuine Repentance has always been necessary

Mark 1:4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

Matthew 3:8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance.

Can you think of Old Testament examples?

7. God Always Respects Repentance

Ezekiel 18

21 But if a wicked man **turns from all his sins** which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

22 **None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him;** because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live.

23 Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord GOD, "and not that he should turn from his ways and live?"

8. Repent, Repentance

Metanoeo, Metanoia –

Meta = move or change (as a prefix)

Noeo = Mind (as in active reasoning)

to reverse, to change your mind so you think and act differently.

Not just regret, but genuine change.

Change motivated by faith & sorrow!

9. Repentance Is Necessary for Salvation

The consistent message of scripture

Luke 3:3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins... (JtB)

Luke 13:3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. (Jesus)

Luke 24:47 ...and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Jesus)

Acts 5:31 Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. (Peter)

Acts 11:18 When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life." (Judean Jews)

10. True Repentance Is Proved by Humble Godly Change

Mathew 3:8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance... (JtB)

Acts 26:20 ...but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance. (Paul)

11. Fruits Worthy of Repentance!

Luke 19:8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."

Acts 19:19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. (Ephesus)

12. True Repentance Is Genuine

Psalms 51 – David's contrite confession

Becoming a Christian is a rebirth: John 3:3b

... unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...

– this is a complete and genuine change of heart. There is no such salvation without full repentance.

13. Godly Sorrow Causes Real Change

2 Corinthians 7:9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that **your sorrow led to repentance**. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.

10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

11 For observe this very thing, that **you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves**, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you **proved yourselves** to be clear in this matter.

14. Repentance Is Before Forgiveness (**And therefore salvation – 7 verses testify!**)

Luke 3:3 – John the Baptizer

Luke 13:3 – Jesus warns the people

Luke 24:47 – Jesus after He rose

Acts 2:38 – Peter on Pentecost

Acts 3:19 – Peter to people at the temple

Acts 5:31 – Peter to the Council in Jerusalem

Acts 11:18 – Judean Jews to Peter

15. Is This Possible without Repentance?

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, **even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

16. Sin Is Progressive – Not Repentance

Genesis 6:5-6 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

Isaiah 30:1 Woe to the rebellious children," says the LORD, "Who take counsel, but not of Me, And who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, That they may add sin to sin..."

2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

17. **Why False Doctrines Flourish**

Apostasy Is Inevitable

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron...

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

The origin of error: always in men's minds & hearts ...

18. Apostasy Even inside the Church

Acts 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

19. Motives for Apostasy

2 Timothy 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

20. Modern Departures from Truth

What do these false claims have in common?

- Substance use is not condemned by God
- Instrumental music in worship (et. al.)
- God accepts divorce for any reason
- Christians do not have to assemble
- The NT advocates materialism
- God understands lust & so He accepts it
- The lost won't be punished eternally

21. Motive: People Want to Sin

So they look for “loopholes” to accept it

God's Word is Truth – no loopholes

Alcohol, sex, materialism – all condemned

Find excuses not to practice self-control

Power, pride, control, stubbornness – sin

Excuses not to submit to God, each other

Say salvation is possible w/o full obedience

22. Possible Motives?

Progressive repentance is not scriptural

What are the teachers trying to achieve?

1. Baptize as many people as possible regardless of seriousness about faith.
2. Attractive to preachers under pressure to “perform” by supporting churches.
3. Swell membership rolls of churches.
4. Avoid taking the time to fully teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ

23. When Someone Wants Baptism:

We must be careful not to make a similar error

- Familiar to you? Studied & Prepared?

Baptize them.

- Familiar But Unprepared? *Set up studies. Baptize upon completion of the studies.*
- Unknown? *Determine motives & insight. Arrange studies then re-assess.*
- **“Progressive”**
- **Progressive Repentance**
- Repentance Precedes Salvation

Luke 13:3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.