

# The Joy of Repentance!

**Sunday Morning, September 25, 2016**

In our Sunday Night Bible Study “Fresh Encounter” by Henry Blackaby the concept that “repentance is joyous” really stuck with me. How can something like repentance be joyous? It seems like an oxymoron.

After all repentance is often preceded by dread, fear, sadness and guilt. However, when repentance is put into action and completed there is peace and renewal with God that brings joy! Henry Blackaby said,

*“Repentance is to be embraced as the most positive response believers can have to God’s work.”*

Let’s study this concept starting in **(Luke 15: 11 – 17)**

11 Then He said: “A certain man had two sons.

12 And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood.

13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.

14 But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.

15 Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

17 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

The joy of repentance can set the prodigal son free from:

- ✝ The departure from a right heart
- ✝ The frivolous spending
- ✝ The dissatisfaction
- ✝ The self-enslavement
- ✝ The continued dissatisfaction
- ✝ The misery
- ✝ The spiritual depravity
- ✝ The lack of direction
- ✝ The unsettled frenzy of life

God can use all these things and more to lead us to a decision of repentance, as He did with the prodigal son.

**(Luke 15: 18 – 19)**

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”

Now see what the joy of repentance looks like in

**(Luke 15: 20 – 24)**

20 “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

21 And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

**Note:** “heaven” referred to here is that which is good and pleasant. *(more of passage on back)*

22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry;

24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

Sin weighs our soul down, but repentance lifts our souls up!

Here are two scripture references that will help us experience the joy of repentance:

**(Hebrews 12:1)**

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Lay aside every weight that easily ensnares us.

**(Revelation 2:5)**

Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

Remember from where you have fallen!

To fall from a clear conscience and good relationship with God is a devastating fall.

God encourages us to identify where we fell away from.

Confession brings repentance and repentance restores full joy in the Lord!

Like the Prodigal Son’s Father, our Heavenly Father rejoices when He sees our lives experience the Joy of Repentance!