



The Evidence of Genuine Repentance

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

October 4, 2026

"We have broken faith with our God and have married foreign women from the peoples of the land, but even now there is hope for Israel in spite of this. Therefore, let us make a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God, and let it be done according to the Law. Arise, for it is your task, and we are with you; be strong and do it." – Ezra 10:2-4

Genuine _____ calls for Radical _____.

Compromise and the People of God ...

- I. Genuine Repentance responds to _____
(10:1-4)
Cp. Psalm 51:3-4; Proverbs 28:13; 2 Corinthians 7:10
- II. Genuine Repentance accepts _____
(10:2-4)
Cp. Luke 15:18; Psalm 32:5; 1 Corinthians 5:6; Romans 14:7
- III. Genuine Repentance requires _____
(Ezra 10:3-5)
Cp. Isaiah 55:7; Acts 3:19; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; Matthew 5:29-30
- IV. Genuine Repentance submits to _____
(Ezra 10:3, 10-12)
Cp. John 14:15; James 1:22; 1 Samuel 15:22
- V. Genuine Repentance accepts _____
(Ezra 10:6-17)
Cp. Proverbs 12:15; Galatians 6:1-2; Hebrews 3:13
- VI. Genuine Repentance produces the _____
(Ezra 10:16-44)
Cp. Psalm 139:23-24; Ephesians 4:25-32

So What ...

1. Have I confused feeling bad about sin with turning from sin?
2. What sin am I minimizing, excusing, or defending?
3. Have I taken responsibility, or am I blaming others?
4. What specific change does God's Word require of me?
5. Is there a relationship or practice that is pulling me away from faithfulness to God?
6. Who can help me walk in accountability?
7. What evidence would show that my repentance is genuine?

The evidence that God is rebuilding our lives is not merely that we have returned to worship, but that we are willing to turn from sin and obey His Word.

Appointment with God – Prayer Focus

THE SWEET AROMA OF PRAYER...AND GOD'S POWER

When prayers feel lost in difficult seasons, Scripture reveals a different reality; they do not vanish. Gathered in golden bowls before God's throne, every prayer rises as a sweet-smelling aroma, fully valued and savored by the Creator.

*The twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp and **golden bowls full of incense which are the prayers of the saints.** Rev. 5:8*

An angel with a golden censer stands at the altar. He is given much incense (the prayers of all God's people) which is then infused with fire from the altar and hurled to the earth; ... *"and then came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake."* Rev. 8:3-5

The fire on the altar was originally lit by God Himself and was never allowed to go out. It represents God's absolute holiness. When your prayers are mixed with this fire, it's symbolic of God purifying your weak, imperfect words and infusing them with His perfect and holy will. The altar fire also represents the power of the Cross and the Resurrection. Our prayers become backed by the work of Jesus and they return to earth with authority because they are stamped with Christ's victory. Symbolically, thunder echoes the authoritative voice of God. Lightning brings divine illumination and breakthroughs. Earthquakes shake and shift unmovable situations.

Place your prayers into the golden bowl. Leave them in God's hands, knowing He sees and values them. Welcome the "fire", asking God to purify your motives and align your requests with His perfect timing and power. Keep praying, as the heavenly bowls fill and God's fire responds. Submit the outcomes to God. Leave your time of prayer with absolute confidence that God is actively working behind the scenes and that His response will shake things up with breakthroughs, divine directions, and shifting circumstances.

Do these scriptures impact how you will pray today?



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Genuine Repentance calls for Radical Obedience.

Compromise and the People of God ...

- I. Genuine Repentance responds to Conviction (10:1-4)
Cp. Psalm 51:3-4; Proverbs 28:13; 2 Corinthians 7:10
- II. Genuine Repentance accepts Personal Responsibility (10:2-4)
Cp. Luke 15:18; Psalm 32:5; 1 Corinthians 5:6; Romans 14:7
- III. Genuine Repentance requires Radical Obedience (Ezra 10:3-5)
Cp. Isaiah 55:7; Acts 3:19; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; Matthew 5:29-30
- IV. Genuine Repentance submits to God's Word (Ezra 10:3, 10-12)
Cp. John 14:15; James 1:22; 1 Samuel 15:22
- V. Genuine Repentance accepts Accountability (Ezra 10:6-17)
Cp. Proverbs 12:15; Galatians 6:1-2; Hebrews 3:13
- VI. Genuine Repentance produces the Fruit of Restoration (Ezra 10:16-44)
Cp. Psalm 139:23-24; Ephesians 4:25-32

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