

STEPS TO MATURITY

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Celebration Centre Resources

**Foundation Studies**

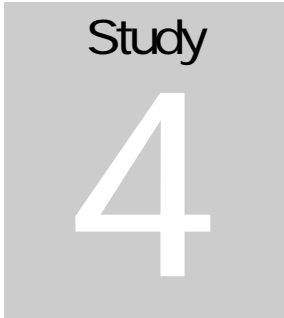
CELEBRATION CENTRE RESOURCES

# Steps to Maturity Study Guide

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# Repentance

**T**he Bible likens us to a house. Jesus tells a story in LK 6:46-49 about a wise man who built his house on a rock, and a foolish man who built his house on the sand. We would not contract a builder to build a house on the beach as we know that over time it would sink.

It is important in your Christian life to have a solid foundation. HEB 6:1-2 lists six foundation doctrines (a simple set of rules that God has called us to live our life by which will bring us into blessing). List these below –

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. \_\_\_\_\_

The first of these foundations is repentance from dead works.

## Repentance from Dead Works

“Repentance implies an intellectual and hearty giving up of all controversy with God from all and every point. It implies a conviction that God is wholly right, and the sinner wholly wrong, and a thorough and hearty abandonment of all excuses and apologies for sin.”

Charles Finney

True, God inspired repentance is a change of heart, mind and lifestyle. It literally means ‘to have another mind’.

When you repent you make a 180 degree turn in the direction of your life. Repentance is turning from sin and turning to God. In sin, you walk against God, His laws and principles. In repentance, you walk with Him.

ACTS 3:19 “ \_\_\_\_\_ then, and \_\_\_\_\_ to God, so that your sins may be wiped out”.

## What Are Dead Works

'Dead works' is another term for sin. The meaning of the word sin is to 'miss the mark'.

ROM 3:23 "for \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the glory of God".

Read ACTS 5:12 and JAS 1:13-15.

## What Is The First Word Of the Gospel?

The first word of the gospel is 'repent'. The second word is 'believe'.

1. John the Baptist preached in MT 3:2  
"\_\_\_\_\_ for the kingdom of heaven is near".
2. Jesus preached in MT 4:17  
"\_\_\_\_\_, for the kingdom of heaven is near".
3. The disciples preached in MK 6:12  
"They went out and preached that people should \_\_\_\_\_".
4. Peter preached on the day of Pentecost in ACTS 2:38  
"\_\_\_\_\_ and be baptised, every one of you".
5. Paul's message in ACTS 20:21 was  
'.... that they must turn to God on \_\_\_\_\_ and have faith in our Lord Jesus".
6. What does God command all people everywhere to do? ACTS 17:30  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## True Repentance

True repentance is completely turning from sin and turning to God. Some things look like repentance but in reality they are not. Look at the point below so you do not mistake true repentance for any of the following.

1. Repentance is not conviction of sin – i.e. our conscience.  
Conviction comes before repentance. Not all who are convicted repent.

ACTS 24:24 & 25. Paul's words on righteousness, self-control and the coming judgement convicted Felix to the point of him being afraid – but Felix did not repent.

2. True repentance is not being sorry. True repentance may or may not come with tears, but true repentance will always be followed by a turning away from sin and a turning to God. In some cases people feel sorry because they are caught in an activity of sin. True repentance is not feeling sorry about being caught and the consequences of being caught, but for being involved in sin in the first place.

COR 7:10. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but soulless sorrow brings death.

3. True repentance is not turning over a new leaf or reforming your ways. It is not just turning away from the sin that counts but the turning to God.
4. True repentance is not becoming religious. Religious people crucified Jesus!

MT 5:20 and MT 3:7-12.

5. True repentance is not a decision you make in your head; it is not a head decision based on what you know of the Gospel, without a change of life. This is what is called 'dead faith'.

Read JAS 2:19 & 20.

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Jesus told a powerful story of true repentance in LK 15:11-32. Verse 17 shows what true repentance is all about – “When he came to his senses...”

Since the original sin in the Garden of Eden (GEN 3) all humans have been infected with a sinful nature. To be the person God created you to be, you need to repent of all your sin as the Holy Spirit convicts you. God hates sin because He knows that left alone it will utterly destroy us.

## The Fruit of Repentance

Write out MT 3:8

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Read ACTS 26:20. If the root of repentance in our lives is genuine people will see the fruit of it in our lives. Some of the fruits of repentance are –

1. Godly sorrow for sin - COR 7: 9-11
2. Confession of sin - 1 JN 1:9 and PS 32:1-5
3. Turning away from sin - PROV 28:13
4. Hatred of sin – PS 32:11-14 and PROV 8:13

## Restitution

Restitution means 'to put something right'. For example, if you have stolen something or acquired something falsely, give it back or pay for it. It is important to be wise in your restitution, especially if it involves other people or a criminal offence. Ask God about it and talk to your Cell Group leader first.

Read LK 19:1-10.

## What If I Sin Again?

Write out 1 JN 1:9

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This is our eternal assurance in Him. Jesus has paid the price for every sin we have made and may make. Our goal is to become more and more like Jesus who was perfect in every way towards God and man. But if you do fail you need to pick yourself up, repent to God and ask Him to help you to never do it again.