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## **News and Events Bulletin** *Rededication or Repentance?*

Many believers feel a genuine need to “rededicate” their lives to God. Over the years there have been various calls for revival and recommitment to God. Some Christians feel a strong need for something, but can’t explain exactly what it is they really need spiritually.

The Bible doesn’t emphasize the rededicating of oneself to God but it does show the need for repentance. “...Jesus began to preach, and to say, ‘**Repent**: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’” (Matt. 4:17). Jesus taught repentance.

What does it mean “to repent”? Feeling sorry because your sins have been discovered is not repentance. That is called worldly sorrow. Godly sorrow is different. “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death” (II Cor. 7:10). You see, true Godly repentance is evidence of a changed life. Godly repentance shows that you are making positive changes through the power of the Holy Spirit working with you. You don’t have to repent of that kind of sorrow in your life. Only the Father, through the Holy Spirit, can bring a person to true repentance. “No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him...” (John 6:44).

A simple desire to become different is not repentance. Repentance is the radical alteration of our hearts, minds, and attitudes from our former life of sin to a willingness to obey God’s will and direction for our lives. It means turning completely from sin and seeking God. Repentance is an active response to the Word of God. It is a decisive transformation, not just a wishful thought or desire to be closer to God.

As we come to the knowledge of the Truth, God demands a complete and fundamental change in our character.

The conversion process for most Christians never began with repentance. They were told, “Come as you are,” yet Jesus told us to repent and believe the Gospel. Repentance is the first step to conversion. It is the first doctrine of Christ. For a better understanding of the conversion process, please read our free booklet [\*The Doctrine of Christ\*](#).

Why is it so difficult for people to truly repent? It is because God must grant repentance. Servants of the Lord must see, “...**if God peradventure will give them repentance** to the acknowledging of the truth” (II Tim. 2:25). If you have not begun the process of conversion, ask the Father to grant you repentance and to draw you into the saving knowledge of His Son Jesus Christ.