

The Door of Repentance and Faith

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This picture reveals the importance of repentance in the matter of one's conversion response toward God which results in salvation. Repentance opens the door to faith in Christ (Acts 20:21). **Repentance is the HINGE upon which the DOOR of faith swings!** No person is ready to place faith in Christ until they have first repented of their sinfulness before God and their need for salvation through Christ alone. **The door of faith cannot move without the hinge of repentance allowing faith to move.** Scripture clearly and repeatedly declares that repentance is necessary for salvation and eternal life. Jesus taught this (Luke

5:32; 13:3; 15:7; 24:47), Paul taught this (Acts 17:30), Peter taught this (Acts 3:19; 2 Pet. 3:9; 26:20), with all the apostles, including John, since it was part of the Great Commission (Luke 24:47). The Bible emphatically teaches that repentance is part of a person's conversion response toward God (1 Thess. 1:9-10). God wants all people to repent so they do not "perish," as 2 Peter 3:9 states, which in the context is talking about the perdition of ungodly people, God's judgment, and the Day of the Lord (2 Peter 3:7, 10).

Can a Satanist, Muslim, Jehovah's Witness, Mormon, Atheist, or any person for that matter, come to faith alone in Christ alone, and be saved by grace alone, without repenting of their pagan belief systems, their distorted view of Christ, their works salvation, their rejection of the Gospel and Jesus as the only way to Heaven, and their sin against God? It's very clear that repentance must be involved in the sinner's conversion response. Although some within the "free grace" movement want to get rid of repentance, they shoot themselves in the foot when doing this. This is because a person cannot get to faith alone or grace alone without repentance. First, an unsaved person won't desire free grace without repentance of his works/salvation. Second, an unsaved person won't express faith in Christ without repentance of his works/legalistic salvation. Third, without the genuine repentance of a person's sinfulness before God, they will not be ready to express genuine faith alone, in Christ alone, by grace alone.

It's not promises, commitment, conditions, contracts, obedience, discipleship, reformation, and bargaining with God (Lordship Salvation), but Biblical repentance that props up a "faith alone" message. Repentance does not take away from "faith alone" but actually supports and sustains it. I firmly believe and embrace free grace and eternal life (Rom. 3:24; Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 6:23; Rev. 22:17) but no one can come to this position without repentance (changing his mind and heart) about his legalism, his sinfulness before God, and his rejection of the Gospel of grace. Without conviction and repentance regarding one's sins and need for salvation and the Savior, no one would ever be saved. **Repentance is the hinge that enables the door of faith to be opened in a person's heart.** How can a person be ready or prepared to believe on Jesus Christ when they are in open rebellion against God and His way of salvation? Repentance precedes faith (Acts 20:21) and paves the way for faith to occur. **If there is a broken hinge on a door, the door simply does not work!** Faith alone in Christ (without law/legalism) does not work and cannot occur without repentance. This is because faith is hinged to repentance and Biblical repentance supports faith alone. To get to faith alone in Christ (without works/legalism) faith must work synergistically or in concert with Biblical repentance.

