SERMON TRANSCRIPT

How To: REPENTANCE

Matthew Carnes

How To: Growing in your faith | October 27, 2026 | Mark 1:15; Genesis 1:28; Ephesians 1; Genesis 2:16-22; Genesis 3:8; Matthew 4:17; Romans 8:29; Revelation 21

Prepared from the spoken message and lightly edited for readability. Scripture quotations and spoken phrasing are preserved as delivered.

Hey guys, thanks so much for listening to today's teaching from The Grove at Champion Forest. We pray this message helps you grow in your love for God and His Word. Man, go ahead, be seated, be seated.

I am super, super, super excited to be with you guys tonight and just open God's Word and get to talk about how God is so great and so awesome and merciful and righteous and just, and there's fullness of joy in His presence. So, if you guys don't know me, my name is Matthew Carnes. I'm a resident here at Champion Forest, and I would love to get to know you if I don't.

So come up to me after service and we'll schedule a coffee or something. But we just—hey guys—we just started this new how-to series, okay? So last week, Amie Grace, he preached on leadership, and tonight is going to be all about repentance, okay?

So some of you heard me say the word repentance and you got a little freaked out because you think I'm just going to stand up here for four hours and yell at you guys about how you're doing everything wrong and how you're just the worst people ever, and I'm not going to do that, okay? But I will say, I see those people on Instagram all the time. My feed, it's weird.

Is anybody else's feed just kind of just done so at this point? Yeah, I know Abner's is. Abner's is very done.

But sometimes I see reels of these guys and they're just like standing on a street corner yelling at people, and they're telling, You're going to hell, you're going to hell, you're going to hell, you're going to hell. Whoa, okay. Jeez, dude, lighten up.

It's like they're wearing nine-inch inseam shorts instead of 12-inch inseams, and they're going to hell for that. And so, but then, you know, two scrolls later, I see this super progressive pastor, and he's like, Oh, well, sin's not really a real thing. You know, it's an Old Testament thing, and we don't really need that anymore, and you don't have to repent of anything, and God is love, and he is, but they take that in a totally incorrect and heretical way.

And so we hear the word repentance, and it's kind of all over the place. And so tonight, we're just going to walk through why it's important, what it is, how we do it, and then we're going to do it tonight. So if we really believe that there's brokenness in the world, which if you don't, watch the news for about 30 seconds, right?

You have to mention sin. That's the only option. That's the only answer for why, if we believe there's brokenness, but God created a perfect creation, he called it good, well, sin, sin is corruption.

Sin brings death into the world. But if we just talk about sin all the time, and sin all the time, sin all the time, and we never mention the hope of the gospel, we never mention Jesus, we never mention repentance, well, there is no hope in that. And so good churches are going to talk about sin, and they're going to talk about repentance.

They're going to talk about turning from sin and to Christ in faith. They're going to talk about that all the time. So side note, if you go to a church that never mentions sin, that never mentions repentance, then do yourself a favor and leave, because they're not preaching the same gospel that Jesus Christ preached.

Jesus's words: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Read the first few chapters of Matthew. Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Mark 1:15 puts it this way: Repent and believe in the gospel. Repent and believe in the gospel.

It just doesn't get more straightforward than that. So that's going to be our main idea. Our main idea tonight is repent by turning your heart from sin to Christ in faith.

So why, why was the message of Jesus characterized by this statement, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand? Well, it's because repentance is important. Repentance is so, so vital.

But I think it's pretty likely that most of us know that repentance is a big deal. But why? Why is repentance such a big deal?

So that's kind of where we're going to start tonight. But in order to do that, we're going to jump all the way back to the very beginning of Scripture, to the very beginning of creation itself. So we kind of know, we should know, hopefully, if you didn't, God created all things, and then He made man, male and female, in His image.

And we see God literally talking to Adam and Eve. He talks to them and He blesses them in Genesis 1:28. He talks to Adam again in Genesis 2, verse 16.

He literally brings Eve to Adam in Genesis 2:22. I know that's some of you guys' prayer. Then in Genesis 3:8, it says that Adam and Eve heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.

They diagnosed that sound. Like if I diagnose my car engine not starting, it's because I've heard that a few times. They knew the noise of God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.

They knew that because that was God’s design. God’s design was to walk with His people, to be in a relationship with His people. But in that same chapter, in Genesis 3, we see Adam and Eve sin.

And just like that perfection was corrupted, just like that sin entered the world and death through sin, so what God called good, and it’s still good, but now it’s goodness with corruption. So no more talking to God, no more walking in the garden with God, none of that. Instead, if God is perfect, if God is just, if God is righteous, if God is holy, people that sin against Him, which, newsflash, it’s every single person in this room, every single person to ever exist, instead of walking with God, we get the wrath of God, and rightfully so, because sin against a holy God demands an equal and opposite punishment.

And yet, according to the riches of God's grace, Ephesians 1, that He lavished upon us in all wisdom and insight, making known to us the mystery of His will, which He set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time to unite all things in Him. God promises restoration. God has made a way for us to be with Him again.

I want to talk with God. I want to walk with God. I want to live with God, because that's how I was designed.

If Adam and Eve were made in the image of God, we are made in the image of God. If Adam and Eve were designed to walk with God, we were designed to walk with God. We were designed to be in relationship with God.

And we see that promise fulfilled. We see restoration in Revelation 21. I want you to put your pins down for a second.

Look up here. Just listen. Close your eyes.

Listen to what the Holy Spirit-inspired John to write says: And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more.

' That's God's design, is to be with the people that he's made. That's the redemption that's offered to you and I. So how do we enter into this redemption?

How do we access this? Because God freely offers it. Well, by faith we look to Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins.

We look to God the Son. We look to God the Son. We lean on him, uncreated, co-eternal, co-equal, fully God, incarnated, crucified, and resurrected for the forgiveness of sins.

This Jesus, whom we crucified by our sins, God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, loosing the pangs of sin. He bore the punishment for our sins. He bore the wrath of God for you and I.

This is the gospel. This is the good news. And we receive this good gift by faith.

And I think some people in the room might be thinking, Carnes, I grew up in the church. I kind of know this. Like, let's get to the theology.

Let's get to something deeper, okay? This is baby food. No.

If you're thinking that, you've lost the plot. It's the gospel. You don't graduate from that.

You don't graduate from that. So for the believers in the room, repentance is not some first step of Christianity. You don't get to progress past repentance.

If repentance is turning to Christ by faith so that we're formed more and more into the image of Christ, Romans 8:29, well, then that's the whole duty of the Christian man. That's the whole duty of Christianity. God promises that formation for us.

Even for you, believer, repentance is life or death. It's fullness of joy. It's life with God or separation.

But many times, I think we don't go all out on sin. You know, I'm not over here, I'm not like shanking people in the street. But I'm not following God's command to be holy as I am holy.

Instead, you know, I just, I don't love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. I love Him with part of my heart, part of my soul, part of my strength, part of my mind. And you're in this miserable middle between being sold out for sin or being all in with God.

There's so much better for you. That is not how you were designed to live. That is not how you were designed to live.

There's so much better. There's so much better for you. Adrian Rogers puts it this way: The most miserable man on earth is not an unsaved man.

The most miserable man on earth is a saved man out of fellowship with Christ. Continually repent of your sins. Continually return to Christ Jesus.

Do not settle. Don't settle. But for the unbeliever in the room, repentance is not some just vague Christian word that really means nothing.

It's just some Christianese that we use. No, it's life or death for you too. It's life or death.

There's no other name, no other name under heaven by which man must be saved. And if you want to walk with God, if you want to walk in the purpose for which you were made, if you want the fullness of joy and the pleasures forevermore that David writes of in Psalm 16, you have to continually turn to Christ. Continually turn from sin to Christ in faith for the forgiveness of your sins.

And so let me be very clear. Yes, tonight we're going to talk about practical steps of application, how-to, a series on growing your faith. Yes, it's going to be practical.

Yes, we're talking about steps that you have to take ownership of, but you don't fix yourself. Instead, we turn to Christ, knowing that His promises are true, knowing that the promise— It's true that all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved, knowing that the promise is true. Romans 8:28-29, that all things are working together for the good of those who love Him, so that we might be formed more and more into the image of His Son.

That's a gift of God. It's a gift that He wants to give you. It's a gift that He delights in giving you.

You don't do it yourself. You don't work for that. Yes, we work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

We strive to be holy, but we rest in the work of Christ, the finished work of Christ, knowing these things ultimately come through Him. There's no other way, no other way to walk in the purpose for which you were made than to turn to Christ. Lay down the things of this world.

Cling to the Savior. Cling to Jesus Christ, trusting that His grace will change you. Repentance is vital.

Repentance is vital. Repentance is available, and repentance is a joy. I want you to know that repentance is a joy.

It's a joy to turn from your sin. So let's look at what repentance really is in a little more depth. And what we're going to find in Scripture time and time and time and time again is that repentance is this inside-out movement.

It's this inside-out movement. And here's what I mean by that. It's this internal change in your heart, in the way that you look at Christ, in the way that you look at others, in the way that you look at yourself and your sin.

It's this internal change that's going to have external consequences. So turn to Psalm 51 with me, and we're going to look at David's repentance. So Psalm 51, we're just going to stick in verses 3 through 12.

So here's what the Holy Spirit inspired David to write. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, and you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean.

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. God, restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Listen to the state of David's heart. He pleads with God, Wash me, God. Wash me from my iniquity.

Wash me from my sin. He says, I know my transgressions. My sin is ever before me.

His heart was broken. His heart was grieved over his sin. May it be so for you and for me, because that’s where repentance starts.

You’re not going to turn from something you won’t acknowledge. Just like David, you have to acknowledge your sin. You have to get real honest with God about your sin, about your sin against Him.

Look at what David says, Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight. All of our sin is ultimately against God. Yes, we sin against other people.

All of our sin ultimately is against God because it’s against His decree for all of humanity. It’s against His design for creation. You have to lean into the fact.

You have to lean into Romans 3:23, All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. All have sinned. There is no exception.

You don’t get to keep just, No, no, just let me push sin away. No, it’s okay. You don’t get to do that.

You don’t get to ignore sin. Sin kills you. You don’t get to ignore that stuff.

You give that up. You lay it at the foot of the cross. So David admits his willful, volitional sin, and then he admits his sinful state before God.

Look at what he says. He says, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Grove, if you didn't know it, everybody in this room is broken.

No matter what you see on social media, no matter if you think I'm perfect because I'm on stage, or Cal's perfect, or somebody else, Pastor Jarrett's perfect, everybody's broken. Everybody's been marred by the consequences of sin and death entering into the world. We inherit a sin nature, and without faith, it is impossible to please God.

Hebrews 11, verse 6. David admits his sin. He admits his brokenness before a holy God.

And so what we're seeing is this internal state of repentance. We said that repentance was this inside-out movement earlier. This is this inside.

And just like all aspects of your walk with Christ, it's going to grow over time. But you don't ask for cleansing if you don't think you're dirty. You have to acknowledge that.

Just because you don't feel the need to be cleansed does not mean you don't need it. Right? You remember when you were little and you would go outside and you'd play and you'd get in the mud.

I'd go outside with my dad and we'd toss a Frisbee around and we'd kick a soccer ball around and I'd be out there for hours. And I come in and I'm some stanky little seven-year-old boy. And as any stanky little seven-year-old boy, do they want to take a shower at the end of the day?

No. No. So even though I needed cleansing, did I acknowledge it?

No. The same can happen in our walk with Christ. You have to invite the Spirit to search you.

In Psalm 139, David writes this. He says, Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts.

See if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. He opens himself up to God. Let the Holy Spirit search you.

Don't ignore conviction. Let yourself be broken over your sin. Let yourself be broken over your sin.

Ask for conviction. Ask for enlightenment of the ways that you dishonor God. Were there consequences for David's sin?

Does this mean you get off scot-free? No. No, there are massive consequences for David, generational consequences for David.

But God restored him. God didn't break fellowship with him. So be convicted and then be comforted.

Because some of you, not all of you, some of you though, you need to hear that. Some of you need to take a deep breath and accept God's grace. You sin.

You're broken. You pray, God, I don't want to sin. You try to make changes.

You seek accountability. You do better. You backslide.

You do better. That's the cycle of the Christian life. But sometimes we don't feel that release.

We don't feel this grace. We don't feel restoration. And it's tough.

I know. I've been there. It is tough.

But I hope it's a comfort for you that God's forgiveness of you, your standing before God does not depend on your feelings. God's forgiveness is independent of your feelings. Just because I feel this shame over my sin, just because I can't let myself get over it, which you should, but that doesn't mean that God is turning His face from you.

That doesn't mean that you're supposed to go and hide from God. Confess. Turn to God.

Scripture says that He's faithful and just to forgive us. And if God is perfect, He's perfectly consistent with His character. He's gracious.

He's merciful. He will not deny Himself of forgiving you. He will not deny Himself of forgiving you.

But remember that if repentance is this inside-out movement, then it's going to change the way you live. We're not preaching cheap grace. So meet me in Luke 19, and we're going to read about a man who did just that.

So a little bit of context for you while you're flipping there. We're about to meet this tax collector named Zacchaeus. And so in this time, being a tax collector was literally, it was the worst thing you could do.

It was like being a UT fan, being a Cowboys fan. All right, all right, all right. I root for Georgia Southern.

Nobody knows who that is. That's okay. Yeah, exactly.

So Zacchaeus was this tax collector, and he was a chief tax collector. And so he was super rich. He scammed a ton of people.

The reason tax collectors were hated was because they scammed a little extra off the top, and they took it for themselves. But Zacchaeus is a little bit different right now. Jesus is entering in, and Zacchaeus, he was short.

Okay, Scripture says it. You know, no insult. But Zacchaeus was a little short, so he climbs a tree.

He wants to see Jesus. He wants to know who Jesus is. And listen to this.

Jesus wants to know him too. Jesus wants to know him. And so Jesus basically invites himself into his house.

You know, most people that do that I get a little annoyed with, but if it was Jesus, you can’t really get irritated at him. So read Luke 19:7 through 10 with me. So Jesus comes into Zacchaeus’s house, and the religious authorities, they see it.

And when they saw it, they all grumbled, He has gone in to be the guest of a man who’s a sinner. And

Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord—behold, Lord, look at how he addresses Jesus, Lord—The half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.

And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. Listen to this: For the Son of Man came to do what? He came to seek and to save the lost.

Zacchaeus sees who Jesus is, and then what happens? Everything changes. He sees who Jesus is, and everything changes.

He decides to give half of his riches to the poor, and then with the half that's left over, he's going to restore it fourfold to anybody he defrauded. I don't care how rich you are, giving away half your wealth—giving away half your wealth—is sacrificial. Restoring it fourfold, that goes beyond the requirements of the Levitical law.

It was in his heart. It wasn't some legal burden he felt to do. It was in his heart.

That was repentance. That was repentance. And so for you and for me, it's got to be the same way.

Repentance is not always easy. So yeah, it's great. It is incredible that you might come here and you might weep over your sin.

That is a grace of God on your life. It is incredible that you might come here and you rededicate your life to Christ. It's incredible that you come here and you fall under conviction of the Holy Spirit.

The grace of God is on you if that's true. But repentance, repentance is not complete without a change of action. You don't get to be half in and half out.

You don't get to say, Man, when I was at The Grove, I felt really convicted about sleeping around, going out on the weekends, but, you know, it's been a few days since Tuesday. It's Friday night. What else am I supposed to do?

Can we go back one slide? Thanks. It's not okay for you to come to The Grove and say, Man, when Carnes preached on repentance, you know, I felt pretty convicted, so I feel like since I felt bad about my sin, that's enough, you know.

That's not repentance. That's emotionalism. That's not true repentance.

You know, it's good that you feel bad about the drinking, the pornography, the pride, the self-sufficiency, the laziness, the gossip, the crude joking. But if that ends with, But I don't really need to change anything, no, you missed it. You missed the point.

The truth of repentance, it remains the same whether we feel it or not. The truth of your need for a Savior remains the same whether you feel it or not. And the time is now.

You don't need to keep putting off your repentance. Look at Zacchaeus. Did Zacchaeus put it off?

No, it says Jesus entered his house, and what were the first words recorded that Zacchaeus said? It was immediately, Lord, look, this is what I'm going to do. This is how I'm going to repent.

Lord, I'm going to give half of my wealth away. Lord, I'm going to restore anything that I have defrauded anybody of, fourfold. That's the entire conversation.

It was immediate. It was that day. It was while Jesus was in his house.

He didn't have to wait seven months. It was right then and there. The time is now.

Let's fast forward a few weeks from Zacchaeus, and we're going to come to Pentecost. The Holy Spirit descends upon believers. They were all in Jerusalem in the upper room praying, and Peter begins to preach, filled with the Holy Spirit.

He opens the Scriptures, and he declares to these people in Jerusalem that Jesus Christ is the one of whom all of the prophets testified, that Jesus Christ is the one who would crush the serpent's head and bring redemption, that Jesus Christ was the one whom they had just crucified. And when they hear this, read what happens. Acts 2, 37 through 41.

It says, Now when they heard this, what happens? ' External consequence. And Peter said to them, 'Repent, repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of who?

' Now skip down to verse 41 with me. It picks back up saying, So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added when? That day, that day, 3,000 souls.

Yes or no question: did they wait? No. They were cut to the heart.

They were burdened by their sin. They were broken over their sin. They were cut to the heart.

Brothers, what shall we do? What shall we do? Repent and be baptized.

That very day they committed their lives to Christ. And if you look at the early church, you look at the first few chapters of Acts, you can't tell me that didn't produce external change for them. They were about it.

They were walking it. They were sharing all they had. They were getting martyred.

They were getting persecuted. So them being cut to the heart produced an external change. That is repentance.

So what does that look like for us? You know, we've talked about why we need to repent. You're broken, I'm broken.

We need a Savior. We talked about what repentance truly is, but what does it look like for you and for me right now? And the first step is this: you got to acknowledge your sin.

We talked about this earlier. Acknowledge your sins, confess them to God. Turn back to Psalm 51 with me.

Look at what David does. He starts with confession. Even in his plea for mercy in verses 1 and 2, he acknowledges his sin.

But verse 3, look at what he says. I'm just going to list these off. I know my transgressions; my sin is ever

before me.

Verse 4: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Verse 5: I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. And I would encourage you, go read the story that inspired David to write this psalm, 2 Samuel 11 and 12, David and Bathsheba.

Murder, adultery, King David, the man after God's own heart, was doing this. And so the prophet Nathan, who's sort of this advisor to David, he comes to David and he confronts him with his sin. And immediately, guess what David's words were?

Nothing else but, I've sinned against the Lord. It's basically the only recorded words of David in that interaction. I've sinned against the Lord.

He acknowledges his sin. And then he confesses it. That's what we see.

And so for you, for me, do we even acknowledge our sin? Am I willing to look at myself in the mirror and say, Wretched man am I, the chief of all sinners? Am I willing to repeat Psalm 51?

I was brought forth in iniquity, God, and I've dishonored you. I've sinned against you. I've dishonored you with my gossip, with my lust, with the drugs, with the alcohol, with the drunkenness, with the promiscuity, with hatred for others, with hypocrisy, with pride, with greed, idolatry.

Father, I've dishonored you. I've dishonored you. Are you willing to do that?

There's no way around acknowledging and confessing our sin when it comes to repentance. You don't repent of sin that you don't own. But you don't stop at confession.

That's not where repentance stops. The second thing we do is request cleansing and restoration, knowing that God grants it. Know that He grants it.

Rest easy in His promises. I want you to stick with me here in Psalm 51, because David doesn't just stay in confession forever either. David moves forward.

Look at verses 7 through 12. What does David request? He requests cleansing.

He requests God would wash him. Wash me from my sin. Purify me, God.

He asks for restoration. He asks for renewal of fellowship with God. Look at the things David's requesting: purge me, wash me, let me hear joy and gladness.

Hide your face from my sins, O God. Create in me a clean heart. Renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence. Restore to me the joy of your salvation. He's requesting renewal.

He's requesting cleansing. He's requesting purification from God, who is surely able and surely wants to grant it. First John 1:9 says that when we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and to do what?

Cleanse us. Cleanse us from all unrighteousness. That is what David was asking for.

That is what we are to ask for. You don't run from Christ thinking that he hates you. You don't turn your back, cover yourself up.

Do you think that brings glory to God? God desires that all men should find repentance. He wants you to turn from him.

It doesn't bring glory to Christ when you run from him. It doesn't bring glory to Christ when, like Adam and Eve, you cover yourself, you hide yourself from God. No, it brings glory to God when you say, Wretched man that I am.

I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Against you and you only have I sinned, God, and yet your mercy is more. Your grace is greater.

Christ died for you to be able to do that. Christ died because he wants relationship with you. Christ humbled himself into the image of a man who had no form or likeness that we should desire him.

He humbled himself to the image of a servant, and he died death on a cross fit for criminals to restore relationship with you and I. God of the universe did that. It brings him glory when you turn to him by faith, repenting of your sins.

And that goes for the non-believer and the believer alike. Yes, we have positional forgiveness. We have positional righteousness under Christ and under his blood, but we have to return every single day.

Christ died to give you redemption from sin. Christ's death bore our rightful punishment. Christ's death bore the wrath of God.

All of that, all of the gospel blessings come through Jesus. All of the gospel blessings come through Jesus. It's not something you work for, Ephesians 2.

It's a gift of grace. It's not something you earn. It's a gift of grace.

It's not something we work for. It's a gift of grace. It's not something that you or I can manufacture.

I can't earn back the right to be with God. It's a gift of grace. And it is not cheap grace.

If it's paid for by the blood of Christ, God incarnated, it demands a response. The gospel has always demanded a response. Acts 2, Brothers, what shall we do?

They're seeking that response, and Peter gives it to them: repent, believe, follow in obedience. God writes this in His Word through Paul, Romans 6:1 through 4. The Scriptures say this: What shall we say then?

Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! By no means should we continue in sin that grace may abound.

How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that

just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might do what?

We might walk in newness of life. Romans 6, verse 12, just a few verses later: Let not sin, therefore, referencing back to this grace that we've been granted, reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life.

And this is where the rubber meets the road. This inside-out repentance means that you have to walk in newness of life. That's what repentance looks like: you walking in newness of life.

And I don't know what that looks like for you specifically, but right now I hope and I pray that conviction of the Holy Spirit falls on this room. Father, may it be so. Maybe it looks like turning from excessive time wasting, spending your mornings with God, turning from sin to Christ, turning from the sin of seeking comfort in food or sex or drugs or work or fitness, turning from that sin and seeking rest in Christ by faith.

For some of you, it might be turning from the sin of selfishness and Romans 12, presenting your entire life as a living sacrifice, pleasing unto God. Maybe it's just bringing something to light tonight. There's almost an infinite number of things that it could be.

And so when we turn from sin, we turn to Christ by faith, and then we walk in obedience. We pursue holiness and righteousness, but this is not a righteousness of ourselves. Philippians 1:11 says that we should seek to be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.

It's through Jesus Christ, the fruit of righteousness. So just like redemption from sin, just like eternal forgiveness, Jesus has bought for us. The fruit of righteousness.

It is a work of God that we grow in obedience to Him. So tonight you need to ask the Lord to search you, to reveal your sin to you, and when He does, you thank Him. That's a work of the Spirit in your life.

That means He loves you. It's a sign of His grace. Confess that sin to Him, request His forgiveness and His cleansing, and then walk in newness of life.

Repent. Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel.

I'm going to close this out with a prayer from the Valley Vision, and then we're going to move into approaching the throne of grace. Pray with me. O God of my delight, Your throne of grace is a pleasure ground of my soul.

Here we obtain mercy in time of need, see the smile of Your reconciled face. Here joy pleads the name of Jesus. Here we sharpen the sword of the Spirit.

We anoint the shield of faith. We put on the helmet of salvation. We gather manna from Your Word.

We are strengthened for each conflict. We're nerved for the race set before us. We're empowered to conquer every foe.

O God, help us come to Christ as the fountainhead of descending blessings, as a wide-open floodgate of mercy. I marvel at our sin, that with such enriching favors within our reach. We are slow to extend our hand

and take them.

Have mercy upon our deadness for Your name's sake. Quicken us, stir us, fill us with holy zeal. Strengthen us that we might cling to You and not let You go.

May Your Spirit within me draw all blessings from Your hand. Let us walk humbly because of the good that we have omitted and the evil that we have done. Impress on our minds the shortness of time, O God.

Impress on our minds the work to be engaged in, the account that we will one day give, the nearness of eternity, the fearful sin of despising Your Spirit. May we never forget that Your eye always sees, Your ear always hears, Your recording hand always takes account. May we never give this rest until Christ is the pulse of our heart, the spokesman of our lips, and the lamp of our feet.

Amen. Thanks again for listening to today's teaching from The Grove. Be sure and follow us on Instagram at thegrove underscore cf.

If you are a young adult in Northwest Houston, we'd love to connect with you on Tuesday nights and Sunday mornings. We hope to see you soon.