

The Change!

The first words out of Peter's mouth in the first ever gospel sermon was "**repent!**" "**Change!**"

Peter, what do we need to change from, and what do we need to change to? I believe there are many who claim to be Christians who do not really know how to answer that question. What is repentance all about? Some might think, we need to repent of sin, and we need to change to righteousness. Yes, that is closer to what it means. But it is not repenting of sin or sinning only. It is repentance from the whole mindset of sin.

Sin is rebellion against God. So repentance is a cessation of hostilities toward God, and change is becoming aligned with God again.

It all started in the beginning when God placed Adam and Eve in the garden with the following instruction. They were free to eat anything in the garden except the Tree of Knowledge in the center of the garden. When Satan asked Eve what God had said in the book of Genesis, she quoted God word for word. She said, "*...to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'*" (Genesis 3:2-3). You know the rest of the story. Satan mixed two lies with two truths to sway Eve away from believing what God said. It cost her. She died, and sin entered the world.

The lie that got her is stated in v.5, "*You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.*" Sin's aim is to wrestle equality with God from God. It will never happen.

Little did Eve know that God's ultimate goal is to transform His beloved creation into what Jesus became as a man. To transform us into Jesus' image!

Look at the attitude of Jesus recorded starting in Phillipians 2:5, "*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped...*" Jesus emptied Himself becoming a man and a servant of God and man. Jesus was a man who was totally loyal to God's plan and God's will.

That's the change Jesus leads Christians to. We become loyal to God's plan rejecting Satan's ways.

God bless your repentance!

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