

## Repentance from Dead Works

We have been discussing the “elementary teachings” of Christ and “going on to maturity”. (Heb. 6:1-3). The reason that most have not gone on to maturity is because they have never been taught the elementary doctrines. If you’ve never been to elementary school, you cannot go on to your maturity in life. And the same thing is true about being a believer in Christ.

The majority of Christians have never been schooled in the elementary doctrines. We are discussing these doctrines in this series of articles. I would like to introduce the first of these, “repentance from acts that lead to death.” The term, “repentance” simply means “to turn from,” or “to change direction.” “Dead works” are works that do not have the life of God in them because He is not inspiring them by the Holy Spirit.

Why should we repent of “dead works”, and what are “dead works”? Dead works have to do with those things that we do that are religious in nature but have no eternal purpose; they are not what the Holy Spirit is inspiring us to do. Our enemy has a way of entrapping our soul in dead works. We all know the feeling of never having done enough, never feeling like we are good enough, never able to “please God”.

Our enemy brings back our failures from the past in the present, and in this way he keeps us always off balance so that we never feel that we can rise above the entrapment that “works,” and “working our way to God” presents. When you feel that you must meet God’s expectations, your “past” comes back to haunt you. Anyone bound to a duty to please God by works will never achieve a sense of reaching this goal. But if you’ve tried all that you know to do, and that’s not enough, and the alternative is that God must be angry with you, where do you go from there?

The answer is that many people turn back to the things of their past life before they knew Christ, to the things and the ways that got them through the day. When you go back to that, you open once again to the enemy the opportunity to bring you under the bondage of pleasing God by works. There is an answer to this dilemma. There is hope for our despair of never having “done enough”, of never being able to “please God”. It is “repentance from acts that lead to death”. This is our choice to turn to the Lord in simple faith, trusting that His work on the cross was enough, to deliver and free us, enabling us to please Him. How? By our obedience, following His example, developing a relationship with the Holy Spirit, thus, saying what we hear the Father saying, and doing what we see the Father doing. This is the life that “pleases God”, a life given to simple obedience to His purpose for us.