



Jesus Christ, our All in all
CrossTalk's 25th Anniversary

20 - 26 Sep, 2020

Faith and repentance, part 1

**‘I have not come to call the righteous,
but sinners, to repentance’ Luke 5:32**

Faith

- † Faith, as *‘the evidence of things not seen’ (Heb 11: 1)*, is the beginning of faith, but not its end
- † Faith, like hope and love, describes our relationship with God, which is ongoing and everlasting
- † Faith, the work of God's Spirit, is like the yeast. When put and worked in the dough, it makes wonders. The Holy Spirit when kneaded into the messy, daily events of our lives will work its transforming power. When our faith and the Holy Spirit are left on the shelf of our being, firmly sealed, they will stay there without nurturing God's grace in their lives. It is all up to the individual!

Through faith Christ's command can be fulfilled in our lives

- † *‘Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is perfect’ Mt 5: 48*

Faith and repentance go hand in hand

- † It is through faith that we repent. It is through repentance that we renew our faith and increase it
- † Christ started His preaching ministry with these words, *‘Repent, and believe in the Gospel’ Mk 1:15*
- † Faith and repentance lead us to be united to Christ
- † *‘For ‘who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?’ But we have the mind of Christ’ 1 Cor 2:16*

Faith yields to repentance

- † When we have faith in the Lord, we trust His everlasting mercy
- † We then have the courage to come to the Lord asking His forgiveness. *‘If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,*

and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness' 1Jn 1:8-9

King David's repentance (2 Sm 11-12:1-22; Ps 32, 51)

King David's repentance was holy and his sins were removed forever

- † Repentance started when he confessed his sin. He was silent for many years about it and it was hell (*Ps 32: 3-5*)
- † He took full responsibility for his sins
- † He took his sin very seriously
- † He did not expect any of his good works to reduce the guilt of sin. Although if there is a man whose good deeds outweighed his sins, it was David (*Jas 2:10; Ps 51:3-4*)
- † David's repentance resulted in a renewed Joy and a commitment to turn others from sin (*Ps 51:13; Lk 22:31-32*)
- † David forsook his sin and did not repeat it
- † God rewarded him (*Ps 32: 8-11*)

The prodigal son's repentance (Lk 15:11-32)

- † He confessed his sins. He no longer hid them
- † He took full responsibility
- † He felt he is not worthy because he took his sins seriously
- † His father, who represents God, forgave him for all his sins
- † He even rewarded him for his repentance and did not allow him to feel unworthy
- † He treated him as a king because he has returned to Christ

Basic Teachings

The Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God, do not worship any god other than Me
2. Do not make any idols of any type
3. Do not misuse God's Name
4. Remember to keep the Sabbath Holy
5. Honor your father and your mother
6. Do not kill
7. Do not commit adultery
8. Do not steal
9. Do not bear false witness against your neighbor
10. Do not covet (*Ex 20:1-17*)

Bibliography

1. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version
2. **Thirty Steps to Heaven: The Ladder of Divine Ascent for all Walks of Life**, by Vassilios Papavassiliou, (Indiana, Ancient Faith Publishing, 2013), Kindle Edition
3. **Ascending the Heights: A Layman's Guide to the Ladder of Divine Ascent**, by Father John Mack, (California: Conciliar Press, 1999)
4. **The Ladder of Divine Ascent**, by John Climacus, (New Jersey: Paulist Press, 1982)

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'And the apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith' Luke 17:5

In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

God acts

† Christ called me to live in continuous repentance

My reaction

† Am I, through faith, rebuking my sins?

† Am I hating the sin and loving the sinner?

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick, namely Marie
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management

14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, the region, and the whole world

During this coming week, we will lift the Greek Catholic Church in prayer

<p><u>الصلاة الربانية</u> أبانا الذي في السموات ليتقدس اسمك ليأت ملكوتك لتكن مشيئتك كما في السماء كذلك على الأرض أعطنا خبزنا كفاف يومنا وأغفر لنا خطايانا كما نغفر نحن لمن أساء إلينا ولا تُدخنا في التجارب لكن نجنا من الشرير أمين</p>	<p>قانون الايمان أؤمن بإله واحد، أب ضابط الكل خالق السماء والأرض كل ما يرى وما لا يرى وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح إبن الله الوحيد، المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق مولود غير مخلوق مساو للأب في الجوهر الذي به كان كل شيء الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا نزل من السماء وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء، وتألم وصليب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي وتألم وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث كما في الكتب وصعد إلى السماء وجلس عن يمين الأب وأيضاً يأتي بمجد عظيم ليدين الأحياء والأموات، الذي لا فناء لملكه وبالروح القدس، الرب المحيي المنبثق من الأب الذي هو مع الأب والإبن مسجود له وممجّد، الناطق بالأنبياء وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية وأعترف بعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا وأترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر الآتي أمين</p>
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