

the gift of repentance

Ask God to use the following questions to show you whether your heart attitude toward God is one of repentance from sin and from dead works of the flesh that cannot please God.

REPENTANCE FROM SIN

“Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin” (Ezekiel 18:30).

1. **Do I have a heart attitude** that says, “Lord, everything I now know to be sin, and everything You show me in the future to be sin, I am willing to give it all up for Your sake”?
2. **Have I ever experienced** the repentance that characterizes genuine salvation? Was my conversion experience mere external reformation rather than internal heart transformation?
3. **Can I truly say that I am willing** to forsake every sin in my life, including those which are not known to others?
4. **Am I willing to call my wrongful acts sins**, rather than characterizing them as weaknesses, flaws, or personality traits?
5. **Am I more grieved over how my sin** has offended a holy God (repentance) than I am over the consequences that I have reaped for my sin (remorse)?
6. **Am I willing to accept personal responsibility** for my actions without pointing the finger of blame at anyone else?
7. **Am I willing to take whatever steps** may be necessary to make complete restitution for my sin?
8. **Am I willing, if necessary, to confess** my sin publicly before men as well as privately before God?
9. **Am I willing to face the possible consequences** of public repentance, such as loss of reputation, position, or influence?
10. **Am I willing, if necessary, to suffer the loss** of all things in exchange for being clean before both God and man?
11. **Am I willing to voluntarily yield privileges** and positions of leadership in order to demonstrate a repentant spirit?
12. **Am I willing to submit to the disciplines** of man for my sin, as well as those consequences directly imposed by God?
13. **Am I willing to be accountable** to another believer in those areas of my life where I have experienced past failure, in order to develop new patterns of victory?
14. **Have I at any time in the past year** experienced genuine repentance, resulting in a change of actions, attitudes, and spirit? Have I experienced genuine repentance at any time since my conversion? Can I specifically illustrate repentance out of my life?
15. **Am I willing to testify openly** concerning where God found me before I repented?
16. **Are there any specific sins in my life** that I have never truly repented of? Am I willing to repent of those sins here and now? (Why not take time right now to list those sins on a separate piece of paper, and confess them with the intent to forsake them? As you do, exercise faith in the power of God to set you free from every sinful bondage.)

REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

“How much more shall the blood of Christ . . . cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Hebrews 9:14).

1. Is my **profession of faith** a dead work that needs to be repented of? Was my acceptance of Christ an empty formality rather than a yielding to His lordship in genuine faith?
2. Is my **worship** a dead work to be repented of? When I sit in services or listen to the preaching of God's Word, do I allow my mind to wander to temporal interests and concerns?
3. Is my **giving** a dead work to be repented of? Do I ever give because I feel obligated to do so or in order to be noticed or appreciated by others?
4. Are my **prayers** a dead work to be repented of? Do I use the same phrases, the same wording, without thinking about what I am saying? When I pray in public, am I more conscious of the people around me than of God in heaven? Do my public prayers cover up an essentially prayerless lifestyle?
5. Is my **singing** of hymns and spiritual songs a dead work to be repented of? Do I glibly sing words that in fact I do not really believe or practice? Do I join in singing as a matter of habit rather than a matter of wholehearted worship?
6. Are my **acts of kindness** a dead work to be repented of? Do I expect or seek recognition for my “sacrificial” labors and efforts? Do I get offended when others are praised for their efforts and mine are overlooked?
7. Is my **service for God** a dead work to be repented of? Do I expect God to bless me because of all the work I do for Him? Do I serve God because that is what is expected of me rather than out of a heart overflowing with love and gratitude? Is my service a matter of mere human effort rather than being empowered by the Spirit of God?
8. Is my **witnessing** a dead work to be repented of? Do I witness without any real heart concern or compassion for the lost? Do I witness more for the purpose of adding up converts than for the glory of God? Do I witness in dependence on my own ability and effort rather than in dependence on the power of the Spirit?
9. Is my **public ministry** a dead work that needs to be repented of? Do I neglect earnest prayer and heart preparation in relation to my public ministry? Do I seek to please or impress others by my public ministry rather than seeking to be approved by God? Do I take credit for myself rather than giving all the glory to God for that which He does through me?
10. Am I **harboring secret sins** that render my kingdom efforts powerless? Do I ever give or pray while refusing to forgive another or failing to deal with an unresolved conflict? Do I encourage others to walk in the Spirit, while my own daily walk is dry, barren, and unfruitful? Am I guilty of putting on a smiling appearance while masking an empty, self-righteous, critical, or angry spirit?
11. Am I serving in the energy of the **flesh** rather than in the power of the Spirit? Am I content to produce that which is humanly explainable rather than that which can only be attributed to the supernatural power of God?