

## A Word about Repentance

This Sunday, November 9, I will be preaching a sermon about “Gospel Repentance.” Why a sermon on Repentance?

**First, a call to repentance is an instruction to honesty.** In the days in which we live, Christians must declare spiritual war on pretense. These are not times to get all scrubbed up, put on smiley faces, or serious faces (whichever we deem religious), and pretend that everything is wonderful and pleasant. These are days for honesty. So by the power of God’s Spirit and perspective of God’s Word, we will honestly face the painful circumstances of our lives. One verse that calls for such honesty is ... *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting”* (Ps. 139:23-24).

I am not suggesting that we tell everybody about our anxiety, fear, and offensive thoughts, words, and deeds. I am encouraging us to stop pretending that everything is fine when you are not fine. I have an acronym for FINE: **F**—Frazzled, **I**—Insecure, **N**-Nervous, **E**-Emotion. So, how are you really doing? What I am saying is that we learn to share honestly with a few fellow Christ-followers. While Christ is our One and Only interceder before the Father, we should be one another’s fellow sufferers and encouragers. *“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed”* (James 5:16). This brings me to another reason for a word about repentance.

**Repentance is an invitation to healing.** God is clear in His word that repentance leads to healing. *“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land”* (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Often, this verse is applied to America? If the pornographers, the greedy, the abortionists, and other big time sinners would repent of their sins, there would be revival in America and national healing. I have no doubt such repentance would be a mighty work of God. This is our fervent hope born of prayer. Yet the audience of this Old Testament prayer is not the well-known cultural sinners. I do not think God is talking to Hollywood or Wall Street. He is calling His people, those who bear God’s name, to repentance. *“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray...”* Sadly, it is the very people who are calling people to repent who are the very ones God calls to repent - that is, you and me.

May God use our repentance to produce spiritual honesty and healing. May it overflow from our personal spiritual lives to our community at New Hope Church and to the world around us. And, may God be praised.

Great Peace in the Lord,

Eddie