

# SLB-024

# 11-05-06

The Spiritual Life Techniques (SLT):  
Phase I Techniques Continued -  
Repentance

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- “The Presbyterian Coalition announces plans for its next national gathering. The event, titled "Repent & Believe: A Call to Repentance and Prayer", will take place March 17-19, 2005, at Grace Presbyterian Church in Houston, Texas.
- This gathering, scheduled in the Lenten season, is designed to invite the church - the whole church - to pray and repent together.  
The Coalition Board along with others and with clear conviction believe now is the right season for much prayer and repentance, indeed it is overdue.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- Toward the end that the whole church be sincerely invited and genuinely participate as members of the same church, the planning team is purposefully comprised of Coalition leadership, other church leaders not associated with the Coalition, indeed others with whom we are often in disagreement, and leaders of racial/ethnic caucuses.
- The Thursday evening to Saturday morning event will include communion, worship, and instruction, invitation and inspiration to prayer and repentance, but the majority of the time together will be praying and repenting, - individually and corporately.”

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- The Bible uses the word "repent" as meaning to turn around.
- The person who does not know God, is moving down the self-directed road toward sin and destruction, moving away from God.
- To REPENT means to "turn around" and go in the opposite direction: away from self and sin and toward God and His will. God helps the person to repent.
- A good prayer: "God, help me to turn from sin to you through the Lord Jesus Christ who died for my sin." ([findchurch.com](http://findchurch.com))

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 'Repent, and believe in the good news' Mark 1:15
- by David Winter
- “Unlike Matthew, Luke and John, it takes the breathless Mark no time at all to launch into his story. We're in and out of the wilderness in no time, John the Baptist's entire ministry delays us for just ten verses, and then we are in Galilee. Jesus, as though no one can hold things back any longer, begins to proclaim God's 'good news', the news which Mark has already told us in the opening words of his Gospel is about himself - 'the good news of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God'.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: by David Winter
- The words above are his call for a response to that good news, and taken at face value they may seem less than inviting. When someone hears good news - an exam passed, promotion earned, a baby born, a couple wed - our natural response is joy and gratitude. Repentance hardly seems fitting, in the circumstances. Celebrations aren't normally marked by sackcloth and ashes. Why, if this is indeed the 'good news' for which the people have been waiting eagerly for centuries, does it call for them to repent as well as believe it?

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: by David Winter
- I think the clue is in the true meaning of the word 'repentance' - metanoia, in Greek. We know the word 'metamorphosis', a change of form - a caterpillar into a butterfly, for instance. Metanoia is a change of mind, not in the casual sense of a change of opinion but in a total turning round of our attitude to something. Repentance, as the New Testament uses it, is a shift of will rather than feelings or mood. It is the complete reversal of our previous attitude, what St Paul called 'being transformed by the renewing of your mind' (Romans 12:2).

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: by David Winter
- That was the call of Jesus - to hear and believe this amazing good news and then to allow it to transform its hearers, to change their whole life's direction, as it did for Simon, Andrew, James and John (vv. 16-20. If Lent is indeed a time for 'repentance' (and it is), let it be the positive kind that changes us, not just for six weeks but for life - and for eternity.



# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from [thetruegospel.org](http://thetruegospel.org))
- Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Luke 24:46-47)
- Similarly, on Pentecost, AD 31, Peter instructed the assembled crowd, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from [thetruegospel.org](http://thetruegospel.org))
- Likewise, Paul taught the men of Athens:
- Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead. (Acts 17:30-31; emphasis ours)

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from [thetruegospel.org](http://thetruegospel.org))
- Repentance is a prerequisite for belief. What is repentance? Its basic meaning is "to change" or "to turn." Once a person hears the gospel and is convicted that his way of life is wrong, he must change his present behavior and "bear fruits worthy of repentance" (Matthew 3:8). Repentance is not merely feeling sorry or remorseful, but being so stricken in one's heart that one begins to live according to God's standards—according to God's law. Remorse without a corresponding change in conduct is not repentance!

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from [thetruegospel.org](http://thetruegospel.org))
- The fruits of repentance are visible actions—often called "works"—that show that a person has indeed changed. When John the Baptist preached repentance to prepare the way for Jesus' ministry, his audience asked him what they should do to repent. He answered: Clothe the naked, feed the hungry, do not steal, do not use one's authority to oppress, do not lie or accuse falsely, and be content with one's wages (Luke 3:10-14). In general, these actions are either obeying God's laws or showing love for one's neighbor.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from [thetruegospel.org](http://thetruegospel.org))
- Jesus says, "If you want to enter into [eternal] life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17). Later, when asked to name the greatest commandments, Jesus answers, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart... .' And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matthew 22:36-40). When we put all these things together, bearing fruits worthy of repentance is simply living as God does!

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from [thetruegospel.org](http://thetruegospel.org))
- Thus, Jesus' urgent command for us to repent and believe the gospel provides us with the negative and positive sides of a single, godly action. He tells us to rid ourselves of the evil we have been doing ("repent") and to begin doing what God expects of those to whom He has revealed His way of life ("believe"). This will lead to righteousness and salvation and—God promises!—entrance into His Kingdom (II Peter 1:2-11).

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from [thetruegospel.org](http://thetruegospel.org))
- All human beings who have not repented of their sins are, so to speak, on spiritual "death row"—awaiting execution of a justly deserved ultimate capital punishment. This eternal penalty was earned by simply "doing what comes naturally"—sinning!

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3,5).
- "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...", said Peter (Acts 3:19).



# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from [thetruegospel.org](http://thetruegospel.org))
- God tells us there is something we must do before He will apply the sacrifice of Christ to pay the penalty of our sins.
- We must demonstrate that we no longer wish to continue in the way of life which leads to eternal death.
- We do so by changing our way of living.
- That change of direction is called "repentance" in biblical terminology.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from [thetruegospel.org](http://thetruegospel.org))
- But what, exactly, do we repent of?
- Sin!
- Actions and deeds which are contrary to God's law are simply defined as "sin."
- Sin is the violation or transgression of any of God's great spiritual laws.
- Notice the definition of sin in the Bible: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4).

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from [thetruegospel.org](http://thetruegospel.org))
- Sin, however, is not always a wrong deed. Sometimes we sin by not doing what is right or good. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).
- To repent of sin, then, simply means to "change direction." We turn from the way of self-indulgence and "get" to the way of "give." We stop serving the inordinate lusts of our own flesh and begin to serve others. We turn from selfishness to selflessness.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from [thetruegospel.org](http://thetruegospel.org))
- When we begin demonstrating our willingness to change and ask God to forgive our past way of life, He applies the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf. We are then freed from the crushing guilt of sin and its penalty. We are forgiven and our conscience is cleared. The penalty of sin — eternal death — no longer hangs over our head.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from [thetruegospel.org](http://thetruegospel.org))
- Those whom God will ultimately change from mortal humans to the divine likeness of God—those who will be born as the very sons of God—are those who repent of this "natural" state of mind and its past sinful actions, and then strive to overcome it from that point on.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from [thetruegospel.org](http://thetruegospel.org))
- God wants everyone of us to eventually become like Him. Therefore He wants us to turn from and strive to overcome the evil influence of the devil's attitude on our thinking and doing while still flesh and blood. This is essentially what repentance is all about!
- The time of repentance is the crisis of your life. It is the turning point in your entire destiny!

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from [thetruegospel.org](http://thetruegospel.org))
- When we are finally brought to real repentance, we mean business. We are ready, in every phase of our lives, to say: "Yes, Lord...your will be done." In real repentance, we have become completely sick and tired of our own selfish ways. We are truly sorry for our sins—and we are ready and willing to make a permanent change. We are now ready to "turn around and go the other way"—GOD'S way.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from [thetruegospel.org](http://thetruegospel.org))
- Isn't this clearly why Jesus said what He did to the young rich man? Matthew 19:16-17. Did Jesus enumerate enough of the commandments to make it clear He was indeed talking about the TEN COMMANDMENTS? Verses 18-19.
- COMMENT: Because we can't save ourselves and can't keep God's law perfectly of ourselves, the prevalent teaching today is that Jesus did it all for us—that we don't have to do anything except believe He did it all for us and accept Him as our Savior. Thus, millions today have been led to believe that God imputes Jesus' righteousness to us, counting us as righteous because of His righteousness—while we continue sinning.



# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from [thetruegospel.org](http://thetruegospel.org))
- Nothing could be further from the truth!
- Jesus did not live a good life for us—in our stead.
- We are not excused from keeping God's commandments, striving to live a righteous life, overcoming and growing in spiritual character.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from [thetruegospel.org](http://thetruegospel.org))
- Beware of False Repentance
- Don't make the mistake of overlooking repentance as a necessary step to salvation. Don't assume that you can be made right with God by some man-devised method which is falsely called "repentance."
- Repentance is not only a matter of feeling. It is not just a matter of stirring up one's emotions. It is a matter of heart and mind as well as emotion. It is a heartfelt realization that you have thought, spoken, and lived contrary to God's spiritual laws and that you should QUIT doing so!  
([thetruegospel.org](http://thetruegospel.org))

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- Basic Doctrines: Repentance
- by Staff  
Forerunner, "Bible Study," January 1999
- "Repent!"—a word long shouted by hellfire-and-brimstone preachers—is tailored to "scare the hell" out of people and put the fear of God in people. In God's church, we might half-jokingly use it to inform others of a bad attitude and the need to change. It can become a catch-all phrase that loses its God-emphasized meaning in our lives, yet the Bible frequently uses "repent" and similar words. On that basis, true godly repentance is of primary importance.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: by John G. Reisinger
- We often ask people, "When were you baptized?" but it is quite rare to ask, "When did you repent?" Yet repentance and baptism are linked biblically and inseparable. How does one repent?
- ONE: A man must repent and believe in order to be saved. No one was ever forgiven and made a child of God who did not willingly turn from sin to Christ. Nowhere does the Bible even hint that men can be saved without repentance and faith, but to the contrary, the Word always states these things are essential before a person can be saved. The one and only Bible answer to the question "What must I do to be saved?" is "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- **Repentance: by John G. Reisinger**
- Repentance and faith are not vicarious but are the free acts of men. Men, with their own mind, heart, and will must renounce sin and receive Christ. God doesn't repent and believe for us -- we repent and believe. Turning from sin and reaching out in faith to Christ are the acts of man, and every man who so responds to the gospel call does so because he honestly desires to do so. He wants to be forgiven and he can only be forgiven by repenting and believing. No one, including God, can turn from sin for us, we must do it. No one can trust Christ "in our place," we must personally, knowingly, and willingly trust Him in order to be saved.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- Mark 1:15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."
- Mark 2:17 When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."
- Luke 13:3 ...unless you repent you will all likewise perish.
- Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- Acts 8:22 Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.
- Acts 17:30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,
- Acts 26:20 but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.
- Romans 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

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- Repentance:
- Romans 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?
- 2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be repented; but the sorrow of the world produces death.
- 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning [His] promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
- Revelation 2: 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place -- unless you repent.



# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- Steps in Salvation (False Doctrine)
  - Step 1 -- Hear the Word
  - Step 2 -- Believe the Word
  - Step 3 -- Repent of Sin
  - Step 4 -- Confess Christ
  - Step 5 -- Be Baptized
  - Step 6 -- Remain Faithful
- [thebiblespeaks.com](http://thebiblespeaks.com)

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- *Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons which need no repentance. Luke 15:7*

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from CCEL.US)
- If repentance could be described in two words, I would use the words "turning around."
- Turn around from what you ask.
- The answer can be given in one word — "sin."
- The Bible teaches, as we have already seen, that sin is a transgression of the law.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from CCEL.US)
- Sin is the rejection of all authority and the denial of all obligation to God.
- Sin is that evil principle which came into the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve were tempted and fell.
- Ever since the disaster in Eden this evil poison has affected all men so that "all have sinned," and "there is none righteous, no, not one."
- Sin has destroyed our relationship with God, and as a consequence it has disturbed our relationship with each other, and even with ourselves. (ccel.us)

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from CCEL.US)
- We know that salvation is based entirely upon the grace of God.
- The Bible says that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, and it also says, "The righteous man shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17).
- Salvation, forgiveness, and justification are based entirely upon the atoning work of Christ.
- However, if the sacrifice of Christ on the cross is to be made effectual for any individual of any age, that individual must repent of sin and accept Christ by faith. (ccel.us)

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from CCEL.US)
- Repentance is mentioned seventy times in the New Testament. Jesus said, "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."
- The sermon that Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost was, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). Paul preached it when he said that he "testified both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21).
- The Bible says God commands repentance, "And the times of this ignorance God overlooked; but now he commands all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30).

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from CCEL.US)
- It is a command. It is an imperative. God says, "Repent! Or perish!" Have you repented? Are you sure of it?
- What did Jesus mean by the word repent?
- Why does it appear over and over throughout the Bible?
- If you look in a modern dictionary you will find that repent means "to feel sorry for, or to regret."
- But the original words that Jesus spoke meant a great deal more than that.
- They meant a great deal more than just regretting and feeling sorry about sin.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False Doctrine from CCEL.US)
- The biblical word repent means "to change, or to turn." It is a word of power and action. It is a word that signifies a complete turnabout in the individual. When the Bible calls upon us to repent of sin, it means that we should turn away from sin, that we should do an about-face and walk in the opposite direction from sin and all that it implies.
- Too many modern Christians have lost sight of what the Bible means when it talks about repentance. They think that repentance is little more than shaking their heads over their sins and saying, "My, but I'm sorry I did that!" and then continuing to live just as they have lived before.(ccel.us)



# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (Illustration)
- Group warns Christians to repent of ecology sins
- Desert News (Salt Lake City), Feb 19, 2005
- WASHINGTON (AP) -- Eleven theologians convened by the National Council of Churches issued a statement calling on Christians to repent of "ecological sins" and respect God's creation.
- The group decried a "false gospel" that says "God cares for the salvation of humans only and that our human calling is to exploit Earth for our own ends alone."
- The signers said such false belief "continued to capture its adherents among emboldened political leaders and policy-makers," who were not specified.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (Illustration)
- They cited "the special responsibility" of Americans, who are 5 percent of the planet's population but "produce one-quarter of the world's carbon emissions, consume a quarter of its natural riches and perpetuate scandalous inequities at home and abroad."
- The council statement followed a similar environmental appeal signed by 1,000 Roman Catholics, Protestants and Jews.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- Repentance is part of the process of Believing.
- It is the result of Recognition in the Appraisal Process on the part of the hearer who then is faced with the decision to choose Faith in Christ.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation Diagram

The Father Draws

The Holy Spirit Convinces by means of the Word

