

40 DAYS of PRAYER



**WEEK
ONE**

Theme: Repentance

Song for Reflection: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Suggested Video: www.bit.ly/RCC40DAYSWK1 (Chris Tomlin)

Day 1 – Wednesday, July 17

Search me, 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. (Psalm 139:23-24, NIV)

Read Psalm 139. You'll see that God is everywhere, knows all about you, your mind, your ways. He formed and fashioned you. Repentance begins with knowing that God is God, and we are not, and opening our hearts humbly to Him.

Day 2 – Thursday, July 18

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." (Matthew 4:17, NIV)

"Repent" means *to change your mind* – not in a flippant way, but in a way that changes your entire life's direction. This, Jesus said, should be our direct response to the "kingdom of heaven," which is the state of things in which God makes His presence known and his authority to reign over everything.

So in effect, Christ is calling us to a complete change of mind and direction – to no longer see ourselves as "master of our domain," but to see our lives as part of the kingdom of heaven, where God reigns. To *repent*. Have you never received Christ as your Lord and Savior, or rejected Him? It's not too late – simply *repent* and place your trust in Him. Do you know Him as Lord and Savior? Then *repent* of those things that are not in line with His Lordship over your life, and turn back to Him. He's near, and He calls to you.

Day 3 – Friday, July 19

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

(Proverbs 28:13, NIV)

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

(2 Corinthians 7:10, NIV)

Ever notice how some people only seem to be sorry for what they did wrong because they got caught? That's not repentance. The genuineness of repentance is directly tied to a heart that is truly sorry for the things done wrong in God's sight. Trying to hide the things we've done wrong doesn't hide them from God and it only damages us. But true sorrow brings a natural desire to confess these things openly to God, and when we do, He is ready to bring mercy and salvation.

Do you want to live with no regrets? What can you bring to God in genuine repentance? Talk to God in prayer about these things.

Day 4 – Saturday, July 20

But go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. (Matthew 9:13, NKJV)

God isn't very interested in people who think they've got it all together and God owes them something. No...God looks for those who know they are broken. And His response to them is mercy. Seek God's help to find and restore the broken places inside your heart.

Day 5 – Sunday, July 21

I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. (Luke 15:7, NIV)

For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live! (Ezekiel 18:32, NIV)

Did you know that God *wants* you to be free of sin and the things that separate you from Him? The motive of *God* is *good*. Do you trust that? Then go to Him in repentance, and He will not only free you, but rejoice in your freedom!

Day 6 – Monday, July 22

Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. (Revelation 2:5, NIV)

God calls for Repentance from the Church as a whole, and everyone in it - regardless of position, reputation, or any other factor. God's church must always be on its knees, sensitive to how we might be wandering from God...and if we don't, we will fall.

We might see "our church," or "another church"...but the foundational truth is this: THE church is HIS Church. Christ is Lord, and that should inspire humble, repentant hearts in us all – the members of HIS body, the Church.

Day 7 – Tuesday, July 23

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you – even Jesus. (Acts 3:19-20, NIV)

Here the apostle was reminding his hearers, including us, that we look forward to a grand hope: The day that Jesus will return to bring us home. And our place in His home is secured because He has wiped out our sins – all we need do is simply *repent* and turn to Him in faith and trust. That great truth is a comfort and a hope that our repentance before God is well-placed. Change your direction today – turn to God and find hope!

