

Repentance: Turning Back to God

A small U-turn road sign keychain, magnet, or laminated card

"Repentance Is a U-Turn Toward God"

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." — Acts 3:19

This simple road symbol serves as a visual reminder that repentance is more than feeling sorry—it is changing direction and returning to God.

Introduction

- What does a U-turn sign mean?
- What happens when we realize we're going the wrong way?

Most GPS systems don't shame us when we make a wrong turn. They simply say, "Recalculating" and guide us back to the right path.

God does something similar. When we realize we've wandered from Him, He lovingly calls us to repent and return.

Repentance is not punishment—it's an invitation back into fellowship with God.

Scripture 1: Acts 3:19

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

Discussion: The word **repent** means to change one's mind and direction.

True repentance involves:

1. Recognizing sin.
2. Confessing sin.
3. Turning away from sin.
4. Turning toward God.

Notice the promise attached to repentance: "**Times of refreshing.**" God doesn't call us to repentance to condemn us. He calls us to repentance so He can restore us.

Application: Is there an area of your life where God is asking you to make a U-turn?

- An attitude?
- A habit?
- A relationship?
- A neglected spiritual discipline?

Scripture 2: Luke 15:17-24

The Prodigal Son Returns

The prodigal son:

- Left his father.
- Wasted his inheritance.
- Found himself broken and empty.

Then he came to his senses and returned home.

Discussion: Notice what happened when he turned around.

The father:

- Saw him coming.
- Ran to meet him.
- Embraced him.
- Restored him.

This is a picture of God's heart toward repentant people.

Satan says:

"Stay away. You've gone too far."

God says:

"Come home."

Application: No matter how far someone has wandered, God welcomes sincere repentance.

Scripture 3: 1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Discussion: God's forgiveness is not based on our perfection. It is based on His faithfulness. When we confess our sins:

- God forgives.
- God cleanses.
- God restores.

Many people carry guilt long after God has forgiven them. Repentance means accepting God's forgiveness and walking forward in freedom.

If a stain is removed from a shirt, we don't keep treating it like it's still dirty. Likewise, when God forgives us, He removes our sin.

Look at the cards I gave you

1. Is there an area where I've drifted from God?
 2. What direction do I need to change?
 3. What is one step I can take this week to return closer to Him?
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Three Truths About Repentance

1. Repentance Requires Honesty

We cannot change what we refuse to acknowledge.

2. Repentance Brings Restoration

God restores what sin has damaged.

3. Repentance Leads to Refreshing

Acts 3:19 promises "times of refreshing" from God's presence.

A Practical Challenge

This week, whenever you see your U-turn card, ask yourself:

 "Am I moving toward God or away from Him?"

Repentance is not a one-time event. It is a lifestyle of continually turning our hearts toward Christ.