



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States

Monthly Message for the Priests Wives

August 2024

Repentance

Wash me, Cleanse me, My sin before me!

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18)

"It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes." (Psalm 119:71)

“Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep your word” (Psalm 119:67)

Volume 1

Definition of Repentance:

Repentance is a profound change of heart and mind, accompanied by a turning away from sin and a turning towards God. It involves genuine remorse for past wrongdoing, a sincere commitment to amend one's ways, and a desire to live in accordance with God's will. Repentance entails both an inward transformation of attitude and an outward change of behavior, leading to reconciliation with God and restoration of fellowship with Him.

References from Scripture (NKJV):

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."
2. *2 Corinthians 7:10*: "For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death."
3. *Luke 15:7*: "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance."

Insights from St. John Chrysostom:

St. John Chrysostom emphasized the transformative nature of repentance, viewing it as a continuous process of spiritual growth rather than a one-time event. He stressed the importance of genuine contrition and a sincere turning away from sin, coupled with a firm resolve to live a life of righteousness. According to Chrysostom, true repentance involves not only feeling sorry for one's sins but also actively striving to overcome them and to pursue holiness. He believed that through repentance, individuals could experience the mercy and forgiveness of God, leading to spiritual renewal and restoration of communion with Him.

Blindness and Blind Spots:

In the journey of life, we often face the danger of blind spots—areas where our minds, hearts, and spirits are veiled from the truth. These blind spots can lead to spiritual accidents, manifesting as sins that hinder our relationship with God. The bible offers insights into this concept, emphasizing the need for divine enlightenment to overcome these blind spots.

1. Blindness of Mind:

- *Biblical Reference:* 2 Corinthians 4:4 (NKJV) - "whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."
- *Comment:* The enemy seeks to blind our minds to the truth of the Gospel, fostering doubt and unbelief. This blindness can lead to a distorted worldview and sinful choices.

2. Blindness of Heart:

- *Biblical Reference:* Ephesians 4:18 (NKJV) - "having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart."
- *Comment:* The blindness of the heart results in spiritual alienation from God. Ignorance and hardness of heart can create blind spots that hinder us from perceiving the depth of God's love and guidance.

3. **Blindness of Spirit:**

- *Biblical Reference:* 1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV) - "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."
- *Comment:* Spiritual discernment is essential to avoid blindness of the spirit. Without the Holy Spirit's guidance, we may remain oblivious to the profound truths and wisdom God desires to reveal.