THE QUESTION

What did the early Christians believe about repentance?

Asked by a THF member on May 22, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 14 numbered quotations · the 55 early Christian passages and 228 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-the-early-christians-believe-about-repentance

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

Early Christians taught that repentance is a real turning from sin to God: admitting the wrong, grieving over it, and living differently. God's mercy means no sinner should despair, and the Church received those who repented. Yet the writers warned that repeating the same sins and asking pardon again is not true repentance.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
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POINT 1 OF 7

Repentance is a real change of life

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Hermas calls repentance great wisdom: the sinner sees his wrong, remembers it, stops doing evil and starts doing good. Lactantius puts it even more simply: to repent is to promise that one will not sin again.

1 “For repentance is great wisdom. For the person who has sinned understands that he acted wickedly in the sight of the Lord, remembers the things he has done, and repents. He no longer acts wickedly, but does good generously, and humbles and torments his soul because he has sinned.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD) **Source 6, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

2 “But to repent is nothing other than to declare and affirm that one will sin no more.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 13 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 46, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

No sinner should give up hope

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Lactantius tells those who have fallen into sin, for whatever reason, not to despair, because they can be brought back. The Apostolic Constitutions say God's promise gives sinners hope, so that they turn back instead of giving themselves over to sin.

3 “However, let no one lose heart or despair about himself if, overcome by passion, driven by desire, deceived by error, or forced by violence, he has turned aside to the path of unrighteousness.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 24 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 43, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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4 “Here the word gives hope to sinners, so that if they repent, they will have hope of salvation. Otherwise, out of despair, they might give themselves over to their transgressions.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 36, page 8 Read it in the library ›

POINT 3 OF 7

Everyone needs repentance, even the upright

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Lactantius says no one is so righteous that he never needs to repent, so removing repentance cuts off the way of salvation. Clement of Rome points to David, a man after God's own heart, who still begged God for mercy and admitted his sin.

5 “And he who takes this away cuts off from himself the way of salvation, because no one can be so just that repentance is never necessary for him.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 67 (c. 290–320 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 44, page 8 Read it in the library ›

6 “For I acknowledge my iniquity, and my sin is always before me.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians*
THF's updated English

Source 55, page 9 Read it in the library ›

POINT 4 OF 7

Repentance comes from the whole heart

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian calls sinners to return to God with their whole heart, with real grief, prayer and tears. He asks those who denied the Lord in persecution to repent deeply and join their tears with the church's prayers for them.

7 “Let us turn to the Lord with our whole heart. Let us show our repentance for our sin with true grief, and let us beg for God's mercy.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 31, page 8 Read it in the library ›

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8 “Repent deeply. Show the sorrow of a grieving and mourning mind.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 33, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 7

Real repentance bears fruit

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Origen explains that John the Baptist rebuked the Pharisees because they came without the fruits of repentance and trusted in being Abraham's children. Peter of Alexandria tells those who fell in persecution that they will be helped if they now show fruit worthy of repentance.

9 “Clearly, they did not have the fruits of repentance, and like Pharisees they proudly claimed within themselves that they had Abraham as their father.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Commentary on John* 6 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 27, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

10 “If they keep this before their eyes, and show fruit worthy of repentance after such a long time, they will be benefited.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Peter of Alexandria,** *Canonical Epistle* (c. 300–311 AD) **Source 48, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Repeating the same sins is not repentance

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Alexandria says that asking forgiveness again and again for the same sins only looks like repentance. The Apostolic Constitutions warn that a baptized person who sins and does not repent and turn away from it will be condemned.

11 “So, asking forgiveness again and again for the things in which we often sin is only the appearance of repentance, not repentance itself.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 2.13 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 18, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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12 “Now whoever sins after baptism, unless he repents and turns away from his sins, will be condemned to hell fire.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 38, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 7

The Church welcomes back those who repent

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian argues that God would not call fallen Christians to repent unless He meant to show them mercy. Polycarp asks the church to treat a fallen presbyter and his wife not as enemies but as straying members to be called back.

13 “Certainly the Lord would not urge them to repent unless He promised mercy to those who repent.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 29, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

14 “And be moderate in regard to this matter, and "do not count them as enemies," but call them back as suffering and straying members, so that you may save your whole body.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Polycarp,** *Epistle to the Philippians* (c. 100–155 AD) **Source 8, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not settle how many times a baptized Christian can be forgiven; the writers lean in different directions.
- They do not give one rule for which sins needed formal church discipline.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

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WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 55 early Christian passages and 228 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–55, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 56–176, in Bible order), then 107 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *55 passages from 19 writers*

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · source 1*

1 *Epistle of Barnabas* (1885 English) "shalt confess thy sins. Thou shalt not go to prayer with an evil conscience. This is the way of light… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 2–7*

2 *Shepherd* Lord, that it is great and glorious, and that He has given His Spirit to those who are worthy of repentance." "Then why, sir," I said, "did not all these… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *Shepherd* (on point 6) "my questions." He said, "Go on." And I said, "Sir, I heard some teachers say that there is no repentance except the one that happens when we go down into… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Shepherd* with her. But if the husband knows that his wife has gone astray, and if the woman does not repent, but persists in her fornication, and yet the husband continues… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Shepherd* (on point 4) of heart, you and your children and your house. Walk in my commands that I command you, and your repentance will be deep and pure. And if you and your… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Shepherd* **Quote 1, page 2** "you not think," he said, "that it is great wisdom to repent… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Shepherd* (1885 English) "indeed have repentance in their power, if they repent quickly… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · source 8*

8 *Epistle to the Philippians* **Quote 14, page 5** "whom may the Lord grant true repentance… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 9–11*

9 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English) "indeed, you repent of your sins, and recognise Him to be Christ, and observe His commandments, then you may assert this… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Dialogue with Trypho* (on point 3) do anything against right reason. We, both men and angels, will be proven guilty of sin unless we repent beforehand. If the word of God predicts that some angels and… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Dialogue with Trypho* to many people who had not received grace to know that your nation was called to conversion and repentance of spirit, while they were sinful and suffering from spiritual disease… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · source 12*

12 *Diatessaron* 4 (1885 English; on point 5) "17 Matthew 3:8 Do now the fruits which are worthy of repentance… [continues online] **read ›**

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Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · source 13*

13 *To Autolycus* 26 (1885 English; on point 2) “being long-suffering, He gave him an opportunity of repentance and confession… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 14–17*

14 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English) “in a state of confusion at having transgressed His command, he feels unworthy to appear before and to hold converse with God… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English; on point 5) “forth therefore fruit meet for repentance. And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham [to our] father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (on point 5) prophets before the Babylonian exile, and after that event, even more than before, to seek the fruits, saying to them (the Jews): “Thus says the Lord, Cleanse your ways and… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Against Heresies: Book I* “of them, indeed, make a public confession of their sins… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 18–22*

18 *Stromata* 2.13 **Quote 11, page 4** forgiveness of sins once. But if someone sins after this, then even if he receives pardon when he repents, he ought to be afraid, because he is no longer being… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Stromata* 4.9 that were produced by bodily desire. For there is, so to speak, at the end of life a sudden repentance in action, and a true confession toward Christ, in the… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Stromata* 2.12 (1885 English) “of sins is therefore different from repentance… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Stromata* 2.13 (on point 6) “who has received forgiveness of sins ought not to sin anymore. For besides the first and only repentance from sins, which is from the sins of the former life, the… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Stromata* 4.21 (1885 English; on point 4) “godly sorrow works repentance unto salvation not to be regretted… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 23–25*

23 *Against Marcion* 24 (on point 1) “a man, much more in God, whose every purpose is faultless. Now in Greek the word for repentance, metanoia, is formed not from the confession of a sin, but from… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *Against Marcion* 10 (on point 2) husband of Jezebel, guilty of idolatry and of the blood of Naboth, obtained pardon because of his repentance, in 1 Kings 21:29. And Jonathan the son of Saul blotted… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *On Modesty* 18 (1885 English; on point 6) “prejudice to that species of repentance after believing, which either, for lighter sins, will be able to obtain pardon from the bishop, or else, for greater and irremissible ones, from… [continues online] **read ›**

Early Liturgies, *c. 200–400 AD · source 26*

26 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (1885 English) “remit, pardon, O God, our offenses, voluntary and involuntary, in knowledge and in ignorance, by transgression and by disobedience, which Your all-holy Spirit knows better than Your servants do… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 27–28*

27 *Commentary on John* 6 **Quote 9, page 4** “the prophet?" Those who sent the priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask John these questions, after learning who John was not and who he was, keep a proper silence… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Commentary on John* 6 repentance,” teaching that the benefit of baptism is connected with the intention of the person baptized. To him who repents it is salutary, but to him who comes to it… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 29–33*

29 *Epistles* **Quote 13, page 5** I am amazed that some are so stubborn that they think repentance should not be granted to the lapsed, or that pardon should be denied to those who repent, when… [continues online] **read ›**

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30 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 4) “long and full penitence deprecate the Lord so grievously offended, although it is written, Remember from whence you are fallen, and repent. Revelation 2:5… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 3** “I entreat you, beloved brethren, that each one should confess his own sin, while he who has sinned is still in this world, while his confession may be received, while… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Epistles* (1885 English; on point 7) “as in smaller sins which are not committed against God, penitence may be fulfilled in a set time, and confession may be made with investigation of the life of him… [continues online] **read ›**

33 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** “abundantly, prove the sorrow of a grieving and lamenting mind… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 34–39*

34 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 7) who have not sinned, so that they may remain innocent; and those who do sin, so that they may repent. For the Lord says this to you: "Take heed that… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 3) “transgressions, O Lord, are multiplied; my transgressions are multiplied, and I… [continues online] **read ›**

36 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 4, page 3** O bishop, judge with authority like God, yet receive those who repent, for God is a God of mercy. Rebuke those who sin. Warn those who have not turned back… [continues online] **read ›**

37 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 7) “same is the case of him who without cause is separated by his bishop… [continues online] **read ›**

38 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 12, page 5** “he who sins after his baptism, unless he repent and forsake his sins, shall be condemned to hell-fire… [continues online] **read ›**

39 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) “30:6 You shall confess your sins unto the Lord your God… [continues online] **read ›**

Commodianus, *c. 250–300 AD · source 40*

40 *Writings* (1885 English) “now reap! What! Do you not repent… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · sources 41–42*

41 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 1) afterwards, when he betook himself to the hangman's rope, he showed that he had not brought it to a complete birth, because remorse… [continues online] **read ›**

42 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 5) “forth therefore fruits meet for repentance. From all this, then, you ought to see how weighty a matter it is for man to have freedom of will, However, let my… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 43–46*

43 *Divine Institutes* 24 **Quote 3, page 2** “on a journey, those who have followed a wandering path were allowed to correct their error by repentance, rashness would be more easily corrected." But it is completely allowed. For… [continues online] **read ›**

44 *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 67 (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** “the last remedy is this, that we have recourse to repentance, which has not the least place among the virtues, because it is a correction of oneself… [continues online] **read ›**

45 *Divine Institutes* 17 (1885 English; on point 4) “being desirous of promoting our life and salvation in accordance with His own goodness, in that circumcision He has set before us repentance, that if we lay open our hearts… [continues online] **read ›**

46 *Divine Institutes* 13 (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** “to repent is nothing else than to profess and to affirm that one will sin no more… [continues online] **read ›**

Peter of Alexandria, *c. 300–311 AD · sources 47–51*

47 *Canonical Epistle* (on point 7) since they escaped the notice of their persecutors by doing this, let a penalty of six months of penance be imposed on them. For in this way they will profit… [continues online] **read ›**

48 *Canonical Epistle* **Quote 10, page 4** “as for those who have suffered none of these things, and have shown no fruit of faith, but… [continues online] **read ›**

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49 *Canonical Epistle* (1885 English; on point 5) “then looked towards repentance, their case the parable of the fig-tree in the Gospels will exactly suit… [continues online] **read ›**

50 *Canonical Epistle* (1885 English; on point 7) “them, he says, a period of six months will suffice for penance… [continues online] **read ›**

51 *Canonical Epistle* (on point 7) since they committed this very grievous fall. And although perhaps at first, when they came in repentance, they were not received, yet they had not gone on to sacrifice to… [continues online] **read ›**

Anonymous · *sources 52–54*

52 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 “reason cut off from salvation. Rather, whenever they came to a right mind, they obtained through repentance a sound hope of salvation, especially when they received the Holy Spirit, by… [continues online] **read ›**

53 *Treatise Against the Heretic Novatian* 1 (1885 English; on point 7) “us give our full confession, since the powers of heaven rejoice over our repentance, all the angels rejoice, and Christ also rejoices, who once again with full and merciful moderation… [continues online] **read ›**

54 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 “heretics, but even among those who are established in schism. And for that reason, those who repent and are amended by the teaching of the truth, and by their own… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 55*

55 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 3** “away Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *121 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

56 **Genesis 22:15** An angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, **read ›**

57 **Exodus 10:17** Now therefore forgive my sin this once more, and pray to the Lord your God, and let him take this death away from me.” **read ›**

58 **Exodus 32:30** On the next day Moses said to the people, “You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to God, so that I may make atonement for your sin.” **read ›**

59 **Leviticus 2:12** You shall bring them to the Lord as firstfruits, but they shall not be brought up on the altar for a pleasing aroma to the Lord. **read ›**

60 **Leviticus 5:5** then he shall confess the sin concerning the things in which he has sinned by that sin. **read ›**

61 **Leviticus 5:6** And for what he has trespassed against the Lord, for the sin which he has sinned, he shall bring a female from the sheep, a lamb, or a female goat from the goats, as a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for him for his sin which he has sinned, and the sin shall be forgiven him. **read ›**

62 **Leviticus 5:10** And the second he shall make a whole burnt offering, as is fitting. So the priest shall make atonement for his sin which he has sinned, and it shall be forgiven him. **read ›**

63 **Leviticus 5:13** And the priest shall make atonement for him for his sin which he has sinned in any one of these things, and it shall be forgiven him. What is left shall belong to the priest, like the sacrifice of fine flour.’” **read ›**

64 **Leviticus 5:16** What he has sinned in the holy things he shall repay, and he shall add the fifth part to it and give it to the priest; and the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering, and it shall be forgiven him. **read ›**

65 **Leviticus 19:22** The priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering before the Lord for the sin that he sinned, and the sin that he sinned shall be forgiven him. **read ›**

66 **Leviticus 19:23** When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you plant any tree for food, you shall purge away its uncleanness; for three years its fruit shall be uncleansed to you; it shall not be eaten. **read ›**

67 **Leviticus 23:40** On the first day you shall take the fruit of a beautiful tree, branches of palm trees, leafy branches of trees, willows, and branches of chaste-trees from the brook, to rejoice before the Lord your God seven days in the year. **read ›**

68 **Leviticus 26:40** Then they shall confess their sins and the sins of their fathers, that they transgressed and disregarded me, and that they walked contrary before me, **read ›**

69 **Numbers 5:7** shall confess the sin that he has committed, and shall repay what he owes for the wrong: he shall repay the principal and add its fifth part to it, and shall repay it to the one against whom he trespassed. **read ›**

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70 **Numbers 14:18** ‘The Lord is long-suffering, great in mercy, and true, taking away lawlessness and unrighteousness and sins; yet he will by no means acquit the guilty, repaying the sins of fathers upon children to the third and fourth generation.’ **read ›**

71 **Numbers 14:19** Forgive the sin of this people according to your great mercy, just as you have been gracious to them from Egypt until now.” **read ›**

72 **1 Samuel 15:25** Now, please take away my sin, and turn back with me, and I will worship the Lord your God.” **read ›**

73 **1 Kings 8:47** and they turn their hearts in the land to which they were carried away, and turn back in the land of their exile, and plead with you, saying, ‘We have sinned, we have done unrighteously, we have acted lawlessly,’ **read ›**

74 **2 Chronicles 6:37** and they turn their heart in their land to which they were carried away, and also turn and plead with you in their captivity, saying, ‘We have sinned, we have acted lawlessly, we have done unrighteously,’ **read ›**

75 **2 Chronicles 7:14** and my people, on whom my name is called, are put to shame, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will be gracious to their sins, and I will heal their land. **read ›**

76 **Psalms 2:6** “But I have been made king by him on Zion, his holy mountain, **read ›**

77 **Psalms 32:5** I made my sin known, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my iniquity against myself to the Lord”; and you forgave the ungodliness of my heart. Pause. (Septuagint Psalm 31:5 (Psalm 32:5 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

78 **Psalms 38:18** For I will declare my iniquity, and be anxious over my sin. (Septuagint Psalm 37:19 (Psalm 38:18 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

79 **Psalms 51:3** For I know my iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. (Septuagint Psalm 50:5 (Psalm 51:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

80 **Psalms 51:17** A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; a broken and humbled heart God will not despise. (Septuagint Psalm 50:19 (Psalm 51:17 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

81 **Psalms 65:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

82 **Proverbs 28:13** He who covers his own ungodliness will not prosper, but he who sets forth rebukes will be loved. **read ›**

83 **Ecclesiastes 10:4** If the spirit of the one in power rises up against you, do not leave your place; for healing will put an end to great sins. **read ›**

84 **Isaiah 55:7** let the ungodly forsake his ways, and the lawless man his counsels; and let him return to the Lord, and he shall receive mercy, for he shall abundantly forgive your sins. **read ›**

85 **Jeremiah 3:13** Only know your unrighteousness, that you have acted ungodly against the Lord your God, and scattered your ways to foreigners under every leafy tree, and you did not obey my voice, says the Lord. **read ›**

86 **Jeremiah 14:20** We know, O Lord, our sins, the unrighteousness of our fathers, for we have sinned before you. **read ›**

87 **Jeremiah 18:13** Therefore thus says the Lord: Ask now among the nations, who has heard such very dreadful things as the virgin of Israel has done? **read ›**

88 **Jeremiah 31:1** At that time, said the Lord, I will be God to the family of Israel, and they shall be my people. (Septuagint Jeremiah 38:1 (Jeremiah 31:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

89 **Jeremiah 31:5** For you have planted vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; plant, and praise. (Septuagint Jeremiah 38:5 (Jeremiah 31:5 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

90 **Jeremiah 50:3** For a nation has come up against her from the north; it will make her land a desolation, and there will be no one dwelling in it, from man to beast. (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:3 (Jeremiah 50:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

91 **Jeremiah 50:11** Because you rejoiced and boasted as you plundered my inheritance, because you leaped about like calves in the grass and butted like bulls, (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:11 (Jeremiah 50:11 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

92 **Lamentations 1:7** Zain. Jerusalem remembered the days of her humiliation and of her rejection, all her desirable things that were from days of old, when her people fell into the hand of the oppressor, and there was none to help her; her enemies saw it and laughed at her dwelling. **read ›**

93 **Lamentations 1:8** Heth. Jerusalem has sinned a sin; therefore she has become a thing tossed about; all who honored her have humbled her, for they have seen her shame; and she herself groaned and turned backward. **read ›**

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94 **Lamentations 1:12** Lamed. All you who pass by on the way, turn and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which has come upon me; the Lord, who spoke in me, has humbled me in the day of the anger of his wrath. **read ›**

95 **Lamentations 1:13** Mem. From his height he has sent fire; into my bones he has brought it down; he has spread a net for my feet; he has turned me back; he has made me desolate, in pain all the day. **read ›**

96 **Daniel 5:11** There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the Spirit of God; and in the days of your father watchfulness and understanding were found in him; and King Nebuchadnezzar your father appointed him chief of the enchanters, magicians, Chaldeans, and gazarenes, **read ›**

97 **Daniel 11:30** And the Kittim who go out shall come against him, and he shall be humbled and turn back, and he shall be enraged against the holy covenant; and he shall act, and turn back, and take notice of those who have forsaken the holy covenant. **read ›**

98 **Hosea 7:3** In their wickedness they gladdened kings, and in their lies rulers. **read ›**

99 **Joel 2:13** and tear your hearts and not your garments." And turn to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, long-suffering and abundant in mercy, and he relents from evils. **read ›**

100 **Amos 3:15** I will tear down and strike the house with colonnades together with the summer house; and the ivory houses shall perish, and many other houses shall be added to them, says the Lord. **read ›**

101 **Amos 4:5** And they read the law outside, and called for confessions; proclaim that the children of Israel have loved these things, says the Lord. **read ›**

102 **Amos 5:3** Therefore thus says the Lord God: The city out of which a thousand went forth, a hundred shall be left; and out of which a hundred went forth, ten shall be left to the house of Israel. **read ›**

103 **Micah 7:3** they ready their hands for evil; the ruler asks, and the judge has spoken peaceful words; it is the desire of his soul; **read ›**

104 **Habakkuk 1:12** Are you not from the beginning, O Lord God, my Holy One? And we shall certainly not die. O Lord, you have appointed it for judgment, and he has formed me to rebuke his discipline. **read ›**

105 **Habakkuk 2:12** Woe to him who builds a city with blood, and establishes a city by unrighteousness. **read ›**

106 **Habakkuk 2:13** Are not these things from the Lord Almighty? And many peoples have failed in the fire, and many nations have lost heart. **read ›**

107 **Tobit 2:6** and I remembered the prophecy of Amos, as he said, "Your feasts shall be turned into mourning, and all your gladness into lament." **read ›**

108 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:15** For the fruit of good labors is glorious, and the root of sound judgment never fails. **read ›**

109 **Wisdom of Solomon 4:5** The unfinished branches will be broken off, and their fruit will be useless, unripe to eat, and fit for nothing. **read ›**

110 **Wisdom of Solomon 4:20** They will come in dread when their sins are reckoned up, and their lawless deeds will convict them to their face. **read ›**

111 **Wisdom of Solomon 5:3** They will say to themselves, repenting, and groaning in anguish of spirit: "This is the one whom we once laughed at and made a proverb of taunting— **read ›**

112 **Wisdom of Sirach 4:26** Do not be ashamed to confess your sins, and do not force the current of a river. **read ›**

113 **Wisdom of Sirach 8:5** Do not insult a man who turns from sin; remember that we are all under penalty. **read ›**

114 **Wisdom of Sirach 17:24** Yet to those who repent he has granted a way back, and he has encouraged those whose endurance was failing. **read ›**

115 **Wisdom of Sirach 17:25** Turn back to the Lord and forsake your sins; make your prayer before his face and lessen your offense. **read ›**

116 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:21** Before you fall sick, humble yourself, and in the time of sins, show your turning back. **read ›**

117 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:1** My child, have you sinned? Do not do so again, and pray concerning your former sins. **read ›**

118 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:6** He who hates correction is in the footsteps of the sinner, but he who fears the Lord will turn back in his heart. **read ›**

119 **Wisdom of Sirach 23:5** and turn desire away from me. **read ›**

120 **Wisdom of Sirach 24:19** Come to me, you who desire me, and be filled with my fruits. **read ›**

121 **Wisdom of Sirach 27:6** The fruit of a tree shows how it has been tended; so the expression of a thought shows the heart of a man. **read ›**

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122 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:2** Forgive your neighbor the wrong he has done, and then, when you pray, your sins will be released. **read ›**

123 **Wisdom of Sirach 31:25** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

124 **Wisdom of Sirach 37:17** The trace of a change of heart: **read ›**

125 **Wisdom of Sirach 38:10** Put away trespass, and direct your hands rightly, and cleanse your heart from all sin. **read ›**

126 **Wisdom of Sirach 44:16** Enoch pleased the Lord and was taken away, an example of repentance to the generations. **read ›**

127 **Wisdom of Sirach 50:21** And he bowed down in worship a second time, to show forth the blessing from the Most High. **read ›**

128 **Baruch 1:5** And they wept and fasted and prayed before the Lord. **read ›**

129 **Baruch 1:17** because we have sinned before the Lord, **read ›**

130 **Baruch 4:28** For as your mind was set on going astray from God, so turn back and seek him ten times more. **read ›**

131 **2 Maccabees 4:37** Antiochus was grieved at heart and moved to pity, and he wept because of the self-control and great discipline of the man who had died. **read ›**

132 **2 Maccabees 10:4** When they had done this, they fell on their faces and begged the Lord that they might never again fall into such evils, but that if they should ever sin, they might be disciplined by him with gentleness, and not be handed over to blasphemous and barbaric nations. **read ›**

133 **2 Maccabees 12:42** and they turned to pleading, asking that the sin that had been committed might be wholly blotted out. And the noble Judas urged the multitude to keep themselves free from sin, since they had seen with their own eyes what had happened because of the sin of those who had fallen. **read ›**

134 **3 Maccabees 2:24** When in time he had recovered himself, though he had been rebuked, he by no means came to feel remorse, but departed with bitter threats. **read ›**

135 **3 Maccabees 6:22** Then the king's anger was changed into pity and tears over what he had plotted before. **read ›**

136 **1 Enoch 1:7** The earth shall be split apart, torn by a crack, and all that is on the earth shall perish, and there shall be judgment upon all. **read ›**

137 **1 Enoch 1:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

138 **1 Enoch 1:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

139 **1 Enoch 13:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

140 **1 Enoch 22:10** And so this one was created for sinners, when they die and are buried in the earth and judgment has not come upon them in their lifetime. **read ›**

141 **1 Enoch 25:4** And as for this tree of fragrance, no flesh has the right to touch it until the great judgment, when there is vengeance on all and completion forever; then it shall be given to the righteous and holy. **read ›**

142 **Matthew 3:6** They were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. **read ›**

143 **Matthew 3:8** Therefore produce fruit worthy of repentance! **read ›**

144 **Matthew 3:10** Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down, and cast into the fire. **read ›**

145 **Matthew 7:16** By their fruits you will know them. Do you gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles? **read ›**

146 **Matthew 7:17** Even so, every good tree produces good fruit, but the corrupt tree produces evil fruit. **read ›**

147 **Matthew 12:33** Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree corrupt and its fruit corrupt; for the tree is known by its fruit. **read ›**

148 **Mark 1:4** John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins. **read ›**

149 **Mark 2:19** Jesus said to them, "Can the groomsmen fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. **read ›**

150 **Luke 3:3** He came into all the region around the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for remission of sins, **read ›**

151 **Luke 3:8** Therefore produce fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say among yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father;' for I tell you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones! **read ›**

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152 **Luke 3:9** Even now the ax also lies at the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." **read ›**

153 **Luke 6:44** For each tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. **read ›**

154 **Luke 12:11** When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, do not be anxious how or what you will answer or what you will say; **read ›**

155 **Luke 24:47** and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **read ›**

156 **John 20:23** If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone's sins, they have been retained." **read ›**

157 **Acts 2:38** Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

158 **Acts 3:19** Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, **read ›**

159 **Acts 8:22** Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to God that perhaps the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. **read ›**

160 **Acts 13:24** after John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to Israel before Jesus' coming. **read ›**

161 **Acts 13:38** Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you; **read ›**

162 **Acts 18:5** When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. **read ›**

163 **Acts 19:3** He said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." **read ›**

164 **Acts 19:4** Paul said, "John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Christ Jesus." **read ›**

165 **Acts 20:21** testifying to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faithfulness toward our Lord Jesus. **read ›**

166 **Acts 26:20** but declared first to them of Damascus, at Jerusalem, and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, doing works worthy of repentance. **read ›**

167 **Romans 14:20** Do not tear down God's work for the sake of food. All things are indeed clean, but it is evil for the person who eats in a way that involves stumbling. **read ›**

168 **1 Corinthians 1:5** that in everything you were enriched in him, in all speech and all knowledge, **read ›**

169 **1 Corinthians 1:17** For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be emptied of its power. **read ›**

170 **2 Corinthians 7:8** For though I grieved you with my letter, I do not regret it, though I did regret it. For I see that my letter made you grieve, though just for a while. **read ›**

171 **2 Corinthians 7:9** I now rejoice, not that you were grieved, but that you were grieved to repentance. For you were grieved in a godly way, that you might suffer loss by us in nothing. **read ›**

172 **2 Corinthians 7:10** For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, which brings no regret. But the sorrow of the world produces death. **read ›**

173 **2 Corinthians 7:11** For behold, this very sorrow in a godly way—what earnestness it produced in you, what defense, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what vindication! In everything you showed yourselves pure in the matter. **read ›**

174 **Colossians 1:14** in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins. **read ›**

175 **James 4:9** Lament, mourn, and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. **read ›**

176 **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. **read ›**

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ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *107 verses, by reference*

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Exodus 20:7

Numbers 19:9

1 Samuel 15:11

1 Kings 18:33

Job 5:17

Psalms 1:3 · 51:1 · 94:12 · 119:71

Proverbs 11:5

Song of Solomon 1:4

Isaiah 1:18 · 35:3

Jeremiah 18:11

Ezekiel 18:20 · 36:25

Daniel 7:13 · 7:22

Jonah 3:9 · 3:10

Malachi 4:5

Matthew 3:7 · 4:10 · 5:28 · 5:31 · 5:32 · 5:42 · 6:12 · 6:34 · 8:4 · 10:22 · 10:32 · 12:34 · 18:10 · 18:17 · 19:3 · 19:6 · 19:9 · 19:17

Mark 1:8 · 14:27

Luke 5:16 · 6:22 · 6:30 · 6:37 · 10:18 · 10:19 · 12:8 · 12:48 · 16:18 · 18:10 · 22:31

John 1:13 · 1:18 · 1:26 · 2:13 · 3:9 · 8:39 · 8:44 · 13:27 · 14:6

Acts 4:12 · 13:22 · 19:2

Romans 3:15 · 8:15 · 8:29 · 10:4 · 10:10

1 Corinthians 4:4 · 6:2 · 7:10 · 7:11 · 8:1 · 10:13 · 12:26

2 Corinthians 4:8 · 6:3 · 7:1

Ephesians 1:3 · 4:5 · 5:5 · 5:26 · 6:9

Philippians 1:5 · 2:9

1 Thessalonians 4:3 · 5:22

2 Thessalonians 3:14 · 3:15

1 Timothy 1:13 · 1:15

2 Timothy 3:2

Titus 1:16

Hebrews 6:4 · 10:26 · 10:39 · 12:6 · 12:7 · 12:16

James 1:2 · 1:8 · 5:15

1 Peter 1:6

1 John 3:9

Jude 1:23

Revelation 2:23

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Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What did the early Christians believe about repentance?” on May 22, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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