***The Prophet Malachi Was Shocked and Grieved by The Spiritual Blindness of God's People in His Day!***  
(These excerpts are from David Wilkerson of Times Square in New York City.   
November 11, 1999 - Part 1)

I want to talk to you about two very important aspects of repentance:   
1. What it requires, and  
2. Its marvelous benefits!

The longer I walk with Jesus, the more I am convinced repentance is not just for sinners, but also for believers. It is not simply a one-time thing, but something God's people are called to do until Jesus returns. And I hope to show you that every Christian who maintains a repentant attitude brings upon his life God's special attention. Indeed, repentance opens up something to us that nothing else can. If we walk before the Lord with a repentant heart, we will be inundated with incredible blessings! But for now, I want to tell you what I believe is absolutely necessary to obtaining a repentant heart.

First of all, this type of heart is soft and pliable. It responds to and acts upon godly reproof. It is tender, easily molded by the Holy Spirit. But the number-one characteristic of a repentant heart - its absolute foundation - is a readiness to acknowledge guilt! It is a willingness to accept blame for wrongdoing - to say, "I am the one, Lord. I have sinned!"

You see, if there is no admitting to sin, there can be no repentance:   
  
"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of..."   
(2 Corinthians 7:10).

If you're not willing to acknowledge you're wrong, you're saying you don't need to repent. You see yourself as having done no wrong in the sight of God.

Before Pilate released Jesus into the hands of murderous priests and elders, he wanted the world to know it wasn't his fault. So he called for a basin of water, dipped his hands into it and absolved himself before the angry mob. He declared himself innocent of Christ's blood:  
  
"When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it"   
(Matthew 27:24).

The phrase "See ye to it" here means, "Make sure you all know my hands are clean. I have done nothing wrong. I am clean from all guilt!" Of course, Pilate's hands were not clean; he was about to hand over the Son of God to murderers. This kind of thinking shuts a person off from any possibility of repentance. Had a prophet approached Pilate the next day, preaching, "Repent or perish!" the ruler would have been aghast. "Who, me?" he'd have said. "I've done nothing wrong. I have washed my hands of everything. How can I repent when I haven't sinned?"

John writes: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.... If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us" (1 John 1:8, 10).

Now, I was raised in the church, and during my lifetime I have seen many churches split in two. Each party would make an enemy of the other, until finally one group would leave and move down the road to start another church. Then the two parties would hurl curses at each other, gossiping, ridiculing, spreading vicious rumors.

If you were to listen to the justifications each party made, you'd be amazed that no one is to blame. No Christian on either side admits to any wrongdoing. Instead, they look on each other as "the enemy" and wait for God to curse and judge them. They say to their opponents, "You just wait. When people in your church start dropping dead, then you'll know who's right!"

But the truth is, both groups anger the Lord. Like Pilate, neither is in a position to repent - so they end up under His wrath! They become a congregation of the dead, living in a spiritual wilderness. Their families are troubled. They are always at odds with themselves. And it's all because nobody will accept any blame! No one says, "I'm the one who needs to be dealt with. I need prayer!"

As we have just finished our 10 days of fasting and praying, I believe our hearts are still “raw” from the reality that our hearts were touched by Holy Spirit during that week and even hopefully up to now. Repentance is an action of the heart! This must be our posture all year round, all day long, and all our life.

An attitude of the heart, making our hearts always tender and always hungry for His nearness! A repentant heart is a heart insulated from the pride of life for a godly lifestyle!