

2003 · Seminars' retreat Aug 29-31

④

## Repentance.

"Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand."

### dictionary definitions:

to repent v.i. to grieve for sins committed or for things sinfully left undone.

— to feel extreme regret for what one has done or forgotten or omitted to do. "HE REPENTED OF HIS DECISION TO LEND THE BOY HIS CAR."

— to change one's mind and regret the original decision. "HE THINKS HE HAS BEEN CLEVER, BUT HE WILL LIVE TO REPENT."

v.t. to think with contrition of  
or do penance for.

"TO REPENT ONE'S SINS"

French: repentir

- METANOIEIN - to repent
- EPISTREPHEIN - to turn around

John Climacus: a contract with  
God for a second life.

- a decision for ~~God~~ good.

Origen: satiety of sin - the  
crucial moment that conditions  
the return to God.

- the fear of God is the  
"beginning of wisdom."

AUTOMATOKRITOS LOGISMOS -  
self condemning thought.

Repentance = also called:

penance, second baptism,  
conversion, confession,  
opening up, baptism of tears,  
absolution, reconciliation,  
tablet of salvation.

Metanoia - change of heart -  
poklony should be perceived  
as an expression of  
repentance - e.g. at teach.  
hosbody, pomylui

METANOËO - meta - beyond, after  
noeo - to perceive  
nous - mind, seat of moral  
reflection.

- abandoning of former deeds  
and grieving over them.

- redirecting the heart — "where

your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

## PRODIGAL SON IS CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF REPENTANCE

- A struggle to perceive the truth about ourselves, to turn away from the past and keep ourselves turned toward God.

Ancient Greeks: know yourself

- tradition - name change upon becoming a monk.

Metanoia - 'a slow transformation of the nous.

e. of a sudden reversal

Divine grace crucial <sup>combined</sup> with our cooperation

← e.g.

## DEFINITIONS BY ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

### Repentance is:

- the renewal of baptism
- a contract with God for a fresh start in life.
- repentance: shopping for humility.
- ever distrustful of bodily comfort
- critical awareness and a sure watch over oneself
- reconciliation with the Lord.
- the purification of conscience.

# The 3 RENUNCIATIONS

① first renunciation - body-soma  
physical -

- what does not belong to us
- things which are external to us i.e. external possessions

big problem in our culture -

We must emphasize what we are rather than what we have (consumer culture)

## DYING TO THE WORLD

- the first renunciation is the abandonment of the things of the world, which is produced by assenting to the science of God.

## ② Second Renunciation

SOUL- PSYCHE - psychological  
- what does belong to us.

The second renunciation is the abandonment of evil, achieved by the grace of God combined with the effort of man.

renunciation of internal possessions — habits, habitual desires and negative emotions (esp. anger).



### ③ Third renunciation

noetic-nous - conscience - (mind, intellect)  
- eye of the soul  
"If your eye be sound..."

the third renunciation is the separation from ignorance.

Gnosis - true knowledge-  
EXPERIENCE of Truth

leads to THEORIA - THEOSIS-  
DEIFICATION-

- renunciation of error -  
distorted thinking -  
monitor educational influences -

- detached from our point of  
view & replaces with  
God's point of view.



APATHEIA - - not apathy -  
but DETACHMENT from  
of our own physical,  
of psychological and noetic  
attachments.

PASSIONLESSNESS as in  
absence of selfish attachments

IT IS NOT JUST NON-FEELING  
AS FOUND IN BUDDHISM -

Rather it is so centered on  
God that gradually we  
don't even notice our  
former selfish attachments

This detachment from selfishness  
comes only from the grace  
of God

Christianity is Therapy -  
it is medicine.

Jesus Christ is the physician  
of souls and bodies.

Jesus Christ cures all  
infirmities

He cures death-ignorance-sin

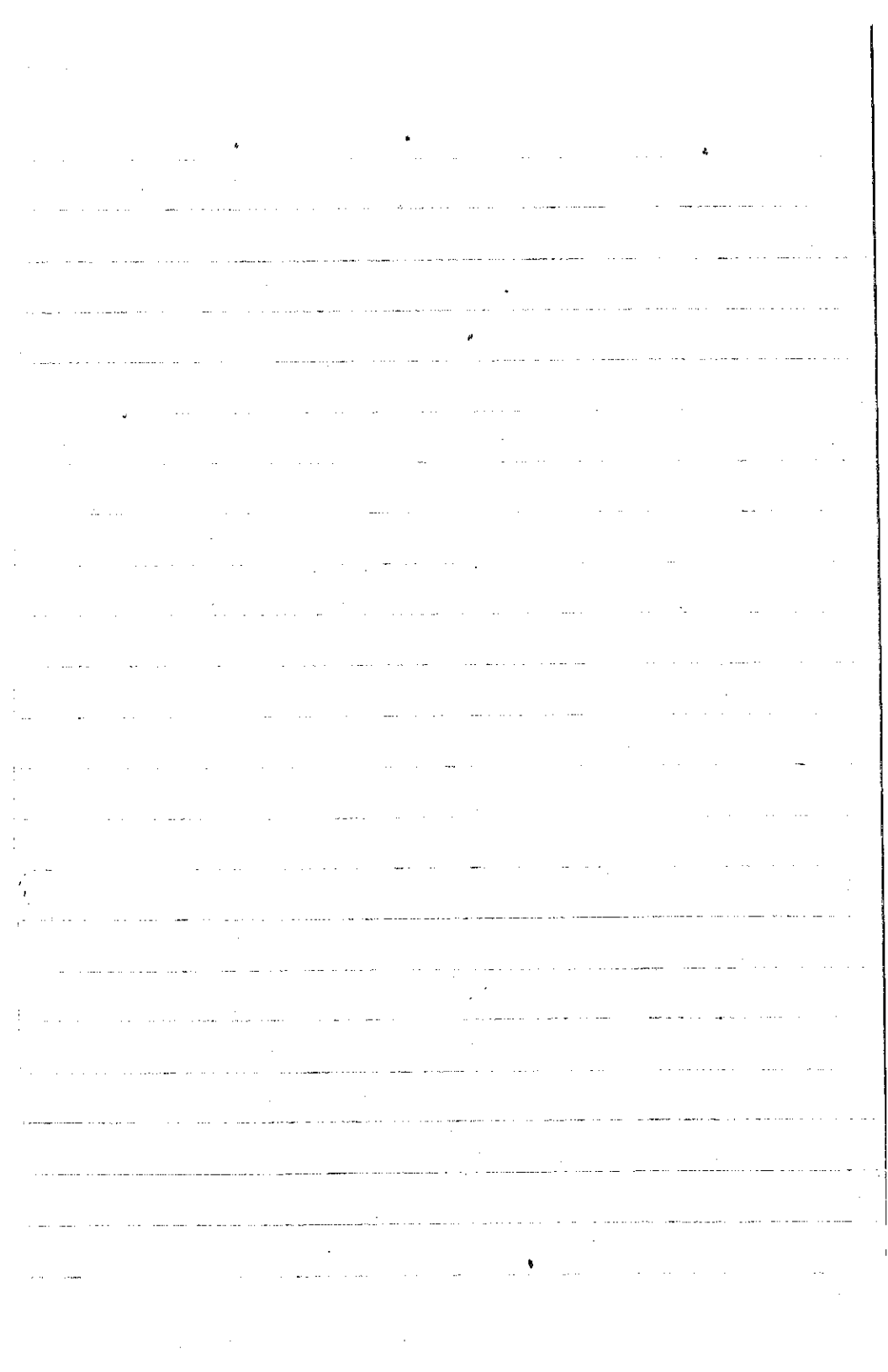
In Jesus Christ we find

HEALING  
RESTORATION  
SALVATION

This is our Christian Life  
which begins with repentance  
and baptism -

Our purpose!

THE ACQUISITION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



# ① Faith

Trust, confidence

- Complete acceptance of a truth which cannot be demonstrated or proved by the process of logical thought
- a religion based upon this
- The virtue by which a Christian believes in the revealed truths of God.

expressions: In good faith - with honest intentions

to keep faith with: to remain loyal to

Scholastic - St. Thomas: the act of the intellect when it assents to divine Truth under the influence of the will moved by God through grace.

(This is a late development precipitated by the need to deal with the protestant reformation.)

The biblical ~~is~~ idea of faith is not so severely intellectual, but there is certainly intellectual content.

Biblical faith is a more comprehensive psychic act.

Hebrew. AMAN - AMEN -

to be firm or solid and, hence, to be true.

(Coptic liturgy. - This is true. Amen)

to be trustworthy - a person is sure or reliable (a faithful servant)  
- thing is true or genuine - (a faithful copy ---)

- to accept something firm, sure, true, trustworthy, dependable

- one accepts a word or report as true.

Greek. (NT) pistis - pistero -  
trust, to show confidence,  
to accept as true

Jesus demands faith

Faith saves

Faith can move mountains.

The content of this faith is not stated in the synoptic gospels

Put simply it is the acceptance of Jesus Himself as being what He claims to be.

Implicit in this acceptance is a conjunction with the power which He exhibits in His own person — this is the faith which moves mountains.

The faith of the Gospels, like Old Testament faith, is not simply trust and confidence, but trust and confidence which arise from faith, which, in turn, is the acceptance of a person and His claims.

Acts of the Apostles — to become a Christian is to believe.

In Acts the object of this belief is in the preaching of the apostles →

This belief is in THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. — belief that one is saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus.

St. Paul — Faith joined with baptism is what renders a man righteous.

- a life of crucifixion with Christ; so that Christ lives in him.
- faith comes through the preaching of witnesses of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- Faith is not just an acceptance of a body of truths, but a surrender to a person.



Heb" - the assurance of things hoped, the proof of things unseen.

JOHN - - faith in Jesus.

- John tends to be more explicit
- faith that Jesus came from God.
- that He is the Holy One of God
- that He is the Messiah.
- faith ~~of~~ in the words of Jesus.
- Faith in the preaching about Jesus.

For John. faith in the Son brings life.

Many examples of faith throughout salvation history.

NOAH - built ark - huge task - subject to ridicule.

ABRAHAM. left his country  
- asked to sacrifice his son - who was given in fulfillment of God's promise to him.

MOSES. believed that God would make good on His promise to give the Promised Land.

JOSHUA. faith that God would help in the conquest of Canaan.

- Mary. believes message from Gabriel.

Joseph. believes that God is working despite what situation looked like on a purely human level.

APOSTLES - believe in Jesus - witnesses  
to the resurrection.

MARTYRS - they were so  
convinced of the truth of the  
resurrection that they died  
rather than renounce the  
truth and Jesus Christ.

SAINTS throughout the AGES -  
especially ASCETICS - either  
they're crazy or they know  
something - you have to  
account for them.

Actually FAITH is a lot more common than you think - it is, in fact, at the basis of all human affairs.

(Cyril of Jerusalem - talks of this in his catechetical lectures V 3)

We run into many different FAITHS or BELIEFS today in our pluralistic or multicultural society: e.g.

MATERIALISM - only matter is real

Hedonism - belief that pleasure is the ultimate good.

ATHEISM - belief that God does not exist - takes a lot of faith

Hinduism - only the soul is real.

BUDDHISM. the soul does not exist; therefore, nothing is real.

RATIONALISM. belief that human reason is the source of all truth.

SCIENTISM. belief that science will eventually solve all problems and give us all the answers.

many other views of reality and beliefs about the meaning & purpose of life.

DARWINISM -  
EVOLUTIONISM -  
MARXISM -  
FEMINISM - etc.

Christianity  
Hinduism | Material  
Buddhism

CHRISTIANITY - matter and spirit are real ~~so~~ and are both to be saved. They are both good because created by God. The resurrection is true. Salvation is found only in Jesus Christ and in His Church which is His body.

If the resurrection really did happen as over 500 first hand witnesses said it did, then Jesus is everything He claimed to be, He has accomplished all that He said He would accomplish and His promises will come true. Every word & action of Jesus is of the utmost importance & significance.

We believe that this is basic & ultimate reality for

everyone, but we cannot  
coerce.

Don't be bullied by the  
very unfair prejudice +  
discrimination in our society.

Why is it OK to discuss  
philosophical + ideological  
beliefs in the public forum,  
but not religious beliefs?

Why this discrimination  
against religious beliefs  
but not against these  
other beliefs.

Whether philosophical, ideological  
or religious convictions -  
they are all beliefs and they  
are all ultimately based  
on faith.

Everyone has to start with an  
assumption or presumption

Our faith which we believe to be alone in being able to guarantee survival of death is intended for everyone, although everyone does not accept the invitation.

Christianity is the ability to survive death.



