

Cleansing and Repentance

1 John 1:7-9 (NASB) *...but **if** we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son **cleanses us** from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and **to cleanse us** from all unrighteousness.*

Cleansing

1 John 1:7... **IF** we walk in the light...the blood of Jesus His Son **cleanses** us from all sin....(**v. 9**) *If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to **cleanse us** from all unrighteousness.*

1. Don't miss God's **ifs**! Some of God's promises are **conditional**. Confession of our sins is like taking a daily shower. Regular cleansing is vital. And God promises that his "**mercies** that are new every morning..."

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NASB) *Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² **fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith....***

2. This is a picture of **direction**, not merely of confession and cleansing but also **correction** and **direction**.
3. Repentance requires a change of direction.
 - a. **Repentance = conviction + confession + a change in direction.**
 - b. To change tomorrow we must disrupt today.

++ Compared to ***confession*** you might say ***repentance*** is deeper, more thorough going, and longer lasting. Repentance requires confronting what we don't want to be or do and embracing a change of direction. Like confession, *repentance is relational*. Confession is about correction and cleansing. While repentance passes through confession, it continues to call and empower us to a deeper walk with God. Jesus authors and finishes our faith (**Heb. 12:2**). Repentance is *ongoing, deep, and powerfully relational*. Repentance is not just cleansing us from our sins; it is cultivating a more personal and intimate walk with God.

In the Bible , **repentance** is the **human act of turning away from sin and toward God**. **Cleansing** is the **divine, transformative act of God removing the defilement and guilt of that sin** through the blood of Jesus Christ. **Cleansing** and **repentance (confession)** work together but they are not the same thing.

❖ 1. REPENTANCE

Although the word *repent* isn't used directly in verse 9, **confession** implies repentance. They are meant to stick together but our cultural usage is allowing them to slip apart.

What does repentance mean:

- To acknowledge and agree with God about your sin
- To feel genuine sorrow for it
- To turn away from it

The Greek word translated "confess" (homologeō) means *to say the same thing*—to agree with God that what you did is sin.

Key point:

REPENTANCE IS YOUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S CONVICTION.

It involves:

- Humility
- Turning of the heart
- Willingness to change

❖ 2. CLEANSING

CLEANSING IS WHAT **GOD DOES** IN RESPONSE TO YOUR CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE.

What does cleansing mean:

- Removal of guilt
- Moral purification
- Restoration of fellowship with God

In **1 John 1:7**, cleansing comes through **the blood of Jesus**—meaning through Christ’s sacrificial death.

Key point: CLEANSING IS **GOD’S RESPONSE** TO YOUR CONFESSION.

It involves:

- Forgiveness
- Purification
- Restoration

The Difference in Simple Terms

Repentance (Confession)	Cleansing
What you do	What God does
Turning from sin	Removing sin’s guilt and stain
Change of heart and direction	Change of spiritual condition
Leads to forgiveness	Results from forgiveness

Repentance and Cleansing

Repentance and cleansing are distinct but are intended to be intimately linked realities in the Christian life.

1. Repentance: A Change of Heart Toward God

- A **turning from sin**
- A **turning toward God**
- A **change in what you treasure**
 - a. A heart-level transformation where sin loses its appeal because Christ becomes more satisfying.

- b. True repentance involves:
 - Sorrow over sin
 - Hatred of sin
 - A renewed desire for holiness
 - c. Repentance is something we do, enabled by God's grace.
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2. **Cleansing: God's Objective Work Through Christ**

- a. Cleansing is:
 - The **removal of guilt**
 - The **covering of sin by Christ's blood**
 - **Restoration of fellowship with God**
 - b. He stresses that cleansing is grounded in:
 - The finished work of Christ on the cross
 - God's justice being satisfied
 - c. When **1 John 1:9** says God is "*faithful and just*" to forgive and cleanse: **God is just to forgive because Christ already paid the penalty.**
 - d. So cleansing is not God overlooking sin — it is God applying Christ's finished work to the believer
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3. **Repentance does not earn cleansing.**

- a. Repentance is the evidence of genuine faith.
 - b. Cleansing is the guaranteed result of Christ's atonement applied to repentant believers.
 - c. Repentance = the heart turning from treasuring sin
 - d. Cleansing = God removing the guilt and restoring joy
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4. **Ongoing Christian Experience**

- a. Christians still sin.
 - b. Ongoing repentance is part of walking in the light.
 - c. The cross is not re-earned; it is repeatedly relied upon.
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5. **Summarize 1 John 1 this way:**

- a. We confess because we belong to God.
- b. God cleanses because Christ has already secured our forgiveness.