

# The Power Of Repentance Part 4 – The Life Of The Apostle Paul – Study Guide – Feb 22, 2026

## Summary:

This teaching is a compilation of Scripture and explores the transformative nature of repentance through the life and teachings of the Apostle Paul. By juxtaposing Paul's self-righteous past as a persecutor with his later humility, the text illustrates how divine mercy replaces legalistic pride. It highlights Paul's shift from religious zeal to a total reliance on grace, positioning himself as the "foremost of sinners" to serve as an example for others. The collection further emphasizes that true spiritual leadership requires a servant's heart and the rejection of self-promotion. Ultimately, these passages define faith not as a result of human wisdom, but as a commitment to the gospel and the power of God.

## Study Guide:

### I. Definitions of Key Words

- **Repentance:** Defined as **ongoing change** in the present tense; it is the power to deliver an individual from death to life.
- **Pride:** The primary quality of life that **stops a person from repenting**. It is characterized by self-exaltation and trusting in one's own righteousness.
- **Humility:** The **willingness to change** and the heart state required to receive the Kingdom of God.
- **The Way:** The term used to describe the early assemblies of followers of Jesus Christ.
- **Justified:** Being made right before God, as seen in the tax collector who humbled himself.
- **Grace:** God's abundant favor and power that enables service and covers past sin.
- **Mercy:** Compassion shown by God to the undeserving, which Paul highlights twice in the context of his own calling.

### II. Expansion of Key Points

**1. The Biblical Contrast: Pride vs. Humility (Luke 18:9-17)** Jesus taught a parable to those who **trusted in themselves** that they were righteous.

- **The Pharisee:** His prayer was focused on himself, using the word "I" five times. He listed his works—fasting and tithing—while viewing others with contempt.
- **The Tax Collector:** He stood at a distance, unwilling to lift his eyes, beating his breast and crying, "God be **merciful to me the sinner!**"
- **The Verdict:** Jesus stated the tax collector went home **justified**, for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted. He further taught that the kingdom belongs to those who receive it like a **child**.

**2. Saul's History: The "Before" (Galatians 1, Philippians 3, 1 Timothy 1, Acts 22 & 26)** Before his repentance, Saul was a "Pharisee of the Pharisees," deeply entrenched in ancestral traditions.

- **Violent Persecution:** He persecuted the church "beyond measure," trying to **destroy it**. He bound men and women, putting them in prisons, and **cast his vote** for their death.
- **The Foremost Sinner:** Paul later described himself as a **blasphemer, a persecutor, and a violent aggressor**. He claimed by revelation to be the "foremost of all" sinners.
- **Religious Pedigree:** He was circumcised on the eighth day, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews, and found "blameless" regarding the righteousness of the Law.

### **3. The Miraculous Turn: Repentance Instigated by Christ (Acts 9:1-19)**

Saul's repentance was not his own idea; it was **instigated by the Lord** on the road to Damascus.

- **The Encounter:** A light from heaven flashed, and Jesus asked, "Saul, Saul, why are you **persecuting Me?**"
- **The Blindness:** Saul was struck blind for three days, during which he neither ate nor drank but was found **praying**.
- **The Calling of Ananias:** God told Ananias that Saul was a "**chosen instrument**" to bear His name before Gentiles, kings, and Israel, and that he would **suffer** for the name of Christ.

**4. The Nature of Paul's Ministry and Calling** Paul's life post-repentance was defined by God's power rather than his own.

- **Calling and Choosing:** Paul emphasized that **God does the calling**, not man. He was "made a minister" according to a stewardship bestowed by

God.

- **Knowledge vs. Practice:** Knowledge can "puff up," but Paul focused on **practical change**—dying to sin and walking righteously. He exhorted believers to **practice** what they had seen in him.
- **Power in Weakness:** He did not come with "cleverness of speech" or "persuasive words of wisdom," but in a demonstration of the Spirit and power so that faith would rest on **God's power**.

**5. Attributes of a Repentant Life (The "After")** The teaching summarizes Paul's transformed life with these traits:

- **Humility** and confession of past sin.
- **Dependency** on God's strength and forgiveness.
- **Rejection of self-promotion** in favor of promoting Jesus Christ.
- **Gentleness and empathy** toward others in leadership.
- **Sacrificial service** to the body of Christ.
- **Seeing oneself as a servant** (slave of all) rather than a master.

### III. Study Questions

- How do the teaching define the term "repentance"?
- What was the central letter in the word "pride" that the speaker highlighted, and how did this manifest in the Pharisee's prayer?
- According to 1 Timothy 1:15-16, why did Jesus Christ show mercy to Paul, the "foremost" sinner?
- In the road to Damascus record, who instigated the encounter, and what was Saul doing for three days before Ananias arrived?
- What is the danger of chasing knowledge without practical application, according to the teaching?
- How does Mark 10:42-45 define "greatness" in the kingdom of God?

### IV. Answer Key

- **Repentance is ongoing change** in the present tense.
- The central letter is **"I"**. The Pharisee was focused on himself, saying "I thank You," "I am not like other people," "I fast," and "I pay tithes".
- To demonstrate Jesus Christ's **perfect patience** as an example for those

who would believe in Him for eternal life.

- **Jesus Christ instigated it.** Saul was **praying** and fasting (neither eating nor drinking) for three days.
- Knowledge can **puff a person up** and make them prideful; it must be used to help one practically die to sin and walk righteously.
- Greatness is found in being a **servant** and a "**slave of all**," following the example of the Son of Man who came to serve and give His life as a ransom.

## V. Biblical References

- **Luke 18:9-17:** The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector; Children and the Kingdom.
- **Galatians 1:13-14:** Paul's former manner of life in Judaism and persecution of the church.
- **Philippians 3:4-6:** Paul's confidence in the flesh and religious pedigree.
- **1 Timothy 1:12-16:** Paul's gratitude for Christ's mercy to the "foremost" sinner.
- **1 Corinthians 1:9-17:** God's calling into fellowship and reproof of divisions in the church.
- **Acts 22:3-5:** Paul's education under Gamaliel and persecution of "The Way".
- **Acts 26:4-11:** Paul's testimony regarding his life as a Pharisee and his hostility toward Jesus of Nazareth.
- **Acts 9:1-19:** The conversion of Saul on the road to Damascus.
- **Colossians 1:23-29:** Paul as a minister of the mystery and his labor according to God's power.
- **Philippians 4:7-9:** The peace of God and the exhortation to practice what was seen in Paul.
- **Acts 23:6:** Paul's reference to being a son of a Pharisee.
- **1 Corinthians 15:9-10:** Paul as the least of the apostles, transformed by the grace of God.
- **1 Timothy 1:15-16:** (Repeated) Christ Jesus coming to save the foremost of sinners.
- **Philippians 3:4:** (Repeated) Paul's potential for confidence in the flesh.
- **1 Corinthians 2:3-5:** Paul's preaching in weakness and the

demonstration of God's power.

- **Mark 10:42-45:** Leadership in the Kingdom characterized by serving and being a slave of all.

## VI. Exhortations

- **Repentance is Change:** If there is no change in your life, there is no repentance. It is not just a word to respect but a **present-tense application** implement.
- **Get Rid of the "I ":** We must actively work to remove self-centeredness and pride, becoming more **humble and meek** toward the Lord.
- **Focus on the Mission:** Our priority is to declare the **saving gospel of the earthly kingdom** of Jesus Christ, demonstrating His power through our transformed lives.
- **Expect Suffering:** Suffering for the name of Christ is a **calling**, as seen in Paul's life, and something we should mature into rejoicing in.

# From Persecutor to Servant: The Radical Transformation of I

**Before Repentance: Saul of Tarsus**

**LEGALISTIC PEDIGREE**  
A "Hebrew of Hebrews" who relied on his religious pedigree and strict legalistic righteousness.

**VIOLENT AGGRESSOR**  
Zealously persecuted the church "beyond measure," binding and imprisoning men and women to their deaths.

**DRIVEN BY PRIDE**  
A Pharisee focused on "I"; seeking to destroy the name of Jesus through religious authority.

**Comparing the "I-focused" Pharisee to the "Grace-focused" Apostle.**

The Pharisee (Saul)	The Apostle (Paul)
Self-Exaltation	Christ-Promotion
Personal Zeal & Law	Grace & Mercy
Trust in the Flesh	Servant & Minister

**After Repentance: Paul the**

**REPENTANCE AS "CH**  
Transformation instigated by the Paul from an enemy to a chosen

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Viewed himself a of all sinners" ar the apo

**SOLD-OUT!**  
Rejected self-promo a "slave of all," rejoic for the ch