

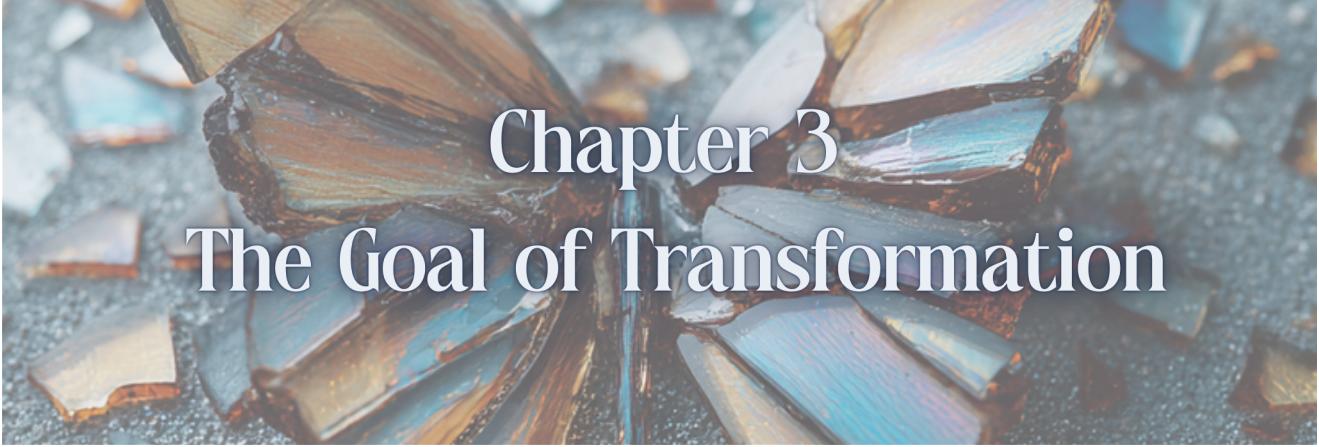
GARY DELAY MINISTRIES

# Transformation Truths

## Chapter 3

Romans 12:2, NKJV: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

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# Chapter 3

## The Goal of Transformation

Let's revisit your upcoming meeting with your boss, spouse, or kid. Okay, now I understand I need transformation, but what is the goal? How do I build relationships of love, trust, and respect with God, my boss, my spouse, my kids, and everyone else? Most books start a journey, but this one begins with the end—the goal of transformation is Repentance. Just like transformation, repentance helps you live better, prosper, and overcome the barriers that hinder relationships of love, trust, and respect. If you walk in repentance—changing your mind and purpose—from all the barriers identified in this book of Transformation Truths, then you can approach your meeting with peace and excitement about what will be accomplished. God wants you to succeed today, right here on earth. He desires you to walk in righteousness as you face the trials of this world, refusing to be influenced by worldly deceptions. As a born-again believer, you are on this journey because you chose to follow Jesus. That choice is powerful because you'll never die, but to receive all the blessings available, you must walk through repentance for any barriers to your relationship with God, your boss, your spouse, your kids, and others.



Sometimes we hear the words, “You need to repent,” but true repentance helps prevent you from falling back into old struggles. Repentance moves you forward because, as the Apostle Paul states, you will *“be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2, NKJV)*. In this chapter, we aim to clarify the goal of transformation: walking in repentance. You need to walk in repentance to maintain a right relationship with God, your boss, your spouse, your kids, and others.

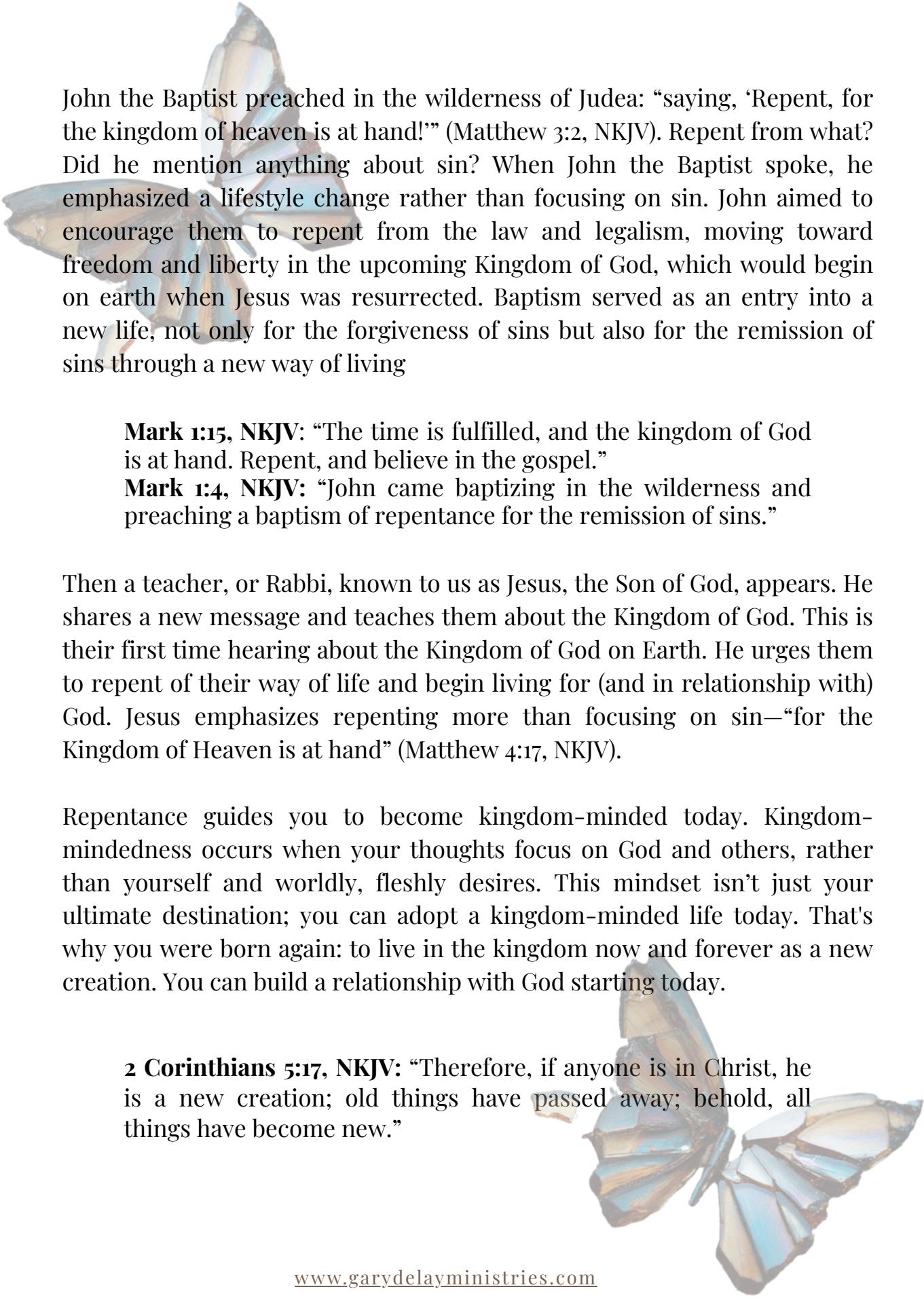
## What is Repentance?

Repentance signifies a new life for Christians, yet some view it as merely admitting guilt and facing condemnation, without realizing they are not truly walking in the spirit of repentance. Traditionally, you repent by asking God for forgiveness and then saying, “I repent in the name of Jesus. Amen.” However, repentance isn’t just a prayer; it involves a change in how you live—turning away from sin and heading in a different direction. It is the work of the Holy Spirit, not something you do alone; it is not an act of self-discipline.

The Eerdman’s Bible Dictionary says repentance, “In its fullest sense, it is a term for a complete change of orientation involving a judgment upon the past and a deliberate redirection for the future.”<sup>ii</sup> Repentance is an act of changing your mind. It’s an action, not just words or a request. While you might see it as an event, repentance involves a lifestyle change that prevents you from returning to a life of sin. When I see people who continue to struggle, I wonder if they have genuinely repented. When you repent, you should be refreshed and at peace.

**Acts 3:19-21, NKJV:** *“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.”*

In nature, you might hesitate to talk about repentance because of feelings of guilt and condemnation. However, that’s not what Jesus meant when he spoke about repentance; he explained that repentance involves living a righteous life (Matthew 4:17). He calls you to change your life. You have progressed on your spiritual journey and received baptism in the Holy Spirit, and now you are meant to start living in the Kingdom of God that has come today. Living in the Kingdom means building an authentic relationship with God and others to receive “righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 14:17, NKJV).



John the Baptist preached in the wilderness of Judea: “saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!’” (Matthew 3:2, NKJV). Repent from what? Did he mention anything about sin? When John the Baptist spoke, he emphasized a lifestyle change rather than focusing on sin. John aimed to encourage them to repent from the law and legalism, moving toward freedom and liberty in the upcoming Kingdom of God, which would begin on earth when Jesus was resurrected. Baptism served as an entry into a new life, not only for the forgiveness of sins but also for the remission of sins through a new way of living

**Mark 1:15, NKJV:** “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

**Mark 1:4, NKJV:** “John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.”

Then a teacher, or Rabbi, known to us as Jesus, the Son of God, appears. He shares a new message and teaches them about the Kingdom of God. This is their first time hearing about the Kingdom of God on Earth. He urges them to repent of their way of life and begin living for (and in relationship with) God. Jesus emphasizes repenting more than focusing on sin—“for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17, NKJV).

Repentance guides you to become kingdom-minded today. Kingdom-mindedness occurs when your thoughts focus on God and others, rather than yourself and worldly, fleshly desires. This mindset isn’t just your ultimate destination; you can adopt a kingdom-minded life today. That’s why you were born again: to live in the kingdom now and forever as a new creation. You can build a relationship with God starting today.

**2 Corinthians 5:17, NKJV:** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

You have the opportunity for repentance today because Jesus finished His work on the cross and declared, “It is finished” (John 19:30, NKJV). The prophet Joel noted that it involves turning to God with all our hearts.

**Joel 2:12-13, NKJV:** “Now, therefore,” says the Lord, ‘Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.’ So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the Lord your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from harming.”

Your goal as a believer is to be fully equipped to live in the Kingdom of God on earth, just as it is in heaven. If a relationship strengthens your connection with God, you can withstand anything in this world and will not be destroyed.

**When walking in repentance, your relationship is now strong with God, your boss, your spouse, and your kids, then any meeting you have will be filled with love, joy, peace, and understanding. Gone are the fear and anxiety of yesterday.**



## When is Repentance Necessary?

When do you truly repent? And how can you tell if you're walking in repentance? It's simple: when you don't go back and repeat the sin. Does repentance save you? No. Remember, repentance is a way of life, but you are constantly battling your flesh. The Apostle Paul described the struggle with our sinful nature.

**Romans 7:15-17, NKJV:** "For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me."

Repentance is a positive force that helps you live a better life. It's challenging to maintain a repentant attitude in a world that embraces sin and influences your behavior. When you repent, the world takes notice because you're not participating in fleshly behaviors. Are you ready to enter that society with repentance behind you? This new, born-again person. Tomorrow morning, as you step out into a world ripe with temptation, your flesh may want to comply with the sin that accompanies it. It can be tempting to say, "I agree," rather than, "No, I don't agree because that's not of God." If you truly repent, you cannot align yourself with sin, as it does not honor God. Instead, you should attune yourself to the Holy Spirit - God's presence within you

**Hebrews 12:5-7, NKJV:** "And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: 'My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.' If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?"



When you repent, you no longer accept the worldview. If I'm repenting, it means I sinned, but now I'm going to change how I live, act, and talk, and I will no longer lead a lifestyle of sin. I'm going to turn away from that old man. You may have been taught that forgiveness takes care of repentance, but forgiveness only prepares you for repentance. Repentance says, "I choose not to sin anymore. I changed my life, and I don't need to do that anymore." People can walk in forgiveness and think it's done, but it's not complete until you go through repentance and "our old man is crucified."

**Romans 6:6, KJV:** "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

## How Do I walk in Repentance?

What leads to repentance and transformation is your relationship with the Holy Spirit. According to Jesus, the Holy Spirit is the one speaking today. If you're not in the right relationship with God the Father, the Holy Spirit will address that first. He is the Spirit of truth (John 4:24).

**John 16:13, NKJV:** "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

The Spirit will express the words of the Father. He's your friend, and He's in you. You are the temple, and the Spirit of God dwells in you, so what's holding you back? The Word of God will set you free. With the help of the Holy Spirit, your thoughts can align with God's, bringing you peace when you make the right choices. He offers you peace and freedom when you move away from the choices you once made.

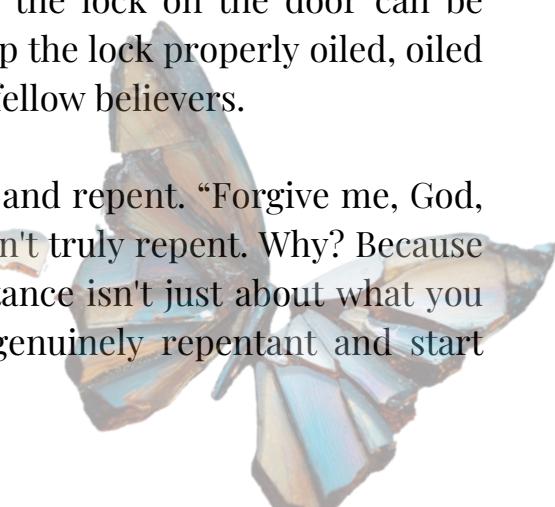
**2 Corinthians 13:14, NKJV:** "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all."



You can't repent if you don't change your thinking about sin. Transformation works the same way; you will be transformed "By the renewing of our mind" to do what? "To prove what is acceptable, perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2, NKJV). Part of repentance is transformation, and part of transformation leads to repentance. All must be transformed and bear good fruit.

**Luke 3:8-9, NKJV:** "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

We are all sinners who fall short of the glory of God. However, it's difficult when you're surrounded by sinners and trying to survive with them; you're less likely to repent because the odds seem stacked against you. That's why the fellowship of the saints is essential; you surround yourself with people who think positively, allowing you not to jump through hoops to survive. It's tough for a born-again believer to be out on the streets trying to get by. People often turn to alcohol, gambling, drugs, porn, or almost anything to avoid worry, depression, and guilt. You need to get out of that environment long enough to be set free. Once you are free and have repented, you can return to that oppressive environment and declare, "NO, that's no longer me." You can walk in repentance, but the moment you step back into a non-transformed environment, it can erode the transformation. You've shut and locked the door to negative influences, but the lock on the door can be corroded and eventually fail. You have to keep the lock properly oiled, oiled by prayer, the Word of God, Holy Spirit, and fellow believers.



How many times have you heard it? Forgive and repent. "Forgive me, God, and I repent." You say the words, but you don't truly repent. Why? Because you're still facing the same problem. Repentance isn't just about what you say. Can you reach a point where you're genuinely repentant and start living a lifestyle of the Kingdom?

If you try to do this alone, you'll bring condemnation on yourself; you'll feel shame and guilt. You'll become so tired from failing that you might stop talking to God because you're embarrassed and ashamed to approach Him in repentance.

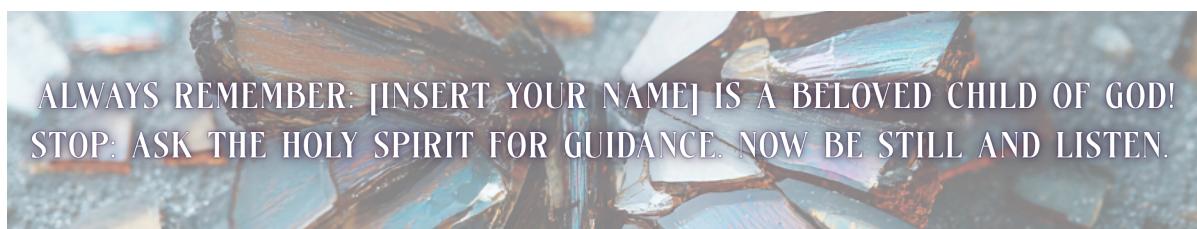
**If you're walking in repentance, then your relationships are all positive, and your meetings with God, your boss, spouse, or kids will be productive, positive, and beneficial to your ministry.**

You have a heavenly Father with loving, open arms. Charles Spurgeon said, "A sinner can no more repent and believe without the Holy Spirit's aid than he can create a world".<sup>[i]</sup> You may intellectually understand what repentance means but struggle to apply it consistently in your daily life. To walk in repentance, you must maintain a clear mind and be attentive to the Holy Spirit.

**2 Timothy 1:7, NKJV:** "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

**Matthew 13:9, NKJV:** "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

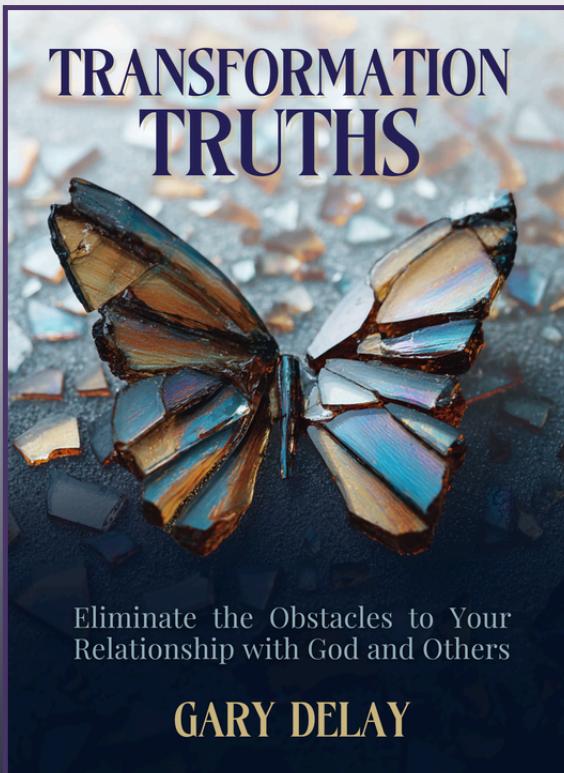
You have a Father of love and the Lord who died for you. The Holy Spirit comes to be your helper, comforter, and friend. If you can understand Kingdom life, it's easier to walk in repentance. When you engage with it and start applying it, you'll be healthier, have more peace, and experience more joy. Be transformed to walk in repentance.



[1] Eerdman, Daniel Noel. Eerdman's Dictionary of the Bible. Eerdman's Publishing. Grand Rapids, Mich, 2000.

[1] Charles Spurgeon Quotes." BrainyQuote.com. BrainyMedia Inc, 2024. 10 July 2024.  
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Transformation Ministry helps you navigate through life's storms and issues by applying God's Word and developing a relationship with the Holy Spirit. This ministry removes the obstacles that stand in the way of your relationship with the Lord.

This book contains biblical truths that will transform every area of your life - body, soul, and spirit. Apply God's truth in the area of need in your life today! And experience new freedom in Him!

Thousands of people have been healed and restored through this ministry.

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