

Can God make us repent?

God could make men repent; but, he is healthy. He does not insist that men love him. God gave men a will (Ge 2:17). Repentance, though initiated by God (Jn 6:44, 15:16), is man's choice. Adrian Rogers said, "If God couldn't out run us, we couldn't be saved." One appropriates God's free gift of grace (Eph 2:8) when he believes (Jn 11:25).

God could have made men like a robot to obey him; but the cost would have been too high because love would not be genuine. God's love should be irresistible; but, in point of fact men resist God every day. The prophet Jeremiah wrote: The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? Je 17:9.

The apostle John explained why men won't come to the light of truth. He wrote: This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil (Jn 3:19).

Choices have consequences (Josh 24:15). No choice—is a choice. Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me (Mt 12:30a)."

The B.I.B.L.E.—***Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth***—teaches men how to overcome sin and death (2 Co 5:17, Re 2:11). The poor, the blind, the prisoner and the oppressed can be saved when they recognize their spiritual condition (1 Ki 17:7-16, Re 3:17).

The righteousness of God is *by faith* in Jesus Christ *unto all* (Ro 3:22). God wants every person to be saved (2 Pe 3:9). He will no doubt do all that he can to save men while remaining true to himself (Is 6:5, 11:4-5, Lk 19:10).

Repentance gives men: a new spirit (Eze 18:31), a new heart (Eze 18:31) and joy (Lk 15:7, 10). True repentance (Ac 9:1-20) leads to a changed life (Mt 3:8, 2 Co 5:17, 1 Thess. 1:9, 10). Converts do not make a 360° turn (2 Pe 2:22); rather, they make a 180° turn from sin (Ac 2:37, 38) and toward God which produces life (Ac 11:18).