

Diving Deeper into Discipleship for March 27, 2022

Pastor Pete Fowler | *Dethroning Idols: Pathways of Repentance—
Repentance: A New Direction*

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Do you view repentance as a one-time action that occurs at the beginning of your walk with God, or an ongoing practice enabling growth in Christ-likeness?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see what change in direction you might need—whether a few degrees or even a complete about-turn.
- Are there any ways that you see, or think about, the world that may be turning your heart away from God and toward some kind of idol?
- What new thing can you plant in your heart while you clear away the roots of sin? What new "love" can become a healthy and holy area of devotion?

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **1 Thessalonians 1:4-10** | What kinds of important things, early in this passage, preceded the “turning” that is described in verse 9?
- **Galatians 5:16-17** | According to this passage, why is a lifestyle of repentance not characterized by simply doing what feels right?
- **Malachi 4:5-6** | What do these verses say about additional ways our hearts will “turn” when we turn them toward God in repentance?

Weekly Spiritual Practice

March Practice: Submission | Body of Christ (from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg. 123)

- Submission and service function concurrently. Hence, much of the practical outflow of submission will come in the next month (service). There are, however, seven acts of submission that we should draw attention to. There will be one or two mentioned each week in the month of March.
- The fifth act of submission is to the believing community, the body of Christ. If there are jobs to be done and tasks to be accomplished, we look at them closely to see if they are God’s invitation to the cross-life. We cannot do everything, but we can each do some things. Sometimes these are matters of an organizational nature, but most frequently they are spontaneous opportunities for little tasks of service. At times, calls to service the Church universal may come, and if the ministry is confirmed in our hearts, we can submit to it with assurance and reverence.