

Revive

Repentance

Pastor Craig Sweeney | April 26, 2026

Thread: Repentance comes before a Holy Spirit inspired boldness.

“So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’ But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began. Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, and he asked one of the servants what was going on. ‘Your brother is back,’ he was told, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.’ The older brother was angry and wouldn’t go in. His father came out and begged him, but he replied, ‘All these years I’ve slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!’ His father said to him, ‘Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!’”

Luke 15:20-32 NLT

Jesus makes the point that the Father stands ready to be in relationship with all who want it.

Repentance opens the door to restored relationship.

Repentance is not just for the lost son, but also for the son whose heart drifts from the Father.

- Repentance, confession was needed from both sons.

Neither of the children could live boldly as sons in this family because of unconfessed sin.

- Unconfessed sin remains unresolved.
- Unresolved sin brings distance in relationship.

Both sons are given opportunity for confession and restoration.

Have we lost our BOLDNESS following Jesus?

- Start by examining your heart.
 - What do I find?
- Be careful to clean/confess/repent of those things unworthy of the life we are called to live at the side of Christ.
- Receive your gift of forgiveness.
- Go through the necessary restoration.

Holiness = Set apart to be His

- Set apart for relationship.
- Set apart to be His bride.
- Set apart to live the God-breathed life.

Challenge:

- Have I allowed a pain point to come between me and the Father?
- Have I allowed something to build up in my heart against the Father or against someone else?
- Have I allowed a sin to take root in my life?
- Have I accepted unforgiveness towards someone?

*“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.” **Galatians 5:24-25 NASB 1995***

*“Strengthen the man you love,
the son of your choice.*

Then we will never abandon you again.

Revive us so we can call on your name once more.

Turn us again to yourself, O Lord God of Heaven’s Armies.

Make your face shine down upon us.

Only then will we be saved.”

Psalm 80:17-19 NLT

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