How to Respond to God's Love
Turn and Trust Jesus

FOUNDATIONS
of Salvation Army Teaching

We believe that repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ . . . are necessary to salvation.

1. Jesus told the people: '*The time has come. The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!' (Mark 1:15).*

Theologian Wayne Grudem says: 'The Bible puts repentance and faith together as different aspects of the one act of coming to Christ for salvation.' He uses this diagram.

What do you think?

A REPENTANCE AND TURNING TO CHRIST IN FAITH
Figure 35.1
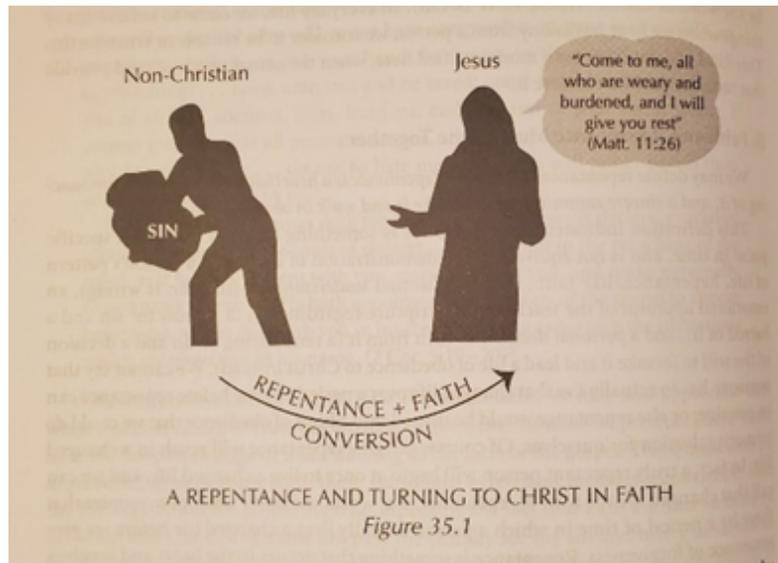
2. To repent is to turn back to God. Peter said: '*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord' (Acts 3:19).*

Do you think a lack of repentance might hold back some people's progress in salvation?

3. John wrote: I*f we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:8-9).*

Why is it so important and helpful to confess?

4. Jesus told Martha: '*I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die (John 11:25-26).* Here and in other places in his Gospel, John uses the words 'believe in.'

The Greek word translated 'believes' is *pisteuōn* (pronounced peestiero). It means: 'To believe; also to be persuaded of, and therefore, to place confidence in, to trust, to rely on. It is more than simply agreeing that it is true.'

The Greek word translated as 'in' is *heis* (pronounced hais). It generally means 'to' or 'into'. For example, Matthew 2:11 says: '*And having come into the house.'*

How might this help us to understand saving faith?

5. We need to embrace the truth of who Jesus is. '*These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name' (John 20:31).*

However, do you agree that it is possible to believe truths about Jesus, and yet not know him?