

Repentance, Baptism, and the Atonement

When we make a wrong choice, it's kind of like falling into a big, deep hole. Like a big muddy pit we can't escape. EVERYBODY has made a wrong choice at one time or another. In fact, almost everybody makes LOTS of wrong choices, so we are all in this big hole together! How will we ever get out of this mess?

Well, there is one person who lived on earth who never, ever sinned. Who was that? Jesus! Because of His perfect life and his atonement for us, we don't have to be stuck in that pit forever! He'll help us get out!

How can we get out of a pit? With a rope ladder! First of all, someone has to be at the top of the pit to set up the ladder and throw it down to us. And then we have to climb up the steps!

Repentance is kind of like climbing a rope ladder, too. Jesus Christ is the only one who can hold the ladder for us because of his atonement for us and perfect life – he never fell in the pit, and he's the only one strong enough to hold all our weight! Then we work to climb those steps of repentance. But even after we've repented, we're still not clean! Just like we wouldn't be clean if we'd just climbed out of a muddy pit. This is why we have Baptism.

Baptism washes away all of our sins after we've repented so that we can be clean again. We also promise to do our best to follow Heavenly Father, to take his name on us and always remember Him. Having the Holy Ghost with us helps us to avoid pitfalls, too.

And if we make a mistake again, we can repent and be made clean again by renewing our covenants with the sacrament. I am thankful for repentance, baptism, and Christ's atonement. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen