

2. Turn

“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.”

Once Ash Wednesday’s stirring lines have reminded us of our mortality, they command us to “Turn!” - “Often”, wrote the monk and theologian Harry Williams, “we shall have to change the direction of our thinking and wishing and striving. That is what repentance really means – taking our bearings afresh and trying a new road.”

In this screenshot from the 2005 film *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, we see Edmund (one of the four Pevensie children in C S Lewis’s *Chronicles of Narnia*) at a pivotal moment. He had betrayed his three siblings by turning away from Aslan (Lewis’s great Christ-figure) and by turning instead to the White Witch. But now, the rescued traitor and Aslan have a conversation “which Edmund never forgot”. It is a profound moment of turning.

We can either deliberately angle our lives towards the light of Christ or live in the shadows with the light behind us. It’s never a once-in-a-lifetime choice. Daily, hourly, minute by minute, the call comes to turn, for there is, as John Wesley said, “no Christian life without repentance”, without this turning. We must constantly twiddle the lenses of our lives if we are to keep looking straight at Christ.



Today...

...may we take our bearings afresh
and turn towards your love, O Christ.

Amen