



# The Good News

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## What does it mean to “repent”?

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**M**an’s modern definition of “repentance” means “*deep sorrow or regret*”. However, when we consider the New Testament definition for the same word we receive a slightly more in-depth definition: “*to change one’s mind or purpose as a result of looking back on past conduct with sorrow or regret*”. Perhaps it is assumed in man’s modern definition that a change of mind or purpose has taken place because of the deep sorrow, but it is important to note that the New Testament’s intent by using such a word includes the understanding that change must take place for it to qualify as true repentance. In other words, saying “I’m sorry for my sins” is not enough; I must be so sorry that I set my mind and heart towards never committing that sin again. In pursuing a more thorough understanding of repentance in the New Testament, let’s consider a few more points:

### “What have I done when I commit sin?”

- 1) I have fallen short of God’s glory and expectation. In **Gal. 5:1-4** Paul expresses his disappointment that the Galatians had so quickly fallen away from the truth and explained to them that they had fallen from grace by sinning.
- 2) I have rejected Christ and His teachings. In **Heb. 10:29** we find the Hebrew writer give a graphic description of what takes place when we sin: “*Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?*”
- 3) I have severed my relationship with God and the brethren. In **I John 1:7** we find that our fellow

ship with God and the brethren is dependent upon our walking in the light as He is in the light. If I sin, then for the time that sin remains unforgiven I am no longer in the light.

### “What must I do after I commit sin?”

- 1) Have godly sorrow! In **II Cor. 7:10**, Paul says that “*godly sorrow worketh repentance*”. It is necessary for me to be truly remorseful for my conduct, and so much so that I will set my mind against ever committing it again.
- 2) Confess my sin to God! In **I John 1:9** we find the encouraging Scripture that tells us if we confess our sins to the Father, He will be faithful and just to forgive us.
- 3) Set my mind to avoid further temptation! In **Col. 3:1-7** Paul encourages the Colossians to set their minds on spiritual pursuits and not on the flesh, realizing that those who constantly fill their minds with heavenly, godly thoughts will be far more likely to not give any place in their hearts to temptation.

It is important that we remind ourselves of the seriousness of sin and how important it is that we maintain our faithfulness to God at all times. We must always be on our guard, realizing that the devil never takes a break, and neither should we. We must strive for perfection, realizing that God will help us if we only set our minds and hearts on Him.