

THINKING IT THROUGH:

1. Describe the Biblical concept of repentance?
2. What importance does repentance play in one's salvation?
3. What is the Biblical definition of the words "repent" and "repentance," and how do they differ?
4. What is the original state of man's mind?
5. Which came first, repentance or salvation?
6. Who is the source of our repentance?
7. What is the evidence that we have repented?
8. What does the name "Jesus" mean, and how does it relate to repentance?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Repentance is

Day 1: Read the narrative of Jonah, Jonah 3. What does it mean to repent?

Day 2: Read the narrative of Samson's death, Judges 16. What did you learn about repentance?

Day 3: Read the narrative of the anointing of Jesus' feet, Luke 7:36-50. What did you learn about repentance?

Day 4: Read the parable of the two sons, Matthew 21:28-32. What did you learn about repentance?

Day 5: Read the narrative of Ezra's judgment, Ezra 10:1-17. What did you learn about repentance?

Day 6: Read the narrative of John the Baptist, Luke 3:1-18. What did you learn about repentance?

Day 7: Read the narrative of Simon the Sorcerer, Acts 8:9-25. What did you learn about repentance?

Memory verse:

I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their

Lesson 9

When Sorry is Not Enough

THE FOUNDATION OF THE GOSPEL

Repentance is the first requirement for man in the new covenant. Repentance is an elementary teaching that should be taught to new Christians. The Bible also tells us that repentance is a foundational teaching of Christianity on which other teachings, like justification and sanctification, are built:

*Therefore let us leave **the elementary teachings** about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again **the foundation of repentance** from acts that lead to death, ..* (He.6:1-2 NIV)

Like building a house, if the foundation is compromised, the rest of the house will be too. Without true repentance, the Gospel is compromised. For this reason, Christ told His disciples that repentance must be part of the Gospel message for all nations:

*He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that **repentance** for forgiveness of sins **would be proclaimed** in His name **to all the nations**, beginning from Jerusalem.* (Lk.24:46-47 NASB)

When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost in Jerusalem, Peter shared the Gospel (good news). The men responded to the message with, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter told them what God required by introducing the new covenant:

*Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and be baptized **every one of you** in the name of Jesus Christ **so that your sins may be forgiven**; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and **for all who are far away**, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."* (Ac.2:38-39 NRSV)

When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said:

*The next day **he saw Jesus** coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God **who takes away the sin of the world!**"* (Jn.1:29 NRSV)

When Peter shared the Gospel, he tied repenting from sin to receiving forgiveness for sin:

Repent** therefore, and turn to God **so that your sins may be wiped out. (Ac.3:19 NRSV)

Without a turning from our sinful acts, there is no forgiveness. Jesus, when speaking about Israel, said:

*"They may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise **they might turn and be forgiven!**"* (Mk.4:12 NIV)

If we refuse to turn to God in repentance and refuse to repent (turn from our sins), we will not be forgiven and will spend eternity in hell. The new covenant explicitly states that repentance is necessary to be forgiven and to receive the Holy Spirit:

***Repent** and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of your sins.** And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.* (Ac 2:38 NIV)

Therefore, both repentance (a one-time change of mind) and repenting of our sin (a life-long process) are essential for salvation.

The Ninevites feared the Almighty God, but their fear went beyond mere concern. They repented. Because they repented and turned from their sin, God responded:

*Then God **saw their works**, that **they turned from their evil way**; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.* (Jonah 3:10 NKJV)

Their belief in God caused a turning from wickedness. This “turning from wickedness” is the Biblical definition of the word “repent.” In Acts 8, we read of a man named Simon, who thought he could buy the gift of the Holy Spirit. Peter rebukes him:

*But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because **you thought you could obtain God’s gift with money!** You have no part or share in this, for your heart is not right before God. **Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours**, and **pray to the Lord** that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and **the chains of wickedness.**”* (Ac.8:20-23 NRSV)

Because of Simon’s past, his understanding was incorrect; he needed to think differently and confess to God in prayer. We all come with a past, but we must encourage one another to change. John the Baptist taught a true application of repentance—the turning away from sin:

Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God...** Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.” The crowds asked, “What should we do?” John replied, **“If you have two shirts, give one to the poor.** If you have food, share it with those who are hungry.” Even corrupt tax collectors came to be baptized and asked, “Teacher, what should we do?” He replied, **“Collect no more taxes than the government requires.”** “What should we do?” asked some soldiers. John replied, **“Don’t extort money or make false accusations. And be content with your pay.” (Lk.3:8-14 NLT)

Claiming to receive the mind of Christ without repenting of our sins is incongruent with the mission of Christ. The angel, who appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him that Mary’s baby was a miracle of God, said:

*She will bear a Son; and you shall call **His name Jesus**, for **He will save His people from their sins.*** (Mt.1:21 NASB)

Repentance was part of the first Gospel presentation. If anyone is to come to Christ, he must repent—you, your children, and all who are afar off—**everyone** whom God will call. God, through the eternal Gospel, is commanding all people **everywhere** to repent:

*We shouldn’t think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone. God overlooked people’s ignorance about these things in earlier times, but **now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him.*** (Ac.17:29-30 NLT)

We cannot have eternal life without repentance. We must repent or perish:

*The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. **He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.*** (2Pe.3:9 NLT)

The Bible is not suggesting personal perfection after believing on Jesus and inviting Him into your life. Rather, people are called to turn from their life of sin. We cannot turn to God without turning away from our life that is consumed by the pleasures of sin. The Bible states Jesus’ purpose for coming to earth:

*I have not come to call the righteous, **but sinners, to repentance.*** (Lk.5:31-32 NKJV)

Therefore, since everyone born of Adam is captive to sin, then everyone is a candidate for repentance. Unless we repent from sin and turn toward God, we also will perish in hell:

*I tell you, no! **But unless you repent, you too will all perish.*** (Lk.13:3 NIV)

REPENTANCE: OUR SPIRITUAL CONCEPTION

The Biblical concept of repentance is to turn around. The Greek word for “repentance” is “metanoia” meaning “**a change of mind.**” (Young’s Analytical Concordance). Our minds need to be changed. From the moment we were born, the attitudes of our hearts were in rebellion to God, and our minds were controlled by sin:

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. (Co.1:21 NIV)

The mind controls our actions. Since our minds were corrupt, our actions were also corrupt:

*To the pure all things are pure, but to the corrupt and unbelieving nothing is pure. **Their very minds and consciences are corrupted.** They profess to know God, but they deny him by their actions. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.* (Ti.1:15-16 NRSV)

Our minds were so deceived. Like Israel, some of us thought we were serving God, when in actuality, we were opposing Him:

*Indeed, an hour is coming when **those who kill you will think that by doing so they are offering worship to God.*** (Jn.16:2 NRSV)

Because our minds were controlled by the sinful nature, our lives were hostile to God and to Christians who lived holy lives:

*Those who live according to the sinful nature **have their minds set on what that nature desires**, ... **the sinful mind is hostile to God.** It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God."* (Ro.8:5-8 NIV)

Another aspect of our corrupt minds is that our minds were also blinded and unable to perceive God's truth:

***Satan**, who is the god of this world, **has blinded the minds of those who don't believe.** They are **unable to see** the glorious light of the Good News. They **don't understand** this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.* (2Co.4:4 NLT)

Our minds were blinded by self, sin, and Satan. We thought God wanted religion—rules, rituals, and traditions—while God really sought an intimate relationship with us. Our ears heard the Gospel, but our minds were not able to understand:

*But **the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God**, for they are foolishness to him; **nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*** (1Co.2:14 NKJV)

Repentance is the transformation of the mind from a natural mind that is based on intellect and blinded by sin to a spiritual mind. The spiritual mind is based on intuition with understanding given through the Spirit. This mind not only understands but also applies Biblical truths to life:

*By one sacrifice he has made perfect forever **those who are being made holy.** The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: 'This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says*

As we study the Word of God, our thoughts are compared with God's will, and we become aware of our sin. Once we become conscious of our sin, we repent and confess our sins to God, and He transforms our lives:

If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1Jn.1:9 NRSV)

This is the normal Christian life—anything less is heresy. Paul writes:

*I will be grieved because **many of you have not given up your old sins.** You **have not repented of your impurity, sexual immorality, and eagerness for lustful pleasure.** ...I have already **warned those who had been sinning** when I was there on my second visit. Now I again warn them and all others, just as I did before, that next time **I will not spare them.*** (2Co.12:21, 13:2 NLT)

You cannot claim to have turned to God in repentance if you have not discontinued your sinful practices. Repentance is a one-time act of receiving the mind of Christ, but we must repent from individual acts of sin throughout our lives:

*For "**Those who desire life** and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; let **them turn away from evil and do good**; let them seek peace and pursue it.* (1Pe.3:10-11 NRSV)

The narrative of Jonah clearly illustrates what it means to repent:

*The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because **they repented at the preaching of Jonah**; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.* (Mt.12:41 NKJV; Lk.11:32)

What did the people of Nineveh do when they repented? Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria, which was an enemy of Israel:

*The LORD gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. **Announce my judgment against it** because I have seen **how wicked its people are.*** (Jonah 1:1-2 NLT)

Jonah preached that God was going to destroy the city in forty days. The Ninevites believed God and, on the basis of their belief, repented:

*Then the king and his nobles sent this decree throughout the city: "**No one**, not even the animals from your herds and flocks, **may eat or drink anything at all.** People and animals alike **must wear garments of mourning**, and everyone must **pray earnestly to God.** They **must turn from their evil ways and stop all their violence.*** (Jonah 3:7-8 NLT)

anyone who keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is. (1Jn.3:5-6 NLT)

If we have the mind of Christ, Christ living in us, then we will not continue to sin. A friend of mine tried to quit smoking. He tried hypnosis, the patch, acupuncture, and everything he knew. Then one day the Lord taught him that he was no longer a smoker because Christ lived in him and Christ does not smoke. Every time Satan tempted him to smoke, he simply told himself, "I am a Christian; I am no longer a smoker—I don't smoke." However, our new mind does not mean that we are sinless, but rather, we will discontinue those sinful practices of which we are aware:

*Those who have been born into God's family do **not make a practice of sinning**, because **God's life is in them**. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God.* (1Jn.3:9 NLT)

Repentance is a 180° change of mind and reflects a 180° change in actions. If I went into a store to buy a shirt but then changed my mind, would I come out of the store with a shirt? No! We repent from evil to do good. If we have the mind of Christ, it is only natural that we will react to sin just as He did—He refused to choose sin! When a Christian repents, he makes one choice that affects every choice thereafter. We have obligated ourselves to obey Christ. To repent is to stop all our sinful practices which the Holy Spirit reveals to us:

*Do not lie to one another, **since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices**, and **have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image** of the One who created him—a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, **but Christ is all, and in all.*** (Co.3:9-11 NASB)

Once we have received the mind of Christ, our minds are constantly being renewed as the Spirit teaches us and convicts us of sinful acts:

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as **a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship**. Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your minds**, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.* (Ro.12:1-2 NRSV)

the Lord. I will put My laws in their hearts **and I will write them on their minds**. (He.10:14-16 TNIV)

In the Old Testament, Israel had to take the Law written on the tablets of stone and apply it to their hearts. With the new covenant, God writes His laws on our minds and in our hearts so that our obedience comes from within. By God writing His laws on our hearts, He changes our desires. For example, I used to like mint ice cream. One day, I became ill after eating it. I had such an unpleasant experience that I lost my appetite for that flavor and stopped eating it. Even to this day, I am not tempted to eat mint ice cream. This example is similar to the effect of the Holy Spirit writing God's laws on our minds, and it demonstrates the very concept of repentance. The normal process of sin is temptation, desire, and sin:

*Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one **is tempted** when he is drawn **away by his own desires and enticed**. Then, **when desire** has conceived, it gives **birth to sin**; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.* (Ja.1:13-15 NKJV)

Before we were Christians, we failed because we tried to change our behavior by our will without having our desire changed. God's way is to change our desires so that when tempted, we no longer sin. Our minds control our bodies. Our minds were changed when we received the mind of Christ:

*But **we have the mind of Christ**.* (1Co.2:16 NASB)

Our minds were bent on rebellion toward God, but Christ's mind is bent on oneness with God in direction and purpose. Repentance is a change of mind. It reflects a complete 180° change in our attitudes, behavior, and character—from serving sin to serving the Almighty God. A change of mind always reflects a change in action. Repentance is the initial "changing of our mind" and is ultimately reflected in a total change of behavior:

*You **were taught** to put away your **former way of life**, your **old self**, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and **to be renewed in the spirit of your minds**, and to clothe yourselves **with the new self**, created according to the likeness of God **in true righteousness and holiness**.* (Eph.4:22-24 NRSV)

If we are going to be permanently changed, then we need to change more than our intentions. We need a change in our desires. Repentance is comprised of two actions: first a change of mind in which sin becomes repugnant. This change causes us to turn from sin:

Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness." (2Ti.2:19 NASB)

The second part is the new desire for holiness, which causes us to turn to God:

*I have declared both to **Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance** and have faith in our Lord Jesus.* (Ac.20:21 NIV)

This concept of repentance is clearly presented in Scripture when the Thessalonians turned from worshipping idols to serving God:

*For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and **how you turned to God from idols** to serve a living and true God.* (1Th.1:9 NASB)

We were all sinners—slaves of sin—because of our evil desires, but now we have the mind of Christ and are saints—people who desire holiness. Many of the books of the New Testament are addressed:

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the sinners who are unfaithful in Christ Jesus: (not Scripture)

Not one book of the New Testament is addressed to sinners. Paul never addresses the saved by the Greek word "hamartolos"—"sinners." Rather, he writes:

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus: (Eph.1:1 NASB)

Paul always refers to the saved by the Greek word "hagios"—"saints." This word is also used in regard to God's Spirit: the "Hagios" Spirit—the Holy Spirit. Repentance is the change of mind from sinner to saint. Notice the tense when we read:

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us.* (Ro.5:8 NKJV)

The concept of "were still" leads us to conclude that Christians are no longer sinners. We were sinners, but we turned from our rebellion against God toward obedience to God—repentance. Sometimes I play

lives as we mature in Christ. For once we have had "a change of mind," we will "have another mind" about the way we conduct ourselves:

*I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, **that they should repent and turn to God and do deeds consistent with repentance.*** (Ac.26:20 NRSV)

A change of mind always produces a change of attitudes, behavior, and character. If a man loses his mind and becomes insane, his actions are the only way that people can spot his insanity. His actions will cause him to be sent to a mental institution, because they are the evidence of the condition of his mind. In the same way, the change of mind, which takes place in our repentance, also produces a change of action—a discontinuation of sinful practices. Repentance dealt with the cause of sin—our rebellion against God; however, this change affects how we live—we now seek to please God. To deal with the cause of sin ultimately affects its symptoms—the sinful acts themselves. For, we did not receive just another mind; we received the mind of Christ:

*But **we have the mind of Christ.*** (1Co.2:16 NKJV)

We receive the mind of Christ once, but that change affects every decision afterward. For example, if I could take my wife's mind and place it in my head, I would begin to act like my wife. It is only logical that after we have received the mind of Christ that our attitudes, behavior, and character change. We will begin to desire the things that Christ desires and thereby begin to act like Christ. When we think about demonic possession, we think about a person totally out of control and in a violent rampage of destruction. Even though we cannot see the demon, it not only controls the person and influences who he is, but it also manifests itself in the person's behavior. In the same way, if we are possessed by the Spirit of Christ, He controls our actions and causes us to live holy lives. Many legalistic churches try to change a person's action by his willpower. As Christians, we do not try to change a person's actions, but through Christ, his mind is changed to that of Christ. In turn, the new mind changes his actions:

*And you know that **Jesus came to take away our sins**, and there is no sin in him. **Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin.** But*

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1Jn.5:12 NKJV)

You may have turned from sin to the best of your ability but have never experienced the control of Christ in your life. You then need to invite Christ into your life as Lord. Repentance is not a work that we must do, but rather, it is a work that God does in us at our invitation:

*The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. He is the one **whom God exalted** to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, **to grant repentance to Israel**, and forgiveness of sins.* (Ac.5:30-31 NASB)

Repentance doesn't have its origin in man but has its origin in God. Only God can change a person's mind; hence, when we go to a brother to share the Gospel, we must go with prayer, asking God to grant him repentance:

*Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope **that God will grant them repentance** to a knowledge of truth." and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.* (2Ti.2:25-26 NIV)

Again, when a person repents, he is really responding to an act of God. The Bible is clear; repentance is an act of God's grace. Romans uses "God's kindness" for "God's grace":

*Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, **not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?*** (Ro.2:4 NASB)

Since repentance is something we receive and not something man must attain, it is instantaneously received not achieved. Therefore, repentance is a one-time change of mind, from a mind living in rebellion toward God, to a mind which is controlled by Christ and seeks after God.

A LIFETIME OF TRANSFORMATION

Even though repentance is the instantaneous change of mind, the act of repenting from all our acts of sin is a life-long process. The Greek word "metanoeo" interpreted "repent" means "to have another mind." This word can be interpreted "to be possessed by the Spirit of God." Repentance happens once, but we repent from sin throughout our

football, but I am not a pro-football player. Similarly, I am a saint who sometimes sins, but I am not a sinner. This is clear when we read:

*He who **turns a sinner** from the error of his way **will save his soul from death** and will **cover a multitude of sins.*** (Ja.5:20 NASB)

A sinner is saved when he experiences a change of mind that causes him to turn from sin. If we take the word metamorphosis, which shares the same root word as "metanoia," we have a good idea of the extent of change in repentance. In repentance, our minds are so radically changed that it can be compared to metamorphosis: the transformation of an ugly caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly. What a caterpillar was, is in no way similar to what a butterfly is. The only difference between sinners and caterpillars is that with caterpillars, the transformation is physical; and with sinners, the transformation is spiritual. Repentance changes who we are:

***Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds** set on what that nature desires; but **those who live in accordance with the Spirit** have **their minds** set on what the Spirit desires. **The mind of sinful man** is death, but **the mind controlled by the Spirit** is life and peace; **the sinful mind** is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.* (Ro.8:5-8 NIV)

The Bible does not say, "when your mind is set on what that nature desires" and "when your mind is set on what the Spirit desires"—meaning one person oscillating between two different states of mind. Rather, the Bible uses "those" and "those," two differing types of people. One in its natural state has the mind controlled by sin, and the other in a spiritual state has the mind changed, controlled by the Spirit. A Christian cannot have the mind of Christ and the mind controlled by sin. James addresses the issue of a double-minded man:

*A **double-minded man** is unstable in all his ways.* (Ja.1:8 NIV)

Some Christians are double-minded, similar to children playing with a light switch. They act according to their whims: off/on; darkness /light; sin/ Spirit; sinner/saint. They are never sure of what mind they will be functioning in during the next moment, let alone the next day. This is not the Christian experience:

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. **Cleanse your hands, you sinners**, and **purify your hearts**, you double-minded.

(Ja.4:8 NRSV)

A double-minded man is still separate from Christ, a sinner with a wicked heart. A double-minded person will not see God:

Blessed are **the pure in heart**, for they shall see God. (Mt.5:8 NKJV)

Christians think that they can be double-minded because this teaching is prevalent in today's churches. If a man thinks he is a sinner, then he will continue to sin:

For **as he thinks** in his heart, **so is he**. (Pr.23:7 NKJV)

If a person believes he is a saint, then his actions will start to change. Once psychologists created the term "mid-life crisis," every man over fifty had the excuse to do something irresponsible—whether buying an expensive sports car, having an affair, or acquiring some indulgent behavior. The popular acceptance of a fact as truth generates actions according to that belief. The Bible teaches:

And you shall **know the truth**, and **the truth shall make you free**.

(Jn.8:32 NKJV)

If believing the truth will set us free, then believing a lie will keep us bound by sin. As long as the church teaches that a Christian can choose to oscillate between the sinful nature and the Spirit, man will continue to live a life of sin. Scriptures teach that Christians no longer have a sinful nature with evil desires:

Those **who belong to Christ** Jesus **have crucified** the sinful nature with **its passions and desires**.

(Ga 5:24 NIV)

Christians have received the divine nature through the indwelling of God's Spirit—if the Spirit of God lives in them:

And because of his glory and excellence, **he has given us great and precious promises**. These are the promises that **enable you to share his divine nature** and **escape the world's corruption caused by human desires**.

(2Pe.1:3-4 NLT)

Double-minded people are sorry for their sins. They show regret, but continue to live for the pleasures of sin. Being sorry for our sin is not repentance. Regretting an act falls short of discontinuing the act. Many people are sorry for their sin, but they refuse to stop their sinning:

Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that **your sorrow led to repentance**. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For **godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation**, not to be regretted; but **the sorrow of the world produces death**. For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

(2Co.7:9-11 NKJV)

Godly sorrow brings a change of mind that leads to salvation, while worldly sorrow goes no further than mere emotion. Worldly sorrow is clearly seen in Judas' life. After Judas betrayed Jesus, we read:

Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, **he felt remorse** and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "**I have sinned by betraying innocent blood**."

(Mt.27:3-4 NASB)

Judas had worldly sorrow—he merely regretted his decision but did not alter his actions. Instead, he continued in sin, destroying his very self through suicide:

Then **he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple** and departed, and went **and hanged himself**.

(Mt.27:5 NKJV)

Unless we experience this change of mind, we are not saved. Repentance is not the rebirth that constitutes our salvation; repentance only leads to salvation:

For **godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation** and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death.

(2Co.7:10 NRSV)

We are not saved when we have a change of mind that is demonstrated by praying the sinner's prayer—a prayer of repentance. Repentance is our spiritual conception which leads to salvation but is not salvation itself. However, we cannot dismiss the importance of repentance; for it is an essential part of the new covenant. Repentance leads to eternal life:

When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then **God has given** even to the Gentiles **the repentance that leads to life**."

(Ac.11:18 NRSV)

If you have never experienced the life-changing transformation of your mind, then you are not saved. It is only when we have the mind of Christ controlling us that we can have the assurance that we are saved: