

Psalms of Repentance

Psalms 32, 38, 51

Hebrew Words for *Repent* or *Repented*

Nacham—(na kham)—breathe deeply, sigh to display sorrow, pity, to rue (syn. regret)

Shuwb—(shoob)—long list of meanings but first in line is *turn back or away, retreat or reverse*—it conveys a physical turning of a person or object.

New Testament Greek For *Repentance*

- ❖ **Metanoeo**—root word that means “to think differently after”
- ❖ Luke 3:8 “Therefore bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance [**metanoia**]— acknowledge sin, turn from it, now think differently about your sin, don’t do it anymore and pursue right living.

Characteristics of True Repentance

- ❖ Conviction / recognition of sin
- ❖ True godly sorrow over sin
- ❖ Confession of sin
- ❖ A restoration of joy accompanied by a pursuit of righteous or right living

Three Different Aspects of Sin

These different facets of sin work together to give us a more complete picture of what disobedience to God really is:

1. **Sin**—*chatta*—to miss the mark; err; fall short of God's standard
(Ps. 32:1,5, Ps.38:3,18, Ps.51:2,3,5)

3 Different Aspects of Sin, cont.

2. **Transgression**—*pesha*—rebellion; revolt; deliberate, willful crossing of a line or boundary (Ps. 32:1,5; Ps. 51:1,3)
3. **Iniquity**—*avone*—bent, twisted, perverse; the deed and its outcome are in view—speaks of deep-seated patterns and habits of sin

Psalm 38:15

LORD—*Jehovah*—God's covenant name,
the name by which He made all His
promises to Israel and David

Lord—*Adonai*—master, David was God's
humble servant and would submit to his
master in repentance

God—*Elohim*—the strong, all-powerful
one—David's situation is desperate, but he
knows God can change it.

David's Attitude as He Approached God to Confess His Sin

1. David realized he did not deserve God' forgiveness.
2. He cast himself on the Lord's mercy.
3. He made no excuses for what he had done.

David's Attitude, cont.

4. He acknowledged the severity of his sin. He did not soften or downplay it.
5. He did not attempt to justify his sin.
6. He did not blame others.
7. He freely admitted his guilt.

Things We Learn From These Psalms

- ❖ Even godly people can fall into terrible sin (1 Cor. 10:12).
- ❖ Sin is serious, causing inescapable consequences. Just one lapse into sin can change our lives and others' for as long as we and they live (2 Samuel).
- ❖ We never sin so grievously that we cannot come to God for forgiveness (Ps. 51).

Things We Learn, cont.

- Be quick to repent (Ps. 32).
- David confessed to the whole nation. Confession to others is good to do (James 5:16).
- When we confess our sin to God sincerely, He will forgive, cleanse, and restore us regardless of how bad the sin is.