

## TEST FOR TRUE REPENTANCE

Repentance is taken for granted by some Christians, thinking that it is automatic for them whenever they decide to confess something. However, the Bible indicates it is a gift from God. True repentance involves brokenness in a person, an awareness of a holy God and the ugliness of one's sin. It involves taking full responsibility for what was done, a willingness to walk through the consequences, and a desire to undo any harm or injustice that may have occurred as a result of the sin. Here are some questions that should help determine if people are simply sorrowful or are truly repentant:

- Are they accountable or willing to be accountable to someone for the purpose of restoration?
- Are they blaming anyone else in any way?
- Are they justifying themselves in any way?
- Are they willing to do anything, within reason, that may be necessary to make things right?
- Are they willing to restore anything stolen?
- Are they willing to go to the people they sinned against?
- Are they afraid of what people may think or say about them?

### Scriptures:

Psalm 51:1-18

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

Romans 2:3-11

2 Chronicles 7:18

1 Samuel 15:15, 21

Exodus 22:1

1 Samuel 15:25-30

Proverbs 8:13

Luke 11:4

1 Samuel 13:11-14

Proverbs 6:37

Luke 3:8-14

Hebrews 12:17

**Note:** Words of confession really don't mean anything. It is the genuine change or turn around that is the proof or fruit of repentance. Time is needed to indicate whether there was only sorrow or actual repentance.