

# Repentance

## Doctrinal Studies

- I. The word repent is used in the Old Testament.  
The word is **Nacham** – translated Repent  
The word is usually used for God: “Then repenteth God”. God changes His mind or God changes His policy.  
Seven Old Testament passages:
  1. [Genesis 6:6](#) Creation
  2. [Exodus 32:14](#) Discipline for Israel
  3. [Judges 2:18](#) Israel’s groaning
  4. [1 Samuel 15:35](#) Saul, King over Israel
  5. [Psalm 90:13](#) Servants
  6. [Jeremiah 15:6](#) Another change given to the Jews
  7. [Amos 7:3, 6](#) Discipline to IsraelThe verb in all these passages is **Nacham**.
  
- II. These expressions of Repentance are all anthropopathisms ascribing to God, human characteristics.
  1. God is immutable and does not change, therefore any expression of change is merely designed to explain divine acts of discipline in terms of human attitudes and expressions.
  2. God’s attitude toward man can only be explained in terms of human attitudes; therefore human attitudes are used to express divine attitudes.
  
- III. Greek words translated **repent**
  1. NOUN – [μετάνοια](#) – repentance
  2. VERB – [μετάνοεω](#) – to repent, to change  
μετα = change  
νοέω = mind or thinking  
This word means *a complete change of mental attitude about something; a reversal of mental attitude about something.*  
(Note: a transitive verb has a subject and an object – page 154 D & M. The action in a verb does not require an object to complete the meaning:  
Example: “*He built*” creates a sense of suspense. “*He built a house*” completes the thought.  
The intransitive verb does not require an object to complete the meaning: Example: “*He ran*” makes perfect sense.  
There are two categories of the use of the Greek word **repent**. One is where the lost person is the subject; another where the saved person is the subject.

## Repentance (Continued)

### 1. Category #1: The lost person is the subject.

When the subject is the lost person and Jesus Christ is the object, then prior to Faith in Christ, the lost person changes his mind (mental attitude) toward Jesus Christ. [Luke 16:30, 31](#); [Hebrews 12:17](#)

- The principle of Salvation is the same in every person. A lost person changes his mind about Christ and this change is made on the basis of the facts he hears in the Gospel presentation about the Lord Jesus Christ. He hears, he understands, the Holy Spirit reveals light. His mind is changed about Christ and by faith he accepts (believes) and is saved.
- The change comes by the Holy Spirit. [John 16:8-11](#); [II Timothy 2:25](#); [I Corinthians 2:14](#)
- The sinner does not repent regarding sin – he changes his mind regarding Christ. He believes and is saved.
- Scriptures where μετα-νοέω is used: (Subject changes his mind about the object; man changes his mind; not about sin, but about Christ.) [Mark 1:15](#); [Matthew 12:41](#); [Luke 13:3,5](#); [Luke 15:7](#); [Luke 16:30, 31](#); [Acts 17:30](#); [Acts 20:21](#); [Acts 26:20](#); [Hebrews 12:17](#); [II Peter 3:9](#)

### 2. Category #2: The saved person is the subject.

- The subject is the saved person and the object varies:
- [Hebrews 6:1](#) – the subject is the saved person; the object is dead works. *WORKS OF THE FLESH!*
- [Revelation 2:5](#) (AASubj. 2nd p.pl.), [Revelation 2:16](#) (AAImp. 2<sup>nd</sup> p. s.), [Revelation 2:22](#) (FAI, 3<sup>rd</sup> p.p.); [Revelation 3:19](#) (AAImp., 2<sup>nd</sup> p.s.) – the subject is the saved person and the object is carnality.
- [II Corinthians 12:21](#) – the subject is the saved person; the object is carnality (uncleanness, fornication and lasciviousness).

### IV. The third word for **repent** is μεταμέλομαι and has emotional content. Translated regret. Four uses of μεταμέλομαι:

1. [Matthew 21:28, 29](#) expresses regret of previous action of refusal.
2. [Matthew 27:3](#) Judas was emotional and felt sorry for his sins of betraying Christ.
3. [Romans 11:29](#) God has no regrets for providing Salvation and Spiritual gifts.
4. [Hebrews 7:21](#) The Father has no regrets for appointing Jesus Christ as High Priest.

Getting out of non-perception requires a change of thinking. The only way to be on the *right road* is to be rid of evil thinking, and have God's thinking. [Revelation 2:5](#); [2:16](#); [2:22](#); [3:19](#); the same word is used in these verses – the verb μετανοέω = a change of mind!