

“Bear fruits worthy of repentance” (Matthew 3:8).



TRUE REPENTANCE IS NOT JUST BEING SORRY, it is *metanoia*, Greek for a complete change of direction. Many people are always being sorry but never really changing, like King Saul. Poor Saul never learned. He apologized and was sorry many times, but he never really repented, he never really changed, he never turned and went the other way. Saul would break down and weep before the prophet Samuel, but he didn't weep because he was repentant; he wept because he was sorry he was about to lose the kingdom (1 Samuel 15:24–30). He didn't really confess and forsake his sin, the evil root beneath the outer show (Proverbs 28:13).

Though King David also committed great sins, he had great repentance and a genuine change. Therefore God had great forgiveness for him. David sought God's heart (1 Samuel 13:14; Psalm 51). David deeply loved God, and he really wanted to glorify God and please Him. God loved David in spite of all his sins and mistakes because David was willing to confess and change—and he went on to become one of God's greats, in spite of himself.