

## Repentance - Tawbah

- Tawbah: to return
  - To return to the original condition that existed before committing the sin
    - Reversing the damage caused by sin
    - Damaged relationship with Allah

[ 1 ]

## Repentance

- Meaning
  - Returning from sin
  - Returning to the mercy that was taken back from the sinner
  - Returns to worship and serving Allah
    - Then mercy returns to him
    - **Tawwab**: He is most returning to His mercy and most accepting of repentance

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## On the spiritual journey

- Wakefulness
- Tawba
  - Delaying repentance
    - The sooner the better
    - The younger the better
      - Temptation to
        - **Repent when more easily accepted**, e.g.
          - night of Friday
          - obligatory prayer
          - month of Ramadhan
          - during rain
        - **Repenting once**
          - Maybe not in a good mood; not remorseful; not sincere

## Repentance

- Understanding the harms of sin
- Sins
  - Excess luggage
  - Unnecessary weight
  - Burden
  - Darkens the heart
  - Creates veil between God and servant
- Bearing in mind...
  - **Why repent? Main concern is...**
    - Not merely about committing sins
    - About being far from Allah
      - Showing maximum humbleness by subjecting ourselves to Him
  - **Who can forgive our sins?**
    - Only Allah

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## Repentance in the Qur'an

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا تَوْبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ تَوْبَةً نَّصُوحًا عَسَىٰ رَبُّكُمْ أَن يُكَفِّرَ عَنْكُمْ سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَيُدْخِلَكُم جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ

*"O you who have faith! Repent to Allah with sincere repentance! Maybe your Lord will absolve you of your misdeeds and admit you into gardens with streams running in them..."*  
(66:8)

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## Sincere Repentance

*"O you who have faith! Repent to God with sincere repentance!"* (66:8)

- Feeling genuinely sorry
- Feeling embarrassed
- Begging Allah to forgive
- Promising not to repeat it
  - Without presence of heart
  - No effect, regret
  - No change

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- Core of tawbah:
  - To regret: "Regret is sufficient as tawbah." - *Al-Kafi*, vol. 2, page 426

## Repentance in the Qur'an

- True repentance: making up for previous wrongdoing.
- Repentance and righteous deeds together:

إِلَّا مَنْ تَابَ وَآمَنَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَأُولَئِكَ يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ  
... except those who repent, believe, and act  
righteously. Such will enter paradise... (19:60)

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## Repentance in the Qur'an

قُلْ يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ  
اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

"Say [that God declares,] 'O My servants who have committed excesses against their own souls, do not despair of the mercy of God. Indeed God will forgive all sins. Indeed He is the All-forgiving, the All-merciful.'" (39:53)

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- "Oh my servants..." - intimacy
  - (not "Oh sinful...")
- Never think He cannot forgive regardless of number of sins
  - "will forgive all sins" - maximum emphasis
- What matters
  - Decision to become a new person
  - Disobedience to obedience
  - Impurity to purity
  - Ready to compensate for damage caused

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إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ التَّوَّابِينَ

*Verily God loves the repentant*

(2: 222)

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