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TO TURN BACK

SHUV TO TURN BACK

Our English Bible often speaks of “repentance,” which we usually define as regret or being sorry. But, the Hebrew word that is translated as repentance comes from the word *shuv*, which means, “to turn” or, more accurately, “to turn back.”

Repentance is more than a feeling of guilt or regret—it is making a course correction in your life. It’s deciding to turn away from where you are currently headed and turn back toward God. Imagine you’re in your car headed toward a specific destination when you make a wrong turn. Your GPS says it’s “redirecting,” and then it asks you to make a U-turn. That is repentance. It’s making a spiritual U-turn.

On a spiritual level, repentance is when a person changes the course of his or her life. As theologian Abraham Heschel puts it, “a change in man’s conduct brings about a change in God’s judgment.” When we repent—turn away from the darkness and turn toward the light—God promises to take control of the wheel and direct us toward His light.

Do you need to repent—to turn back—today? Do you need to take a moment right now to turn around and face God?

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