

## I know it was wrong...

A young boy sneaks into the kitchen when mom is showering. He knows he should not eat a cookie before supper but he really wants one and mom will never know. He reaches for the cookie jar. As mom steps out of the shower she hears a noisy crash. Frightened that something has harmed her children she grabs a towel and heads to the source of the sound. Before she can reach the kitchen she hears, "I'm sorry mommy, I won't do it anymore."

A daughter is able to get a fresh baked cookie from the cookie sheet while mom's head is turned. She knew they were baked for a sick neighbor's family but they smelled so good, besides who will ever know? While taking her first bite she starts thinking of the girl whose mom is sick and how much she will enjoy the cookies her mom made. Then she remembered how she had learned in Bible class about Jacob and Rebekah deceiving Isaac and stealing Esau's blessing. The cookie did not taste as good as she thought it would mixed with that salty taste of 'guilt'. She took the remainder of the cookie back to the kitchen and said, "Mom I am really sorry I was so selfish. Please forgive me."

In the two circumstances above which one repented? They both knew they were not supposed to get a cookie at that time. The boy 'got caught' and was afraid of punishment. The daughter had a pain of conscience and wanted to make things right so she took action to do so.

When someone has hurt us very badly and they admit they were in the wrong, but they don't apologize or ask our forgiveness, do we believe them to be sorry? Have they repented? Admitting guilt and repenting is not the same thing. One must admit guilt in order to truly repent of an evil deed but one has not repented just because they admit guilt. We often find people sorry for the consequence their sins caused them but that is not repentance either. Sorrow alone is not enough. Knowledge of sin alone is not enough. Fear of consequences alone is not enough. Admitting a wrongdoing is not enough. None of these things by themselves equals repentance. So what is repentance?

The scriptures says in Acts 2:38, "*...repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of JESUS CHRIST for the remission of sins...*" So first off, we know repentance is necessary for the remission of our sins. To repent means we must take action, make a change, to reconsider or think differently about the situation. To repent means to have a change of heart that brings about a change of action. In Matthew 3:8, John tells the Pharisees & Sadducees, "*Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.*" Paul told Agrippa, (Acts 26:20), that he had taught the Jews and the Gentiles, "*that they should repent and turn to GOD and do works meet for repentance.*" This indicates their thinking and their actions must change. Paul also tells the Corinthians, (2 Corinthians 7:9-10), "*Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that you sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner...for godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of but the sorrow of the world worketh death.*" Paul did not rejoice simply because they sorrowed, he rejoiced that their sorrow was a godly sorrow and it caused them to repent. The sorrow of the world (I am sorry I was caught; I know that was wrong but too bad; I hate I did that and now I have to suffer the consequences) brings only spiritual death. There is no salvation in this type of sorrow.

Sisters, knowing you are in the wrong and admitting you are wrong does not bring about the repentance required to make one right with the LORD. We must learn of our sinful ways, admit they are sinful, ask forgiveness and make every effort to rectify the wrong and not repeat it again. Wow! That is so much more than just 'knowing I did wrong.' As Paul admonished those in 2 Corinthians 14:5, let us "examine ourselves" in this matter of repentance. Our souls are too important to take chances.  
Have a marvelous week!

**HEAR** –Romans 10:17    **BELIEVE** – John 3:16    **REPENT** – Luke 13:3  
**CONFESS** – Romans 10:9-10    **Be BAPTIZED** – Acts 2:30    **LIVE FAITHFUL** – 1 Corinthians 15:58