

Repentance involves a change of view -- a recognition of sin as involving personal guilt, defilement, and helplessness. If unaccompanied by the emotional and volitional elements, this recognition may manifest itself in fear of punishment, without an accompanying hatred of sin.

This element may be seen in the following Scriptures:

Psalm 51:3-4 -- "For I know my transgressions,  
And my sin is ever before me.  
Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned,  
And done what is evil in Thy sight.  
So that Thou art justified when Thou dost speak,  
And blameless when Thou dost judge.

Romans 3:20, 23 -- "because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin . . . . for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 1:32 -- "and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them."

b. An emotional element

Repentance involves a change of feeling -- sorrow for sin as committed against goodness and justice, and therefore hateful. If accompanied by the volitional element, sorrow for sin is repentance. If not, it is remorse, which is sorrow for the consequences of sin. Remorse may lead to despair.

This element may be seen in the following Scriptures:

Psalm 51:1-2, 8, 12, 14, 17 --  
"Be gracious to me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness;  
According to the greatness of Thy compassion  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
And cleanse me from my sin . . .  
Make me to hear joy and gladness,  
Let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice . . .  
Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation,  
And sustain me with a willing spirit . . .  
Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation;  
Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Thy righteousness . . .  
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
And a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise."

Matthew 21:28-32 -- "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in