# DEVICE 6: Satan deludes us by convincing us to "Sin now," and "Repent later."

**Remedy 1** – Repentance is stressful and exhausting, as well as painful [ 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. **Psalm 51:17** (ESV) ]. Don't believe Satan's lies to the contrary.

**Remedy 2** – Repentance means reversing direction. There are three parts to this:

(a) Turning away from sin and toward God ( 18 I have heard Ephraim grieving, 'You have disciplined me, and I was disciplined, like an untrained calf; bring me back that I may be restored, for you are the Lord my God. 19 For after I had turned away, I relented, and after I was instructed, I struck my thigh; I was ashamed, and I was confounded, because I bore the disgrace of my youth.' **Jeremiah 31:18–19** (ESV) ).

(b) Conversion of the sinner. The most essential nature of the repentant soul changes. First, the inner thoughts change. Then, the outer actions change [ 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. **Ephesians 4:22–24** (ESV) ].

(c) The substance of this change of heart is from a love of sin to a love for God. Sin's destructiveness is understood ( 43 And there you shall remember your ways and all your deeds with which you have defiled yourselves, and you shall loathe yourselves for all the evils that you have committed. **Ezekiel 20:43** (ESV)). Repentance comes from God, and also drives the repentant soul to God making the person ashamed of sin ( 21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. **Romans 6:21** (ESV)). Repentance causes the Christian to deny the sinful nature, and to take revenge on sin ( 10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. 11 For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. **2 Corinthians 7:10–11** (ESV)). Taking revenge on sin means not sinning.

**Remedy 3** – Repentance is a way of life. We must repent again and again ( 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? **Romans 7:24** (ESV)).

**Remedy 4** – If repentance was easy unrepentant sinners wouldn't be so angry at God's judgements against them [ 4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? 5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. **Romans 2:4–5** (ESV)].

**Remedy 5** – Repentance itself is an act of grace [ 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **Ephesians 2:8–9** (ESV) ]. Seek it and ask God for the grace to repent.

**Remedy 6** - Never forget, genuine repentance is the most difficult work on earth [ 12 "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 13 and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. **Joel 2:12–13** (ESV) ].

*Questions:*
1. *Which part of repentance have you found the most difficult?*


2. *If as it says in Remedy 3, repentance is a continuous act, is there ever a time we don't need to repent? If so, when?*