

2509 - The difference between repentance and forgiveness

the question

What is the difference between
tawba(repentance) and maghfira(forgiveness)

Detailed answer

Istighfaar (seeking forgiveness) is of two types,
depending on whether the word is used alone or is accompanied by the word tawbah
(forgiveness). When it is mentioned alone, it essentially means the same as tawbah.
The two words are interchangeable, each carrying the meaning of the other, when
mentioned
separately.

When the two words are used together, istighfaar means seeking
protection from the evil of what is past, and tawbah means returning to Allaah and
seeking protection from the evil of one's own bad deeds which one fears may lie ahead
in the future.

Istighfaar and tawbah are among the pairs of words which
the scholars say convey one another's meanings when used alone, but which have their
own separate meanings when they are used together. And Allaah knows best.