

# *“Forgive us our Sins”*

## **Part 1: Our Sins**

### *Key Scripture:*

“ And the Lord said to Cain, Why are you angry?  
And why do you look sad *and* depressed *and* dejected?  
If you do well, will you not be accepted?  
And if you do not do well, sin crouches at your door;  
its desire is for you, but you must master it.” Gen 4:6-7 (AMP)

### *Today’s Portion for the Journey:*

We are living in a time when the world tells us there is no such thing as sin or absolute right and wrong. All of our choices and actions are believed to be relative, and each person is able to decide for themselves what is right and good. It is easier and less painful to find someone else to blame for our actions or call them “mistakes” rather than honestly admit we are sinners in need of a Savior! This is not the first time in history this has been the case, but this mindset denies the truth of God’s Word. The book of Judges referred to this attitude as, “...every man doing what is right in his own sight.” God has given us His Word and His Spirit by which we can know right and wrong. It is not relative!!

When we fail to see that we have sinned against God above all, we will inevitably minimize our sin. Charles Spurgeon said, “Too many think lightly of sin, and therefore think lightly of our Savior. We need to pray for God to teach us His ways so we can understand sin and see our sin as He sees it. Do we see “sin” as a set of “rules” that will bring us “punishment” by God when we break them? We repent and hate sin, not because we are breaking God’s rules, but because we are breaking God’s heart. God knows full well the pain, suffering and death that sin brings into our lives. He hates sin because of its pernicious destructiveness to the human heart and spirit. Through sin, all sickness and disease, cruelty, violence, death and suffering entered the world. (Ps. 51:4)

Sin gives birth to misery, pain, shame, guilt and fears. Sin opens the door for the devil to take us hostage. Sin separates us from the Giver of life and all good and perfect gifts and blessings. Sin, if unchecked, gives way to eternity in hell.

Sin will always take you further than you intended to go.  
It will keep you longer than you intended to stay.  
And make you pay a price far greater than you can afford.

Sin is a deceptive entity, it is cloaked with shimmer and glitter and filled with pain and suffering. As sin entered the world through the trickery and deceitfulness of Satan, so are we drawn into sin through Satan’s temptations and the lusts of our own flesh. Just as Eve could not see the consequences of her sin, we are often unable discern or understand the extent or effects these choices will bring in our own lives and in the lives of others. God hates sin because He knows the pain, suffering and death that results from sinful actions. Prov. 28:13

Campbell McAlpine, an anointed Bible teacher and pastor, presented a series on the “Shakings of God.” Using the parable of the ten virgins, he admonished God’s children to live a lifestyle of keeping “short accounts” with God. When we choose to continue to sin our heart becomes hardened and insensitive to the Holy Spirit’s ability to convict us and turn us to repentance. We must not delay; we must run from sin that can turn our hearts away from our Savior. We don’t know the day or the hour when we will face our LORD. We need to be in readiness for His return. More than that, however, if we want to walk close to the LORD, in intimate friendship with Him, we will be on guard against any sin that would hinder our relationship with Him.

Sin cannot enter the Kingdom of God. We need to pray for God’s heart and attitude toward sin. He is holy and, in His Holiness, He cannot dwell with sin. He hates sin and must separate himself from all evil and all sin. He wants us to let go of our sins and to be made free. If we continue to hold onto our sins, we cannot remain in His presence. When we hold sin in our hearts, we risk being cut off from God. The wages of sin is death. We have nothing that we can pay to erase our debt apart from Jesus’ sacrificial death on our behalf.

As we grow in our knowledge of God and His ways, as we grow in the fear of the LORD, as we come to love Him and find our heart being conformed to be like Him, God changes our hearts attitude toward sin, especially our sins. It becomes not so much something that we reluctantly struggle to turn away from, but rather something that we diligently ask God to search out and help us remove from our life. What causes this great change in our attitude toward sin? I believe that it comes through coming to see sin as God sees it, and to understand that sin separates us from the wondrous intimacy and fellowship we can experience with our Father.

**Sin: There are six Greek words for sin in the Bible.** When the LORD uses a number of words, it is usually because no one word is capable of fully defining the concept. Each word gives us a slightly different picture and understanding of the concept of “sin.”

- A. “Hamartia” (Greek #266) This word for “sin” is a military term that refers to shooting a gun or an arrow and missing the mark or target. It speaks of our failure to be what we might have been. Sin means a failure to hit the target of holiness and righteousness. It carries with it the idea that we are born with an inability to do good. We all have a sense that we are not all we could be nor have we done all that we know we could have done. It is sin that keeps us from being all that we can be in the LORD. Rom. 3:23
- B. “Parabasis” (Greek #3847) Means literally, stepping across the line. Sin is stepping across the boundary line which is drawn between right and wrong. Imagine a “NO TRESPASSING” sign and a fence. We choose to climb over the fence and enter forbidden territory. We have rejected the restraints that God has provided. 2 John 9
- C. “Paraptoma” (Greek #3900) This word means literally, a “falling” or “slipping across.” It is the kind of slip a man might make on a slippery or icy road. It is not as deliberate as “parabasis.” It is stepping onto a slippery slope, and being swept along. Words slip out, we are swept away by a sudden impulse, a moment of passion, we lose our self-control and slip into sin when we are caught off guard. We need to be on guard for those patches of “black ice” that can take us unawares.
- D. “Anomia” (G 458) This word is synonymous with “lawlessness” and carries with it the idea of open, flagrant rejection of God’s Word and contempt for His ways. This person knows the right thing to do but does the wrong anyway. The Word anomia literally means to be without the Word. 1 John 3:4

- E. Debts: “Opheilema” (Greek 3783) This word is used in the Lord’s Prayer Debts. The word means the same thing as sin, literally, “that which is owed, that is which is legally due. It is a failure of our obligation to pay what is due. From the root, opheilo, to be bound by one’s debt.” Our understanding of “debt” provides some helpful components. A debt keeps us in terrible bondage. When we pay a debt, the debt is gone, and as long as our means of payment is sound, the debt is gone as if it never existed. When a bill is marked “Paid” we are free and clear. Matt. 6:12
- F. Wickedness “Poneria” (Greek #4189) This word speaks of wicked desires. The word is synonymous with iniquity and means depravity, malice, evil purposes and desires. It is due to a polluted heart and exercise of an evil disposition. Matt. 22:18

We are told that if we confess our sins, God will cleanse us from our sins. This confession of sins must come from a heart that is truly repentant. An impenitent heart will often confess their sin from sheer dread of the consequences of that sin. For example, words that were spoken in confidence to a friend are now in danger of becoming public and the person slandered will know your true feelings. In this case he’s not concerned with his crime itself but fears its exposure. The impenitent heart does not recognize his sins against God

There are at least four major Bible characters who did not find true repentance even though they confessed their sins.

- Saul demonstrated the attitude of insincere repentance, but never gained reconciliation or peace with God. He seemed more concerned with the opinions of men than God’s attitude toward his sin. 1 Sam. 15:24
- King Pharaoh confessed his sin but it was uttered with no sense of contrition or desire to be given an opportunity to be reconciled with God. Ex. 10:16
- Cain demonstrated an understanding of his sin, but had no hope that God would forgive him and allow him to return to fellowship. He showed no desire to being reconciled with God. Gen. 4:13
- Judas “repented” by returning the 30 pieces of silver to the chief priests but didn’t God’s forgiveness. He exhibited regret and worldly sorrow for his sins and killed himself. Matt 27:3-5

One of Satan’s strategies, once we are saved, is to cause us to fall into condemnation, and become overcome with grief for our sins. He will tempt us to sin and then seek to convince us that we have destroyed our relationship with the LORD. We can fall into a trap of too much introspection and lose our focus upon the LORD and His Salvation. We need a balance in our efforts to achieve holiness.

Finding true repentance for our sins requires a contrition of heart that recognizes not only one’s sin but also demonstrates faith in God’s ability and willingness to forgive.

- True repentance requires the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts to send His light and truth into our hearts. Ask the Holy Spirit to... “Search me and know me...” Ps. 139:23-24
- Awakening of our consciences by the voice of God. We need to be sensitive to the conviction of the Holy Spirit when we have sinned and respond quickly by running to the throne. Phil. 2:12; 1 Tim. 1:5, 19; Heb. 10:22
- Realization that sin has caused a separation from God. Ps. 32:3; Isa. 59:1-3

- It requires true recognition of our sin and expression of our sorrow, anguish that results in a pouring out of the heart before God. To see that through our sin we have harmed ourselves or others, that ultimately our sins are against God Himself. Ps. 51:4; Zech. 12:10; 2 Cor. 7:9,10

*Digging Deeper in the Word:*

1. The Word describes the sins of the flesh, those sins that we committed before our salvation, but which a Christian is to put away when we give our lives to the LORD. What are some of these sins? Gal. 5:19; Col. 3:1-17
2. As a Christian, what sins do we commit that we feel are less evil than those commit who are in the world?
3. What are sins of omission?
4. Is it possible for a Christian to continue in sin?
5. What can we do to turn others away from their sins?
6. What are the consequences of sin in our lives?
7. Sin blocks our fellowship with God, but when we repent, He draws us close and heals. Micah 7:18-19; 2 Chronicles 7:14

*What is God Speaking to You?* Take time to write down what the LORD is speaking to you from this lesson.

*Your Response to God:* "Cleanse your hands ... and purify your heart."

Take time to let the Holy Spirit search your heart before God. Accept NOW God's cleansing and forgiveness. Ask Him to fill you with His Holy Spirit and thank Him for doing so. Psalm 139:23-24; Jas. 4:8b; 1 John 1:9; Eph. 5:18; Luke 11:13