

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE FORGIVENESS OF OUR SINS

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THE ONLY WAY TO SALVATION

1. Thanks to whom and to what are we saved?

2. How much does salvation cost?

1 Peter 2:24

Romans 3:24

OBTAINING FORGIVENESS

3. What does the sinner need to sincerely recognize?

4. What deep feeling is indispensable?

5. What must be done with sins?

Luke 18:10-14

Acts 2:37-38

Psalms 32:3-5

THE SWEET CERTAINTY OF FORGIVENESS

6. What marvelous offer does God make?

7. How complete is divine forgiveness?

Isaiah 1:18

Isaiah 43:25

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Repent with all my heart.
2. Confess all my sin.
3. Experience conversion.

Acts 3:19

1 John 1:9

Ezekiel 36:25-27

I ask forgiveness for my sins. I believe that God will forgive me. I want to live a holy life in Jesus.

SIGNATURE

THE FAITH
OF JESUS

► ADDITIONAL STUDY ◀

Steps For Obtaining Forgiveness

- 1) Recognizing the condition of the sinner.** (1 John 1:8; Psalm 51:2, 3).
- 2) Sincere repentance.** (Acts 3:19; Luke 3:8; 13:3-5).
- 3) Accepting Jesus as the only Savior.** (Acts 4:12; 5:31; 10:43).
- 4) Confession.** Confession is indispensable (Psalm 32:1-5; Proverbs 28:13). Must name the sin that was committed (Leviticus 5:5). Will pay for the damages caused (Leviticus 6:4). Confession must be made to God (1 John 1:9; Isaiah 1:18; Psalm 103:3).
- 5) Conversion.** (2 Chronicles 7:14; Acts 3:19).

God's Marvelous Forgiveness. God forgives completely (Isaiah 43:25; Hebrews 8:12; 10:17). Forgiveness is free (Romans 3:24). We are forgiven in the act (Luke 23:39-43).

Obtaining forgiveness is like fixing a pending account. The sinner does not have something to pay the debt with; but Jesus paid for him on the cross at Calvary and offers the merits of his sacrifice to whomever wishes to accept them.

Forgiveness. True repentance consists of sincere and deep pain for having sinned (2 Corinthians 7:10). Repentance is indispensable for obtaining forgiveness (Acts 2:37, 38).

Confession. Sins must be declared to God because only He can forgive them. There cannot be forgiveness unless there is sincere and complete confession (Proverbs 28:13). "Confession of sin, whether public or private, should be heartfelt and freely expressed. It is not to be urged from the sinner. It is not to be made in a flippant and careless way... True confession is always of a specific character, and acknowledges particular sins... Confession will not be acceptable to God without sincere repentance and reformation. There must be decided changes in the life; everything offensive to God must be put away. This will be the result of genuine sorrow for sin."—Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, pages 38, 39).

Conversion. As a direct result of repentance and confession a radical change happens in the sinner's

character. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17).

"Those who become new creatures in Christ Jesus will bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, 'love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.' They will no longer fashion themselves according to the former lusts, but by the faith of the Son of God they will follow in His steps, reflect His character, and purify themselves even as He is pure. The things they once hated they now love, and the things they once loved they hate. The proud and self-assertive become meek and lowly in heart. The vain and supercilious become serious and unobtrusive. The drunken become sober, and the profligate pure."—Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, pages 58, 59).

Justification. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly... But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him". (Romans 5:1, 6, 8, 9).

"God's forgiveness goes far beyond the forgiveness of sin. God not only forgives, He justifies. This means that man is truly without fault before God".—Billy Graham, *The World Aflame*, p. 167).

Sanctification. After justification with God's help, we must maintain ourselves without falling (Jude 24). There should not be voluntary sin (Hebrews 10:26). The secret of sanctification is to grow in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:10). The only way to have this experience of continuous progress is to be intimately connected to Jesus and to trust in his power (Galatians 2:20; Romans 8:37).

"Our growth in grace, our joy, our usefulness,—all depend upon our union with Christ. It is by communion with Him, daily, hourly,—by abiding in Him,—that we are to grow in grace... Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work."—Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, page 69.