

FOLLOWUP # 2: ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS OF SINS

The fifth truth you can be certain of as a believer is that your sins are forgiven.

I. What is sin? How would you define it?

- **Isaiah 53:6** – “All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way, but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.” – **Sin is going our own way, not God’s way.** Sin is doing what we want instead of what God wants. It is both actions and attitudes.
- **Romans 14:23** – “Whatever is not of faith is sin.” When we have faith, we rely on God and trust Him for everything. We sin when we do not trust and rely on God in an area of our lives. Worry is sin.
- Sin is falling short of God’s standard, which is perfection. (missing the mark – the bull’s eye).
- What are some sins of attitude? (Jealousy, anger, lack of faith, worry, envy...). We are all sinners.

II. How do you know your sins are forgiven? What Scriptures tell you that your sins are forgiven and why?

- **Colossians 1:13-14** - “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, **in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**”
- **Colossians 2:13-14** - “When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, **having forgiven us all our transgressions**, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and **He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**”
 - When Christ died on the cross, how many of your sins did He die for? (All – that means past, present, and future sins)

III. What is the basis of our forgiveness?

- **Ephesians 1:7-8** - “In Him we have redemption **through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses**, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us.”
- **Hebrews 9:13-14** - “For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the

cleansing of the flesh, how much more will **the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

- **Hebrews 9:22** - "And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and **without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.**"
- **Hebrews 10:10–12** – "By this will we have been sanctified through the **offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all**. Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, **SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.**"
- **Hebrews 10:19** - Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place **by the blood of Jesus...**"
- **1 John 1:7b** – "... and **the blood of Jesus** His Son cleanses us from all sin."

(The basis of forgiveness is the cross and Jesus' shed blood for you.)

IV. Why do I still sin?

- **Galatians 5:16-17** – "But I say, walk by the **Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the **flesh**. For **the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh**; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please."
1. So why do we still sin? (Because our human nature (flesh) is still present and there is a battle going on between the Holy Spirit in me and my sinful flesh.)
 2. Draw a circle with a throne in the center. Write an "S" for self, and draw a cross (representing the Holy Spirit) inside the circle struggling for control of the throne. This is what is going on in your life. There is a battle going on for control of your life. You have to make a choice – are you going to yield control to the Holy Spirit, or are you going to remain on the throne in control yourself? When you are on the throne, when your flesh is in control, you will sin.
 3. **Illustration:** You have worked in an office for years with the same boss. This boss has told you what to do for all these years and it has become habit in your life to listen to his voice and follow his directions. But today, a new boss has taken over the position of your old boss.

Your old boss is still in the office and still tries to tell you what to do. You don't have to obey him anymore. Yet, out of habit, you often still do what he says, instead of listening to the new boss. It is a choice and an act of the will to not listen to the old boss, but to obey the new one. So it is when you become a Christian. You have a new "boss" now, Jesus Christ, who wants to give direction to your life. But your old "boss", self, is still lingering in your life, and doesn't want to relinquish control. To whom will you listen? Whom will you obey?

4. **Illustration:** You have an AM/FM radio. You can listen to either but not both at the same time. You choose which one you will listen to by moving the switch. You can not listen to and obey Christ and self at the same time. You choose to whom you will listen.

We will always struggle with sin as long as "self" is alive, as long as we are on this earth.

V. What should I do when I sin?

- A. Confess.
1. Agree with God that it is sin.
 2. Thank God that He has forgiven you.
 3. Turn away from your sin. (Repent.)
- B. Are you forgiven because you confess? (No, you are forgiven because of His death on the cross for your sins.)
- C. Then why do we need to confess if we are already forgiven? (We confess in order to restore fellowship with God.)
- D. Sin affects our fellowship with God.
It affects our fellowship with Him, but not our relationship.
There is a difference between the two.

RELATIONSHIP	FELLOWSHIP
1. Begins the moment you accept Christ as your Savior	1. Begins the moment you accept Christ as your Savior
2. Eternal – you are forever His child.	2. Moment by moment, depending on if you are sinning
3. Never changes	3. Changes every time you sin
4. Maintained by God and the promise of His Word	4. Maintained by you through confession

Illustration: If your dad is your "blood" dad, you were born of him. You are his daughter forever and he is your father forever. Nothing will ever be able to change that relationship of father and daughter, no matter how angry you get with one another. Even if he disowns you or you disown him, he is still your birth dad. However, if you do something to disobey or hurt your dad deeply, the

fellowship between you is damaged. There is no longer that intimate fellowship, but hurt and awkwardness. You are still his daughter, the relationship has not changed, but your fellowship with him has. It is awkward, there is hurt. I need to apologize and admit that I was wrong in order to resolve the conflict and remove the awkwardness that is between us. Our fellowship with one another is damaged, but the relationship is not changed. I am still their daughter. In the same way, when I have sinned and disobeyed God, my fellowship with God is distant and awkward, but I am still His daughter. I need to confess and admit that I was wrong in order to restore our fellowship.

VI. "So, if I'm forgiven, why not go ahead and sin all I want?"

1. You're miserable when you sin. (The Holy Spirit convicts you.)
 - **Romans 7:15-25**
Paul talks about the battle going on inside between the flesh and the Spirit.
2. God disciplines you.
 - **Hebrews 12:6-11**
There are emotional and physical consequences of sin. You will have to deal with those consequences daily.
3. If you love God, then you will want to please Him and not hurt Him or disappoint Him by disobeying.
 - **John 14:15**

VII. Why do I still feel guilty even after I confess?

- Don't go by your feelings or emotions. Base your forgiveness on God's Word. His Word says you are forgiven if you have put your faith in Jesus as your Savior.
 - 📖 1 John 1:9
 - 📖 Psalm 103:12
 - 📖 Colossians 2:13
 - 📖 Isaiah 43:25
- Satan **accuses** and wants you to feel guilty. The Holy Spirit **convicts** so that you will confess and restore your fellowship.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

Take out a piece of paper and write down any sins that you have not confessed or that you still feel guilty over. Then prayerfully confess them. Write out 1 John 1:9 and Isaiah 43:25 across the paper. Then tear it up and throw it away. Let it be a visual reminder to you that **ALL** your sins have been forgiven.