



Life Principles Notes[™]

The Ways of God Part 8: He Forgives Our Sin

Summary:

You might think that everyone knows how to be forgiven of sin, but the truth is more complicated. There are actually two kinds of forgiveness: the kind we receive once for our salvation, and the kind we receive daily for our sins. Ephesians 1:3-8 explains how God forgives us: “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace” (v. 7).

We define redemption as a release that is the result of payment. We are forgiven because of the death of Jesus on the cross, which paid the price for our sins. Yet even after salvation, we sin—and we need to seek forgiveness each day.

Key Passage: [Ephesians 1:3-8](#)

Supporting Scripture: *John 6:35-44; Romans 3:10-14; Luke 13:3,5, 24:45-47; Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 John 2:1-2; Matthew 6:8-15.*

Scriptural Principles:

1 Salvation is the work of God whereby He delivers us from the penalty of sin.

The most awesome form of forgiveness is found in the death of Jesus Christ on our behalf. In that one act of crucifixion, He has freed us from the penalty of death that comes from our sin. He has given us eternal life. Scripture tells us that we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. The fitting punishment for sin is death, but many people don't even realize that they are in line for that terrible penalty. We all need forgiveness; otherwise we would receive the eternal punishment that God must apply because of His perfect justice.

2 Salvation requires a definite response on our part.

Jesus died to redeem us; He bought our freedom. What kind of response does God expect? He expects an immediate response of faith and repentance. Some people claim that they will eventually be saved, but no one who truly understands the love and sacrifice of Christ would delay their response to Him in receiving forgiveness, salvation, and new life in Christ. In John 6:44, Jesus says, “No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day” (John 6:44). We are not saved until the Holy Spirit convicts us, shows us our need for God, and draws us to Him.

3 Salvation requires conviction of sin by the Holy Spirit.

Why do so many people fail to understand the importance of their salvation? They are still in their natural, sinful state, while redeemed, transformed believers see through the eyes of faith. Romans 3:10-14 tells us that in their natural state, people have no fear of God. They can't see or understand the consequences of their sinful lives. When people are in rebellion against God and against the authorities they serve, they will bring suffering upon themselves again and again. That pain is part of the workings of God to draw them toward an understanding of their need for redemption. Only then, when they feel a spirit of conviction for their sin, can they be saved.

4 Salvation requires a recognition, a requirement, and repentance.

Salvation calls for an act of will based on truth. First, there must be at least a basic understanding of Jesus and His sacrificial death. We need not understand every angle of Christianity; God simply requires a simple recognition that we have sinned and Christ died to free us from our sin. Second, we must also believe in Jesus. The action of believing is not a passive intellectual acceptance of Jesus. Finally, there must be repentance. Not only do we accept the gift of forgiveness, but we totally disavow those sins that have been forgiven.

5 Forgiveness at salvation is a one-time act for all of our sins.

Jesus died once for all—all who would believe in Him, and for all of our sins, past, present, and future. This forgiveness is complete and permanent; otherwise Jesus would have to be crucified again for each new act of sin. Instead, we can never have our sins held against us. When we ask Christ to forgive us at salvation, we are primarily asking for forgiveness for the sin of unbelief. It is the all-encompassing sin for each of us, until we trust Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. Genuine belief makes a difference not only in what we think but in what we do. We are transformed by His forgiveness and by the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives.

6 Forgiveness for daily sins restores broken fellowship.

All of us do the wrong thing some time, even right after salvation. We may then worry if our salvation was real. Our sins are still forgiven in terms of our standing before God; we cannot lose our salvation. Everyday sins, however, have the effect of breaking our fellowship with God. This is why we need to confess them promptly. We have an advocate with the Father, according to 1 John 2:1-2. Jesus pleads on our behalf to God the Father, and as we confess our daily sins in prayer, our full fellowship with the Lord is restored.

7 We must forgive others to be forgiven for our daily sins.

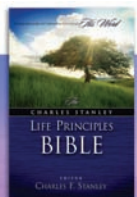
Matthew 6:12-15 is a challenging passage of Scripture! In the Lord's Prayer, we ask forgiveness as we ourselves forgive others. Jesus adds that if we do not forgive, then our Father will not forgive us. We should also forgive other people because bitterness poisons us. When we forgive, we are closer to others and to God, because intimacy with Him isn't available until we let go of our grudges against others. Finally, we should remember that when we refuse to forgive, it doubles our hurt. We remain injured by the wrong that was done, and we add the pain of our own bitterness.

8 We can forgive others because Christ has forgiven us.

Why is it so difficult for us to forgive other people? It becomes much easier when we simply think of the amazing fact that Christ has forgiven us, and when we consider how many sins there are to be forgiven. He was judged unfairly, beaten, and nailed to a cross, yet He immediately asked His Father to forgive those who crucified Him. Forgiveness has nothing to do with emotions. We forgive another person as a determined act of faith, not as a product of feelings. Out of simple obedience to the command of Christ, we consciously forgive anyone who might have injured us.

Conclusion:

Would you ever pray and ask God not to forgive you? No one would do so consciously, but that's exactly what we are asking of God when we refuse to forgive others. God has already told us that when we don't forgive others of everyday sins, He will not forgive us.



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Until we are willing to approach our brothers and sisters with grace, God withdraws His wonderful fellowship from us. I can't imagine living a single day in God's clear disapproval, can you?

Nor can I imagine standing before Christ on Judgment Day, knowing I refused to forgive some earthly sin, when the Lord has delivered me from all my sins. Forgive those who have hurt you in some way, and you'll thank God for the peace you receive in return. 🙏

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