

# Acknowledging Christ's Atonement

## *Devotional Reflection*

When we hear the phrase “Acknowledging Christ’s atonement,” it can sound distant, like something deeply spiritual that we recognize once and then forget about it. But in truth, acknowledging Christ’s atonement is not something you do just once; it is something we do every day. It is remembering, receiving, and living in the reality of the sacrifice made for us and the grace that continues to cover us.

At its root, acknowledging Christ’s atonement means recognizing the depth of His love demonstrated through His sacrifice. Scripture reminds us, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). Through Him, we are forgiven, restored, and reconciled. “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins” (Ephesians 1:7).

Through His atoning sacrifice, our sins are not just forgiven but completely washed away, leaving us clean before God. “Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood” (Revelation 1:5). This reminds us that the power of the cross fully restores what sin once separated.

This is not just something we understand intellectually, it is something we live personally. It shapes how we think, how we respond, how we treat others, and how we see ourselves.

Proverbs 3:6 tells us, “In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” When we look at this through the eyes of atonement, this means allowing the truth of Christ’s sacrifice to guide every part of our lives, the joyful, the painful, and even the uncertain. His atoning work reminds us that no moment is outside of His reach.

When life is going well, it is easy to recognize God’s goodness. We naturally give thanks when doors open, prayers are answered, and peace is present. But it is often during hard times that recognizing His atonement becomes even more important. When life is hard, when prayers appear to go unanswered, or when we feel lost, the cross reminds us that we are not alone. “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows” (Isaiah 53:4).

Even in those moments, we can stand on the truth that Christ has already carried the weight of our sin and paid its full penalty. “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

His sacrifice is proof that His love never changes, even in His most silent moments.

Acknowledging Christ's atonement calls us higher; it calls us to grow, to mature, and to pursue a life that reflects Him. Jesus teaches us, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). This is not about unattainable flawlessness, but about continually striving to become more like Him, allowing His grace to shape and refine us daily. Because of His atonement, we are not bound by sin, but empowered to walk in righteousness. "Sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace" (Romans 6:14).

It is waking up and saying, "I am covered by grace today."

It is choosing patience because we have been shown mercy.

It is forgiving others because we have been forgiven, "even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32).

It is trusting God's plan, even when it does not make sense.

These daily choices reflect a heart that understands what Christ has done for us.

Jesus also reminds us in Matthew 10:32, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." This is not meant to put pressure on us; it's designed to invite us into a real, lived out loud faith, one where our lives reflect the grace we have been given.

Understanding Christ's atonement requires humility. It means acknowledging that sin separated us, and we could not restore ourselves. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Yet through Christ, we are made whole. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). The cross reminds us that the work of redemption has already been completed and we are called to receive it, believe it, and walk in it.

In a world that values independence and self-sufficiency, understanding Christ's sacrifice changes how we see things. It reminds us that we are not alone, nor are we left to carry life's burdens by ourselves. His atonement anchors us, calms our fears, and steadies us through life's storms.

Still, life can be full of distractions. Days can pass without intentional reflection on what Christ has done. Yet this is not a reason for condemnation, it is an invitation to realign. Instead of dwelling on shortcomings, we refocus and press forward, continuing to grow in Him. As Paul writes, "Forgetting those things which are behind... I press toward the mark" (Philippians 3:13-14).

Acknowledging Christ's atonement is a journey of spiritual growth. Through prayer, Scripture, worship, and quiet reflection, His presence becomes more real in our lives. Even a simple prayer, "Lord, thank You for what You've done for me", draws us closer to Him.

It also means trusting His guidance. Because of what He accomplished on the cross, we can surrender control, forgive even when it hurts, wait when we feel rushed, and trust when we do not understand. It is a declaration of faith: “Because of what You’ve done, I trust You with what’s ahead.”

Above all, it is important to remember that our acknowledgment of Christ’s atonement does not earn His love, it is a response to it. We are not striving to be accepted; we are already accepted through Him. “We love him, because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). This truth lifts the burden and replaces striving with gratitude.

Rather than focusing on falling short, we focus on growing deeper in relationship with Him. Acknowledging Christ’s atonement becomes less about obligation and more about connection. Like any relationship, it is built through time, care, and intentional communication.

There will be days when we feel close to God, and days when God feels unreachable. Yet even in the simplest moments, when all we can say is, “Lord, I need You,” we are acknowledging Him, and that matters. “The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart” (Psalm 34:18).

Maybe we can change our outlook this week. Instead of viewing acknowledgment as a requirement, we can see it as an invitation, an invitation to live with awareness, to walk in grace, and to rest in the truth that we are never alone.

Because it is not necessary to have the right words at the right time to acknowledge Christ atonement, only a willing heart.

Sometimes, the simplest acknowledgment is the most powerful:

“Jesus, I see what You’ve done. I receive it. I trust You. I need You.”

And that is where it begins.

**“And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.”** (Romans 5:11)

This reminds us that through Christ’s atonement, we not only receive forgiveness, but we also walk in restored joy and relationship with God.