

Seeking and Receiving God's Forgiveness

As Christians, we must understand that forgiveness is essential for our growth. Many of us were not taught how to properly forgive. On the contrary, many of us have learned how to forgive maybe too easily in one's opinion. In most cases, we were taught to forgive but never forget. However, God never intended for us to be that way. In fact, the Bible tells us in **1 John 1:19**, "**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**" In other words, he forgives us and makes it like it never happened!

So why do we hesitate to ask for forgiveness when we sin against God? The most common reason is that we are ashamed to confess our sins. When we know better and do not do better, there is a conviction we feel when we have grieved the Holy Spirit. It is a tough pill to swallow. However, the Bible tells us in **1 Corinthians 1:27**, "**But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.**" In other words, if you are ashamed of the grief you have caused God, your heart is in the right place. The people of this world have cares and concerns for everything EXCEPT for pleasing God. However, God does not want you to be ashamed. His word says in Roman 10:11, "**Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.**" Shame does not come from God but is a complex emotion from committing sin and moral shortcomings. In the same way God did not give us shame, he does not want us to bear it alone. **1 Peter 5:7**, tell us "**Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.**" Therefore, God invites us in to allow him to lift our burdens.

God cares about us. He cares about our overall well being, but most importantly he cares about our soul. He wants us to inherit the kingdom of Heaven and everything that comes with that. It starts with making sure that we are in good standing with God. **Ephesians 1:7**, tells us that "**in him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.**" God sent his son Jesus to die for our sins because he knew we would fall short. We must be accepting of that grace and confident in our worthiness of his forgiveness. God is not like man, he will not torture you with your past mistakes and choices. **2 Corinthians 5:17** tells us "**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come!**" Do not allow transgressions to make you believe that all of your sacrifices and obediences were in vain! Instead do as **Acts 3:19** says, "**Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out.**" As mentioned earlier, God will erase it from his remembrance like it never happened.

However, remember that repentance is not crocodile tears with no change. Repentance is acknowledging your wrong doings and turning away from your sin. 2 Chronicles 7:14 tells us, "**If my people, who are called by my name, humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land**". So not only will God forgive you, but you will experience a supernatural healing, not just for you but for others. Remember that there are generational blessings tied to your obedience. Be blessed and allow God's forgiveness to engulf you, daily!