

What to do when Satan or others reminds you of your sins.

Once you have accepted Christ all of your sins are forgiven and washed away. The enemy, Satan, may come and try to condemn you for your past. He has the nerve to condemn you of the sins he has caused you to commit. He wants to discourage you and cause you to give up and live a fruitless life of guilt for the things God has already forgiven. He works through people to condemn you for your mistakes, and misconstrue your motives and life. If you have confessed to God and forsaken your sin, you are entirely forgiven. You can live a life free from those sins as you seek God through prayer, study of His word, and exercise your will against the things you were once weak with.

What to do when you are sincerely repentant but you are accused by Satan for your sins.

1. You are forgiven when you confess your sins to God:

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2. There is no one who hasn't sinned:

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

1 John 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him (God) a liar, and His word is not in us.

Note: If we say we have not sinned we call God a liar. God has provided forgiveness to those who will be real with Him and confess to Him that they have sinned. We are to remember that we have someone who stands next to us on our behalf when we have sinned and are repentant:

3. Christ is our representative that stands before the court of heaven on our behalf when we have sinned and are coming to God for forgiveness:

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate (One who stands by our side) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

Note: Jesus pleads forgiveness for us. He shows the father that his sacrifice has been paid for our sins. He died for our sins so we don't have to suffer for our sins and be lost.

4. Jesus is our mercy seat – protecting us from being condemned by the law:

1 John 2:2 And he is the propitiation (Mercy Seat) for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Note: In the Old Testament Sanctuary the priest prayed before the mercy seat. It was a chest that held the Ten Commandments and the top of the chest was a lid or lawyer that was covered with gold. It was called the mercy seat. There the High Priest sprinkled the blood of the lamb. The Mercy Seat with the Blood sprinkled on it protected the repentant sinner from being condemned by the commandments we have broken. Christ is our Mercy Seat protecting us from being condemn from the law that we have broken. Remember the wages – payment -- of sin is death. The payment for breaking the commandments is death, but the gift of God is eternal life. Romans 6:23.

5. Are we saved by God's free grace not by works:

Ephesian 2:8 For **by grace are ye saved** through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the **gift of God**: 9 **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.

Note: Grace is the free forgiveness of God. It is the "gift of God."

It is impossible to be saved by good works or by never – ever – sinning again. Why? Because once you have sinned – you have sinned – the damage has been done. You cannot make us for what you have done because the penalty of sin is death. That is eternal death - meaning to die and remain dead forever.

We don't keep the commandments in order to be forgiven. If that was the case then forgiveness would be by works. It is the opposite - we keep the commandments because we are forgiven. Forgiveness gives us freedom to obey. It allows us to have gratitude that allows us to want to do better and to obey God because we are free from the guilt of sin. We are saved by His gift –grace – when we chose to believe we will receive forgiveness.

6. Blessed are those whose sin is forgiven:

Ro 4:7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities (sins) are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

Note: We are blessed when we are forgiven. We are free from condemnation, guilt and the penalty of being lost forever.

7. Jesus forgave paralyzed man of his sin prior to healing him:

The story of the man who needed forgiveness.

Luke 5: 17 And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them. 18 And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him. 19 And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus. 20 And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee. 21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone? 22 But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? 23 Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk? 24 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house. 25 And

immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. 26 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day.

Note: Jesus forgave the paralyzed man prior to healing him. He needed forgiveness more than healing. It was his sin that led to his illness. Forgiveness is the deepest need of every human being. Some may deny this truth, but who wants to stand in the judgment unforgiven when the penalty of sin is eternal death?

An illustration of when Satan tries to condemn you.

8. Satan tries to resist your forgiveness by accusing you of your past sins.

Zechariah 3:1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand **to resist him.**

In this vision Satan is standing as the prosecuting attorney to resist Joshua (the high priest's) forgiveness. He is accusing him of his sins and faults and wants to have him punished.

God rebukes Satan's attempt to punish God's people.

Zechariah 3:2 And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?

Note: God shut down Satan's accusations. We are a coal taken from the fire. God has rescued us from the penalty of sin. We belong to him and therefore don't deserve to be lost and cast into the lake of fire. Satan wants to rake havoc of our life. He wants to condemn and punish us for the sins he has caused us to commit. Satan leads people to sin and then wants God to punish them for the sins he has seduced to do. One day he will be destroyed in the lake of fire for all the misery he has caused you and the human race.

9. Satan is called our accuser and is daily accusing us:

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for **the accuser** of our brethren is cast down, **which accused them before our God day and night.**

The daily action of the courts of heaven was filled with continual cases where Satan was seeking legal right to destroy God's people. He was and is today accusing us of the sins he has caused us to commit. At the Cross, "came Salvation" and when Jesus died, Satan was cast out and barred from any access to heaven to accuse God's people. People who accuse you of your sins, even if you have sinned, are aiding Satan in his work to discourage and condemn. They have no right to assist Satan in condemning others when in fact they themselves are also sinners. And in most cases they are greater sinners than those whom they accuse.

10. We have been forgiven, even though once we were sinful and wrong:

1 Corinthians 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, (male prostitutes) nor abusers of themselves with mankind, (sex with men).

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, (greedy) nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, (thieves – who take advantage of others) shall inherit the kingdom of God.

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Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: **but ye are washed**, but ye are **sanctified**, (made holy – belonging to God) but ye are **justified** (just as though you never sinned) in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

11. It is true we have sin. Our sins are like filthy garments:

Zechariah 3:3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.

Note: Garments represents character in the Bible. Our character is stained with sins that we have committed.

12. After God Shuts Satan’s mouth he gives Joshua new clean garments:

Zechariah 3:4 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, **Take away the filthy garments from him**. And unto him he said, Behold, **I have caused thine iniquity to pass** from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment (clothes).

13. Though our Sins are Red they shall be made white:

Isa 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as **scarlet, (red)** they shall be as white as **snow**; though they be **red** like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Though our sins are blaringly red He will make them white. Our character and life has been stained with guilty red stains but God will wash us and make us white as snow. How can this be? When you look at a red rose to a red glass it appears as white. When God looks at you through the red blood sacrifice of Jesus he sees you pure white.

14. Even if your heart condemns you – trust God for forgiveness:

1 John 3:20 For if our heart condemn us, **God is greater than our heart**, and knoweth all things.

Note: Trust that God has forgiven you even if your heart says differently. Your heart is influenced by a range of emotions. Faith not feeling is our true guide. Faith is believing what God has promised not the up and downs of our own emotions.

15. Your sins have been cast into the sea of forgetfulness:

Micah 7:19 He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue (walk on) our iniquities; (sins) and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

Note: Can you find your sins at the bottom of the ocean? The point is that God blots out our sins. He cast them into the sea of forgetfulness. He remembers them no more. If God doesn’t remember your sins neither should anyone else.