



Faith and Acceptance - 7

(1) AS OUR DESIRE TO HAVE PEACE AND HARMONY WITH GOD GROWS, WHAT WILL BE OUR GOD-GIVEN REACTION TO THE EVIL OF OUR SIN?

Ezekiel 36:31

Related Texts: Ezekiel.6:9; 20:43; Luke 18:13; 5:8; Romans 6:21; Psalm 40:12; Ezra 9:6; 2 Corinthians 7:9-11

As your conscience is made more sensitive by the Holy Spirit, you begin to see the evil that sin brings.

As you see its power, the guilt and the grief it brings you, a hatred for it begins to grow. You see that the sin in your heart has separated you from God and the peace He has to offer you. You see that you are a slave to the power of evil and the more you struggle to break away from it, the more you realize you are unable to. Your reasons are not pure and your heart is unclean. You see that your life has been filled with selfishness and sin. You long to be forgiven, to be cleansed, to be set free. You are asking, "How can I be close to God and become more like Him? What can I do to gain these things?" What your soul is longing for is peace.

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(2) TO WHOM DOES THE LORD OFFER THE LIVING WATER OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE?

Isaiah 55:1

Related Texts: Isaiah 41:17; John 4:14; 7:37, 38; 12:32; Revelation 21:6; 2 Peter 3:9

It is peace that you need—Heaven’s forgiveness and love in your heart. Money cannot buy it, earthly wisdom or intelligence cannot get it for you, and there is no hope that by your own efforts you can ever earn it. But God offers it to you as a gift, “without money and without price.” It is yours if you will just reach out and accept it. The Lord says, “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” Isaiah 1:18.

(3) WHAT WONDERFUL PROMISE HAS THE LORD GIVEN US TO CLAIM IN OUR SEARCH FOR PEACE?

Ezekiel 36:26

Related Texts: Ezekiel 11:19, 20; Deuteronomy 30:6; Jeremiah 32:39; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 3:3; John 3:3-6

You have admitted your sins, and in your heart put them away. You have decided to give yourself to God. Now go to Him, ask Him to wash away your sins and give you a new heart. Then believe that He has done this because He has promised. The lesson that Jesus taught while He was on this earth was that we must believe that we do receive the gift which God promises us, and if we do believe, it is ours.

(4) WHY WERE THE SIGNS AND MIRACLES OF CHRIST RECORDED IN SCRIPTURE?

John 20:31

Related Texts: Matthew 9:6; Mark 2:7, 10; John 5:24, 39; 6:40; 1 John 5:10-13

Jesus healed the people of their diseases when they had faith in His power. He helped them in the things which they could see, which helped them believe and have faith in Him about the things which they could not see. He led them to believe in His power to forgive sins.

(5) WHAT PART DO WE HAVE IN RECEIVING FORGIVENESS OF SIN?

Mark 11:24

Related Texts: Matthew 8:13; 21:22; 9:6; Psalm 32:10; Ephesians 2:8; 1 Timothy 4:10

From the simple Bible account of how Jesus healed the sick, we may learn something about how to believe in Him for the forgiveness of sins. Let us turn to the story of the paralytic at Bethesda. The poor sufferer was helpless; he had not used his limbs for thirty-eight years. Yet Jesus bade him, “Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.” The sick man might have said, “Lord, if Thou wilt make me whole, I will obey Thy word.” But, no, he believed Christ’s word, believed that he was made whole, and he made the effort at once; he willed to walk, and he did walk. He acted on the word of Christ, and God gave the power. He was made whole.

(6) WHY CAN WE NOT BRING HOLINESS TO THE HEART BY OUR OWN EFFORT?

Jeremiah 17:9

Related Texts: Jeremiah 13:23; 16:12; Psalm 51:5; 53:1-3; Genesis 6:5; Job 15:14-16; Ecclesiastes 9:3; Mark 7:21, 22; James 1:14, 15; Romans 7:14-20; Ephesians 2:3

We are sinners who cannot make right the sins of our past. We cannot change our own hearts and make ourselves holy. But God promises to do all this for us through Jesus. We must believe His promise, admit our sins, and then give ourselves to God. We choose to follow Him and just as sure as we do this, God will do just what He says for us in His Word. If we believe the promise that we are forgiven and made clean, then God will do it. We are made whole just as Christ gave the paralyzed man power to walk when the man believed that he was healed. It is done if we believe it.

Do not wait for the feeling that you have been forgiven, but say, "I believe it and it is so, not because I feel it, but because God has promised."

(7) IF IN FAITH WE SEEK FORGIVENESS FROM GOD, WHY CAN WE HAVE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE RECEIVED IT?

Matthew 7:11

Related Texts: Luke 11:11; 1 John 5:14, 15; Psalm 86:5; 103:11-13; Micah 7:18, 19; Romans 5:8-10; 8:32; Ephesians 2:4-6; Titus 3:4-7

Jesus says, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

Mark 11:24. There is a condition to this promise and it is that we pray according to the will of God. We know it is the will of God to cleanse us from sin, to make us His children, and to give us the power to live a holy life. So we may ask for these blessings, believe that we receive them, and thank God that we have received them. It is our privilege to go to Jesus and be made clean, and to stand before the law without shame or sorrow. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Romans 8:1.

(8) HOW CAN WE MAINTAIN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

Colossians 2:6

Related Texts: Hebrews 11:6; 3:14; Galatians 5:16; John 15:4-9; 1 John 2:6; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Ephesians 5:1, 2; Matthew 6:33

From this point on you are not your own; you have been bought with a price. "Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold...but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." 1 Peter 1:18, 19. By doing this simple step of believing God, the Holy Spirit has given you new life in your heart. You are born into the family of God, and He loves you as He loves His Son.

Now that you have given yourself to Jesus, do not draw back, do not take yourself away from Him, but day by day say, "I am Christ's, I have given myself to Him" and ask Him to give you His Spirit and keep you by His grace. You gave yourself to God by believing in Him and became His child. You are to continue to live in Him the same way.

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(9) WHAT DOES CHRIST OFFER TO ALL WHO COME?

Matthew 11:28

Related Texts: Isaiah 11:10; 48:17, 18; Jeremiah 6:16; Hebrews 4:1

Some seem to feel that they are always being tested and must prove to Jesus that they are changed before they can claim His blessing. But we may claim the blessing of God even now. We must have the Spirit and grace of Christ to strengthen our weaknesses or we cannot resist evil. Jesus loves to have us come to Him just as we are, sinful, helpless, and in need of Him. We may come with all our weakness, our foolishness, our sinfulness, and fall at His feet in sorrow for our sins. It is His glory to wrap His arms of love around us, to heal our wounds, and to cleanse us from all evil.

(10) WHAT REASSURANCE HAS GOD GIVEN EVERY REPENTANT SINNER?

Isaiah 44:22

Related Texts: Isaiah 1:18; 43:25; Jeremiah 33:8; Titus 2:13, 14; 1 John 1:9

This is where thousands fail because they do not believe that Jesus pardons them personally and individually. They do not take God at His word. It is the right of all who follow the conditions to know for themselves that pardon is freely given for every sin. Put away the doubt that God's prom-

ises are not meant for you. They are for every sinner who is sorry for what he has done. Strength and grace have been given through Christ and brought by ministering angels to every person who believes. No one is so sinful that he cannot find strength, purity, and righteousness in Jesus, the One who died for us. He is waiting to take away our garments, stained and polluted with sin, and put upon us the white robe of His righteousness. He is inviting us to live and not die.

(11) HOW DOES GOD DEAL WITH OUR SIN PROBLEM IF WE FOLLOW HIS LEADING TO REPENTANCE?

Psalms 103:10-12

Related Texts: Psalm 103:13-19; 130:3, 4; Ezra 9:13; Nehemiah 9:31; Job 11:6

God does not deal with us as worldly men deal with one another. His thoughts are thoughts of mercy, love, and of most tender concern. He says, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7. "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins." Isaiah 44:22.

"I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye." Ezekiel 18:32. Satan is ready to steal away the blessed promises of God. He

desires to take every glimmer of hope and every ray of light from your soul but you must not let him do this. Do not listen to the tempter, but say, "Jesus has died so I can live. He loves me, and doesn't want me to be lost."

(12) HOW DOES OUR HEAVENLY FATHER TREAT HIS WAYWARD CHILDREN WHO RETURN TO HIM?

Luke 15:20

Related Texts: Deuteronomy 30:2-4; Psalm 86:5, 15; 78:3; 145:8

We, just like the prodigal son, can say, "I have a kind heavenly Father. Although I have abused His love, even though the blessings He has given me have been wasted, I will get up and go to my Father, and say, 'I have sinned against heaven, and you, and am not worthy to be called Your son. Make me as one of Your hired servants.'" The story tells how the one who went astray will be welcomed.

Even this tender and touching parable does not fully show the endless compassion of our heavenly Father. The Lord has told us by His prophet, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee." Jeremiah 31:3. While the sinner is still far from the Father's house, wasting his money in a strange country, the Father's heart is longing over him. Every desire that comes to life in our heart to return to God is the tender pleading of His Spirit, wooing, begging, and drawing the wanderer to his Father's heart of love.

(13) WHAT PROMISE IS GIVEN TO ALL WHO SEEK THE LORD?

John 6:37

Related Texts: Matthew 11:28; Hebrews 7:25; Psalm 102:17; Isaiah 55:7; Revelation 22:17; 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 8:31, 32; 5:8

With the rich promises of the Bible before you, can you even question the Father's love? Can you believe that when the poor sinner longs to return, longs to quit sinning, the Lord would cruelly keep him from coming to His feet in sorrow for his sins? Do away with such thoughts! Nothing can hurt you more than to think about such a thought concerning your heavenly Father. He hates sin, but He loves the sinner, and He gave Himself to you through Jesus so that you can choose to be saved and have endless blessings in the kingdom of glory [2 Peter 3:9]. Is there any stronger or more tender way He could have expressed His love for you? He declares, "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." Isaiah 49:15.

When you are scared and have doubts, look up to Jesus who lives to help you. Thank God for the gift of His dear Son and pray that He has not died for you in vain. The Holy Spirit is calling you today. Come with your whole heart to Jesus, and you may claim His blessing.

As you read God's promises, remember they are the way of telling us of His love and pity that cannot even be explained. His great heart of unlimited love is drawn toward the sinner with compassion that has no end. "We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." Ephesians 1:7. Yes, believe that God is there to help you. He wants to bring back His pure image in you. As you draw near to Him by admitting and being sorry

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for your sins, He will come near to you with mercy and forgiveness.

(14) WHAT BLESSED PROMISES MAY ALL GOD'S CHILDREN CLAIM?

Isaiah 49:15

Hebrews 13:5

Related Texts: Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Malachi 3:17; Romans 8:38, 39; Jeremiah 31:33-35; 32:38-40; John 10:27-30

As I have studied God's Word, I have felt His Spirit knocking on the door of my heart (Revelation 3:20).

Circle: Yes Undecided

I realize that I am a lost sinner in need of a Saviour (Romans 3:23).

Circle: Yes Undecided

I am amazed that God demonstrated His love by sending His Son Jesus to save me from destruction (John 3:16, 17) and I know He is the only Door to salvation (John 10:9).

Circle: Yes Undecided

I understand that if I, with a sincere heart, confess my sins, Jesus' precious blood will cleanse me from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Circle: Yes Undecided

If you answered "Yes" to the above questions, I invite you to make the most important

decision of your life. By faith, you can receive Jesus as your personal Saviour and experience His great peace, power, and steadfast love in your life. Simply repeat the following prayer with a sincere heart (John 1:12):

"Dear Father in heaven, I know that I am a sinner and believe You sent Your Son to die for me. I ask, in faith, to receive Jesus as my Saviour and for His precious blood to cover my many sins (as much as possible be specific). I choose to turn from my sinful ways and ask You to become the LORD of my life. In Jesus name, Amen."

Congratulations! You may or may not feel different but, because of your faith, you ARE a redeemed child of God and a new creature in Christ (Acts 16:31)! Now, as the branch to the vine, abide in Him every moment (John 15:1-8) and one day He will come to take you to your new home with Him in heaven (John 14:1-3).