

Series: Truth for All Time

## Is Asking God for Forgiveness Enough?

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Craighouse Christian Fellowship



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There's a lot of talk today about the Holy Spirit moving to bring young people to faith in Jesus Christ for salvation (awakening) and revival (there has to be something to revive). Concurrent with faith is repentance. Both are the gifts of God, who is Creator and Redeemer.

It's as true today as always: **For by grace you have been saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8, 9.**

The Holy Spirit regenerates the heart, which then turns away from sin and iniquity and trespasses and turns to Jesus Christ alone for salvation. It is the Living God who justifies ungodly sinners, those who "miss the mark." All have sinned and fall short of the glory, the perfection of God. No wiggle room here. We're all born naturally into the estate of sin and misery because Adam knowingly and willingly ate the delicious looking fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. In doing that, Adam fell; he chose another wisdom and in that choosing, he rejected Christ the Wisdom of God. He turned away from God Only Wise. Bad move.

It can happen to true believers as well. A true believer does not lose his/her salvation; that is secured by Jesus, the Surety of the Covenant in His Blood, and by the Holy Spirit, who is the "guarantee." Jesus said that of all that the Father had given Him, He would lose none. Do we believe Jesus? Do we believe what Jesus believes?

So many Christians think the Christian life is all up to them. When a true believer drifts, doubts, disbelieves this or that, disobeys, and is headed for disaster and Fatherly displeasure, he/she might ask for forgiveness, but fail to take into account the working of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the spirit of holiness. God alone justifies inasmuch as Christ died for the ungodly and a believer who is "in Christ" is defined as holy, blameless, and above reproach. We laugh; we know we are far from that!

By the process of conviction, convincing, converting, and correction, we are kept on track. We learn to cooperate and "get with the program." We become open to instruction from the Word of God. We learn obedience and grow in grace. Whenever we don't, we usually find ourselves "going around the mountain" again and again. Hopefully, we find out what pleases the Lord.

God grants repentance.

**2 Timothy 2.25, 26 - <sup>25</sup>In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; <sup>26</sup>And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will. KJV**

Maybe we are in a snare, a trap, behind a stronghold of Satan or of our own making when the grace of God, the Spirit of grace, the Holy Spirit, begins to move. There is a change in the air, in the atmosphere, a hope, a brightness, a light, a sense of something good coming, a sense of something being birthed or being loosed or a reviving of drooping saints, times of refreshing.

But we cannot be surprised if we first travel through the valley of the shadow of death. We die to what we now know and trust as a way, a principle, a law for living. We are coming to a dead end of what has not profited us because of perverting God's Way.

**My Testimony:** I thought I was a Christian. I had a decent Christian resume in September, 1972. And then three people came to our house and presented clearly the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Scripture that jumped out at me was "I and the Father are one." But I was still presumptive as my husband Jim and I prayed the "sinner's prayer." He was the heathen, you know; I was just wanting to pray, go back to church, etc.

All week I was reading Romans. The convicting power of the Holy Spirit worked and intensified. A different group of three people returned; I had a sense they would. This visit it was obvious to me that whatever they had, Jim had it too, but not me. I saw in the spirit a veil between me and them. Later, I knew there was this battle over my soul. I knew absolutely that God, the true God, was sovereign; I feared the Lord. The battle lasted for about an hour and then I heard the Living Spirit for the first time.

The Holy Spirit indicted me for unbelief, among other sins, and in His grace, granted me repentance and faith, the kind of faith that "saves." That was on September 27, 1972, at 1:00 a.m. I was born again.

The only way out is up. You must rise from that death into newness of life.

**It is a move of God, of the Holy Spirit.** Something is coming to a death as the Holy Spirit moves to regenerate, to bring new life, a new creation. The old is passing away. The enemies of God are being destroyed, rendered null and void, annulled, abrogated, over-ruled, and over-powered. The graves are being rent by a power that you cannot resist, a power that Satan fails to comprehend. It is the power of God. It is the energy moving out from the center of God's Being. It is the light, the love, the life of God being poured out upon a chosen one. It is the new heart given.

And how can this be so? Romans 6 talks about it. Romans 7 talks about the struggle, the war between the flesh and the Holy Spirit. Romans 8 speaks about a bond of love so strong that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ, the love of God.

**Repentance comes and with it revival.** It comes with knowledge. The entrance of the Word brings light. As we hear the Word of truth it becomes to us a *rhema* word, a living word. It calls us out of darkness into a marvelous light. As we comprehend the truth of Christ who is full of grace and truth, we begin to reckon. We begin to turn from darkness to light. We are drawn to the light of God who is love. As we turn to see Jesus we see Life in Him. It is what we want. We see love. We see truth. Jesus Christ rose from the dead the third day, just as He said. We see grace. We see kindness. We see mercy extended in His outstretched arms.

**We hear the call of the Father to look and live** and we come to the light of God's love. Look at the Cross and live. That draws us and we begin to reckon ourselves dead from the sin that has held us in bondage. We don't want it anymore. It is a dead work. It is a sin that leads to death. It is a pit, a grave of destruction, a huge negative. We begin to die to that thing. We begin to yield to the light, to the love, to the life in Christ.

**We look and live. We hear the call of Christ to come and die.** As we come and die to those things that are leading to death, **we hear the call of the Holy Spirit to rise and reign in life in Christ Jesus.** It is a repentance unto life. It comes as the water of the word washes us and the Blood of Christ cleanses us of sin. We are made clean by the words which Jesus speaks. Our conscience is purged from dead works to serve the Living God.

**We are moving into a new realm, a place in God governed by the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus.** We are being set free from the law of sin and death, from the principle of corruption leading to the grave.

The Law of God, summarized in the Old Testament in Exodus 20, is a Law born out of the love and holiness of God. It reflects His nature. The Law is good, spiritual, and holy, but when we hear it, we are convicted by it because it is a mirror into both the soul of God and into our soul. We see that we fall short of the glory of God, short of His righteousness, His perfection. We must reckon with the truth of corruption, of not fulfilling our appointed end as God created us in His image for His glory. We must reckon with truth in spite of a desire to kill our Creator and take His place. We must reckon with truth in spite of a desire to do away with the Mirror and the Standard and be a Law unto ourselves. Know. Reckon. Yield.

**The Law of Love says Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength and your neighbor as yourself.** God is love. His love is stronger than death. His love will pull us out of the graves of destruction, out of the swamp and mire of corruption, and bring us out of darkness into light. We will hear in the Law of God things that we know we have done which we should not have done and things we should have done which we failed to do.

The Law was given to a redeemed people in order that they might be the demonstration people of God. God's people are to reflect the One who redeems them to show everyone that they are the chosen of God, His children, a child of the covenant of grace, a child of the Holy Spirit, a child living in the Kingdom of God.

As we read the Law of God in Exodus 20, we find that in every “You shall not...” is the certainty of God’s promise. “You shall not...” The born-out-of-God person who has been justified by the atoning work of Jesus Christ has a destiny in Christ such that he/she will not sin in the estate of glorification. So there is hope.

**Right now** the Holy Spirit is coming to revive us. That revival comes as we repent, casting off those things that are death, dead, dead works, dying vestiges of gravity, things holding us down, holding us in, holding us up, holding us back from the destiny God has for us.

That revival will come as we come to God honestly telling Him just how it is with a repentant heart and a desire to be renewed in the spirit of our minds. We come to Him who is True, Faithful, holy, loving, without harm, without guile, without evil; to the One who loves without a lie. We come to Jesus, who died that we might have this life, and who rose from the dead. His once-for-all-time sacrifice of Himself was accepted by the Father, making reconciliation. We are accepted in the Beloved. Believers can experience this revival, this refreshing of the water of life. Jesus has the power of an endless life. It flows, Vine to branch. The Holy Spirit is the Life Maker, the Life Producer.

**We may come freely, without cost.** I speak for the Bride of Christ when I say: **The Spirit and the Bride say come. And let the one who is thirsty come. Let all who want to drink of the water of life freely, come.**

This is not a coming forward in some artificial display of spirituality to impress others. This is private. Brace yourself and stand, like Habakkuk, like Job. Fall on your knees, on your face before the infinite, eternal, and unchanging Creator/Redeemer. It’s not “fake it till you make it.” Our God is a consuming fire. Be amazed at His love, this so great salvation. Be refreshed, renewed, repaired, and transformed. Let’s truly repent. Amen.

**<sup>5</sup>This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 1 John 1:5-10 KJV Amen.**

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