



Date 05/22/2022

5 Assurances Series
Assurance of Forgiveness
1 John 1:9

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins he is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins,
and purify us from all unrighteousness.

How can we have greater Assurance of Forgiveness?

Use God's Standard, Not Your Own.

- “Confess” – agree with God.

Understand God's Justice.

- “Just” – aligned with what is right.

Understand God's Forgiveness

- “Forgive”
 - send away our sins.
 - **Micah 7:19b** - *You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.*
 - remove your sins.
 - **Psalm 103:12** – *as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our sins from us.*
 - go to another place from you.
 - **1 Peter 1:24** – *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree.*

- **Purify Us from All Unrighteousness**

A Word of Warning, and a word of Hope

- **Hebrews 4:13** – God sees.
- **Luke 12:2** – Others will see.

a) **Your record will be expunged.**

or,

b) **Your record will be made public,** but so will your sincere repentance.

Assurance of Forgiveness

God said it → I believe it → I experience it.

You Forgive Others.

Matthew 6:14-15 – For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 18:21-35

V35 – That is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.

1. Don't say, "I can't forgive."
2. Do say, "God, help me to forgive."

5 Assurances Series
Assurance of Forgiveness

1 John 1:9

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins he is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins,
and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Opening

Guy Winch, Psychology Today, *10 things You didn't know about guilt*

1. Guilt protects our relationships.
2. We experience 5 hours a week of guilty feelings.
3. Unresolved guilt is like having a snooze alarm in your head that won't shut off.
4. Guilty feelings make it difficult to think straight.
5. Guilt makes us reluctant to enjoy life.
6. Guilt can make you self-punish.
7. Guilt can make you avoid the person you've wronged.
8. Guilt trips make you feel guilty but also resentful.
9. Guilt-prone people assume they've harmed others when they haven't.
10. Guilty feelings may make you feel literally heavier and more belabored.

How much harder it is when we experience guilt before God!

God gives us the avenue to a clear conscience – with Him, and others.

(Pray)

Transition

Notes, handouts

Assurance of

Salvation, Answered Prayer, Victory, Forgiveness, Guidance

Body

Scripture Reading

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness.

How can we have greater Assurance of Forgiveness?

Use God's Standard, Not Your Own.

Confess – agree with God.

Does **God** call this thing a sin? You call it a sin too.

What does this look like?

“God, I’ve sinned.”

BC days, called evil good, and good evil. Rationalize anything.

Stealing – (before and after Christ)

I confessed. (assurance of forgiveness)

I made restitution to my employer. (even **more** assurance!)

You need to know what things God calls sin.

→Read His Word. Hide it in your heart. Let Him speak to you.

Understand God's Justice.

Faithful and just.

“Just” – God’s actions are aligned with what is right.

God's plan is substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus Christ. If Jesus suffered for our sins, it would be unjust for God to count our sins on both us and Jesus.

Illus: Say I owed the bank \$100M

My brother comes and pays the bank my debt, \$100M.

Now the bank says I still have to pay \$100M.

Is that just? (No)

Justice, ethics, morality, integrity, truth, righteousness requires that the bank forgive me of my debt.

On the Cross Jesus paid our debt of sin.

God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.

Understand God's Forgiveness

Forgive us our sins—

- send away our sins.
 - **Micah 7:19b** - *You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.*
- remove your sins.
 - **Psalm 103:12** – *as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our sins from us.*
- go to another place from you.
 - Where do you think it went?
 - **1 Peter 1:24** – *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree.*
 -

Through Christ, God has more forgiveness than you'll ever need.

Word of Warning, and a word of Hope

- **Hebrews 4:13**

- **Luke 12:2** –

These are Social deterrents. These are words of warning. In a kingdom of light, this should not surprise us.

But look! There is a word of HOPE!

1 John 1:9 ... purify us from ALL unrighteousness

Either:

a) Your record will be expunged.

As far as the east is from the west, God removes your sin. God highlights your sins, then hits the **delete key**. And when the window warning comes up saying the section will permanently delete the data, are you sure you want to proceed" God presses YES!
God does not actually forget, but he chooses to not remember.
"I will never bring it up again."

Or

b) Your record will be made public, but so will your sincere repentance, and thus God's proclamation over you that because you repented He has forgiven you of your sins!

Because of Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross, God has an **ocean of forgiveness** just waiting for us.

This requires faith. This requires taking God at His Word.

Forgiveness is not something tangible you will see or feel.
God said it → I believe it → I experience it.

You Forgive Others.

You must forgive!

Jesus told a parable (Unmerciful Servant) that affects our Assurance of Forgiveness.

(in Sermon on the Mount)

Matthew 6:14-15 – For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

(illustrating conflict resolution)

Matthew 18:21-35

V35 – That is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.

I'm not going to sugar coat it, rationalize it, or say that Jesus didn't really mean what He said.

This verse is unmistakably clear.

Now, the more sure you are that you forgave others, the greater your **Assurance of Salvation** will be.

These scriptures bring terror to people who refuse to forgive.

- This issue is far deeper than any sermon can address.
- The solution is NOT to soften or rationalize these scriptures.
- **The solution is to figure out why you think you can't forgive.**

I WANT you to have greater Assurance of Forgiveness. So...

1. Don't say, "I can't forgive."

Nothing is impossible with God.

2. Do say, "God, help me to forgive."

Ask God to **help you find a way to forgive who you think is unforgivable.**

Let God empower you and guide you.

I had a longer list of "how to" forgive, but I think these are enough.

It is all by God's Grace.

No one will escape the harsh realities of sin in the world.

When we abandon ourselves to the grace of God, God will do astounding things in our lives.

I would like to have shared an example of God's grace in the midst of horrific circumstances.

When I was in college, a speaker named "Harold" told us a story that would forever impact my view of God's grace and power. My wife was raped. God, I want to kill him. Hal, you're in sin. That speaker was Hal Jensen, and I've asked his wife, Karen Jensen, to share her story with us.

Sharing: Karen Jensen