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faith love  
hope

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## **BEGINNING YOUR NEW LIFE IN GOD'S LOVE THE BASIS FOR FORGIVENESS**

*"The next day he [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming to him. and said,*

*"For God took the sinless Christ and poured into Him our sins. Then, in exchange, He poured God's goodness into us!"*

(II Corinthians 5:21, Livina)

*'Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!' "*

(John 1:29)

*"And when you were dead in your transgressions [sins] and the uncircumcision of your flesh. He [the Father] made you alive together with Him [Christ], having forgiven us all our transgressions [sins]. having cancelled out the certificate of debt . . . having nailed it to the cross."*

(Colossians 2:13, 14)

### **PAGE 9**

- He must confess his sins and allow God to cleanse him.
- To confess means to agree with God about your sins.

### **PAGE 11**

- The Holy Spirit will convict you of your sins; i.e. make you aware of your sins.

### **PAGE 14**

- Our sins have been removed as far as East is from West ; they are buried in the deepest sea. God has put them behind His back and remembers them against us no more.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### PAGE 3

- Jesus Christ takes away sin.
- Jesus Christ takes our sins so that we can obtain His righteousness .

### PAGE 4

- By His death on the cross, Jesus provided the means by which our sins are forgiven.
- Yes. In verse 13, it says *all* of our sins are forgiven . This indicates that past, present *and* future sins are forgiven.

### PAGE 6

- God's Spirit assures us that we have been adopted by God as His beloved children.
- God wants us to enjoy a rich love relationship with Him.
- God is genuinely interested in directing us and sincerely delights in us.
- Communication will be hindered.

### PAGE 7

- It hinders our communication and fellowship with Him.

In John 1:29, what is the significance of what John the Baptist said about Christ?

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In your own words, what do you think 2 Corinthians 5:21 means?

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\*The answers to this question and those on the following pages begin on page 16.

According to Colossians 2:13-14, how did Christ deal with our sins?

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Some people might think that only past sins are forgiven by Christ's death. Let's examine this...

According to Colossians 2: 13,14, has God forgiven us our past, present and future sins?

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How do you know?

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*“The forgiveness of our sins comes only through Christ's death on the cross for us. We are not forgiven because we feel guilty about our sins, or because we try to overcome them by good works, self-punishment or promises to do better. Christ's death for our sins is completely sufficient.”*

The following explains how we can experience God's love and forgiveness .

## **How to Continue to Experience God's Love and Forgiveness**

We continue to experience God's love and forgiveness by confessing our sins immediately. As you are enjoying your relationship with the Lord, simply thank Him that He has forgiven your sins...past, present and future...on the basis of Christ's death on the cross. Claim His love and forgiveness by faith and continue to have fellowship with Him.

## **ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

After you have confessed all your known sins, guilt is gone. Any guilt feelings that remain are from Satan, not from God; God has forgiven you all your sins on the basis of Christ's death on the cross for you (Hebrews 10:1- 17).

What has God done with our sins, according to Psalm 103:12; Isaiah 38:17; 43:25; and Micah 7: 19?

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*Think of it! God has forgiven you! God loves you! There is nothing to hinder your fellowship with God when you have confessed all your sins. You are free to experience, a rich, dynamic relationship with God.*

## HOW TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

***For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."***

**(Romans 8:15,16)**

*"Teacher, which the great commandment in the Law?' And He [Christ] said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."*

**(Matthew 22:36,37)**

*'The steps of a man are established by the Lord; And He [God] delights in his way."*

**(Psalm 37:23)**

God wants us to enjoy a rich relationship with Him. What do the following passages indicate about our relationship with God?

Romans 8:15,16:

Matthew 22:36,37:

Psalms 37:23:

In any relationship, when one person has offended the other person, what is the effect?

Remember that faith, not tears, pleading or any other self-imposed spiritual discipline, lays hold of God's promise to forgive and cleanse us from all sin.

This is not a new or second forgiveness. You are simply realizing in your experience, the once-and-for-all forgiveness, which is already yours through Christ's death.

**Guilt Is Gone**

However, Satan will attempt to make you feel that you're still guilty. The following chart illustrates this by contrasting the activities of God and Satan.

GOD	SATAN
Points out specific sins in our lives.	Accuses us in vague generalities.
Leads of to the cross and the forgiveness of our sins.	Leads us to hopelessness and despair.

Realize that this list is just between you and God. so be completely honest. Tell God everything that is wrong.

After you have completed your list, write out this wonderful promise of 1 John 1:9...

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

(1 John 1:9)

T

hen appropriate (receive) the fullness of the Holy Spirit by faith. Trust that He now controls and empowers you, according to the command of Ephesians 5:18 and the promise of 1 John 5:14,15.

Express your gratitude to the Lord for the forgiveness He has

provided for you through what Christ did on the cross 2,000 years ago.

After you have finished praying, *tear up the piece of paper and throw it away.*

How does it affect our relationship with God when we sin? (See Psalm 66:18.)

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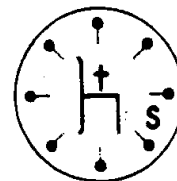
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The breakdown in our fellowship with God can be illustrated by the following diagram:

#### SPIRITUAL MAN

(One who is directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit)

#### CHRIST-DIRECTED LIFE



t – Christ is in the life  
and on the throne

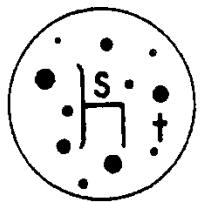
S – Self is yielding to Christ

• – Interests are directed by Christ, resulting in harmony with God's plan

## CARNAL MAN

(one who has received Christ but lives in defeat because he trusts in his own efforts to live the Christian life)

## SELF-DIRECTED LIFE



S – Self is on the throne

t – Christ is dethroned and not allowed to direct the life

• – Interests are directed by self, often.

Resulting in discord and frustration

The spiritual person who retakes the throne of his or her life through sin – a definite act of disobedience - moves into the carnal state.

Paul wrote to carnal Christians:

"And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh [carnal men], as to babes in Christ. I gave you

## ACTION POINT

*"And He [the Holy Spirit], when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment."*

(John 16:8)

According to John 16:8, how will you be able to identify the sins you have committed?

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Since it is the responsibility of the Holy Spirit to convict us of sin, you should not be too introspective. When you finish this booklet, or tonight, before you go to bed, take the opportunity to experience God's cleansing from within. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you every sin in your life.

As He does, write them down on a piece of paper. Don't let anyone see what you write... Your list may include jealousy, pride, selfishness, lust, indifference to God, unbelief, lukewarmness, loss of your first love for God, and other sins.



**First**, we acknowledge that our sin or sins, which should be named specifically, are wrong and therefore are offensive to God.

**Second**, we acknowledge that God has already forgiven our sins — past, present, and future; because of Christ's death on the cross.

**Third**, we repent, which means that we change our attitudes toward our sins. Through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, this will result in a change in our conduct. Instead of doing what our old sinful nature...our fleshly self...wants to do, we now do what God wants us to do.

When we confess, God applies to our lives the forgiveness that Christ gave us when He died on the cross 2,000 years ago (Hebrews 10; Romans 5:6-11). Booklet 3, "Beginning Your New Life in the Spirit," deals with the solution to carnality in greater detail.

milk to drink, not solid food; *for* you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly [carnal]. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?"

(I Corinthians 3:1-3).

According to I John 1:9, what is an important step that a carnal man must take to become spiritual again?

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What do you think the word "confess" means?

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The following summarizes the biblical meaning of confession:

Confession (*homologeō* in the Greek) suggests agreement with God concerning our sins. Such agreement involves at least three considerations.