

“I Am Afraid God Won’t
Forgive Me!”

2Tim. 1:7 - “For God has not given
us a spirit of fear, but of power
and of love and of a sound mind.”

“I Am Afraid God Won’t Forgive Me!”

- The fact that you are concerned shows that your conscience is intact
- The fact that you desire to do what it takes to be forgiven shows that your will is intact
- The fact that you believe that God forgives sins shows that your faith and knowledge are intact
- The fact that you are sorrowful for sin’s effect on your relationship with God shows that your heart is intact
- However, the fact that you do not believe God will or can forgive you shows that your understanding is broken. Of the five, your understanding is the easiest to make whole

The Need For Forgiveness For One With An Intact Understanding

- God hates sin. Un-resolved sin damages our relationship with the Lord.
 - Isa. 59:1-2 - “Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”
- So, how helpful is it for some self-righteous contemporary Pharisee who can't discern between an unrepentant sinner and a suffering penitent to tell the latter that he is in sin?

The Requirements For Forgiveness

- Sacrifice

- Heb. 9:22 - “And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”
- 1Peter 3:18 - “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit”
- Eph. 1:7 - “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”

The Requirements For Forgiveness

- Sacrifice
 - “I am having a hard time believing my sins are covered by the sacrifice of Christ, because I am having a hard time believing anyone loves ME enough to make such a sacrifice.”

The Requirements For Forgiveness

- Forgiveness of others
 - Prov. 17:9 - “He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends.”
 - Matt. 6:14-15 - “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”
 - Eph. 4:32 - “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.”

The Requirements For Forgiveness

- Forgiveness of others
 - “I have a hard time believing I am forgiven because I have a hard time forgiving others.

The Requirements For Forgiveness

- Repentance. We must decide to change, to turn from our sins.
 - Jer. 15:19 - “Therefore thus says the LORD: If you return, Then I will bring you back; You shall stand before Me; If you take out the precious from the vile, You shall be as My mouth. Let them return to you, But you must not return to them.”
 - “I am having a hard time believing I am forgiven because I am having a hard time forsaking the practice of sin.”

The Requirements For Forgiveness

- Confession of sin
 - 1John 1:9 - “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
 - “I am having a hard time believing I am forgiven because I have a hard time admitting my sins out loud to myself.”

The Product Of Forgiveness

- Happiness
 - Psalm 32:1-2 - “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.”
 - “I am not feeling happy about being forgiven because I am not sure what happiness feels like, let alone happiness in the blessings in Christ.”

The Product Of Forgiveness

- God doesn't keep a record of our sins; He no longer holds them against us
 - Isa. 43:25 - “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.”
 - “I am having a hard time accepting that God has forgotten my sins because I keep playing them over and over in my mind.”

The Product Of Forgiveness

- God removes our sin from us
 - Psalm 103:12 - “As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.”
 - “I am having a hard time believing my sins are taken from me because I believe they are so much a part of who I am.”

The Product Of Forgiveness

- We then can forgive ourselves
 - Phil. 3:13-14 - “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”
 - “I am having a hard time forgiving myself because I have never known anything but punishment, both from without and from within.”

The Need For Forgiveness For One With A Broken Understanding

- 1John 1:7 - “If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
- God continues to cleanse us as we are trying to live the Christian life and praying to Him when we stumble.

The Need For Forgiveness For One With A Broken Understanding

- While God wants you to know you are forgiven, Satan wants you to feel guilty. Satan knows that your feelings of guilt will keep you (in your mind) separated from God.
- When you have met God's conditions, it is not your reasoning or conscience that informs you of the guilt you feel. It's your Adversary

The Need For Forgiveness For One With A Broken Understanding

- The Devil's role in the guilt you feel
 - Rev. 12:10 - "Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down."
- Jesus role in the guilt you feel
 - Col. 1:21-22 - "And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight"

The Need For Forgiveness For One With A Broken Understanding

- So when you have feelings of guilt where there's no basis for that guilt, go back to the facts.
- Those facts tell you that you are loved by God, completely pure and holy through Jesus Christ, and cleansed by walking in the light with the Heavenly Father.

The Need For Forgiveness For One With A Broken Understanding

- David understood where you are.
 - The sin and repentance seem so matter of fact
 - 2Sam. 12:1-13 - “13 So David said to Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said to David, The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.”

The Need For Forgiveness For One With A Broken Understanding

- But David really felt the enormity of his sin
 - Psalm 51:1-2, 9-10 - “A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.>> Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.
 - “Can it be that easy?!”

The Need For Forgiveness For One With A Broken Understanding

- David understood that his sin was forgiven and his cause for guilt was removed, but he was having a hard time living with the regret.
- The key to your understanding may be this thought: consider that the breakdown in your understanding is simply not discerning the difference between guilt and regret
- Guilt has a basis, pain that is generated by sin that has not been properly removed
- Regret has a basis, the pain that remains after the sin has been removed

The Need For Forgiveness For One With A Broken Understanding

- Guilt no longer has a basis because the cause has been removed, sin
- Regret still has a basis, sorrow over the sense of loss generated by sin
- Heal your understanding by informing it that what you are feeling is sorrow over sins committed in the past and forgiven forever in the present
- Experience the sorrow in a healthy way; be motivated to draw close to God for comfort as a child does to a loving parent; God will help you remove the regret over time, just as He removed the sins the moment you asked him to.
- Ecc. 3:1-11