

One Step to Freedom  
Chapter 4: Forgiveness

Lesson 3  
Turning Away from Sin

*“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled”  
(Matthew 5:6).*

Every day as believers in Christ, we wrestle with controlling our sinful nature. This is why the need for ongoing confession is so important. We need to ask God to show us where we have fallen short in our service to Him.

When we have sinned, not only do we need to confess our sins, but more importantly, we need to turn away from them. True repentance results in a change in our attitude and behavior. It works itself out practically as we turn away from sin and desire to turn to God seeking His righteousness in its place.

1. Read 1 John 2:1-6. As believers in Christ, what happens if we sin (verse 1)?

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2. What is Jesus to those who believe in Him (verse 2)?

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3. How can we be sure that we know God (verse 3)?

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4. What do you become if you claim to know God but don't obey Him (verse 4)?

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5. What is that person lacking (verse 4)?

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6. How do we know that we are in Christ (verse 5)?

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7. If we claim to know and abide in Jesus, what should we do (verse 6)?

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Jesus died for our sins so that we would follow His example and live for Him. He does not forgive our sins so we can go on sinning repetitively over and over. Rather He desires for us to love Him (instead of sin), and serve Him (instead of our sinful nature).

Forgiveness is not a freedom to sin willfully.

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8. Read Hebrews 10:26-30. If we receive the knowledge of the truth (Jesus) and continue to sin willfully, what happens (verse 26)?

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9. What three things happen when we sin willfully (verse 29)?

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Everyone is accountable to God. However, for believers there is an increased accountability. God has saved us and forgiven us of our unrighteousness, having revealed Himself and His will to us. He justifiably expects us to be obedient to His will in our life.

Read Psalm 119:9-11 to help avoid repeating the same sins.

10. How can a young man cleanse his way (verse 9)?

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11. How should we seek the Lord (verse 10)?

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12. What can we hide in our hearts to help us keep from sinning (verse 11)?

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The more we study God's Word and apply it in our lives, the less likely we are to sin against God. Remember, faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). As we study God's Word, He builds us up in our faith.

13. Read 2 Timothy 2:22. From what should we flee?

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14. What should we pursue? And with whom?

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As believers, we need to avoid the people and the places that would cause us to stumble into sinning. This involves turning away from a sinful lifestyle and developing a godly, Christ-centered lifestyle, where we desire and thirst after His righteousness.