

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

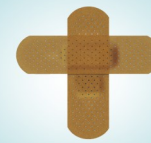
“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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Is Forgiveness Really Forever?

Ultimately, the only source of real forgiveness is God. Thankfully, God is quick to forgive. In fact, one of the few absolute promises that God makes to us is that, if we confess our sins to Him, He will most seriously and surely forgive those sins (1 John 1:9).

Many years ago, I went to see my pastor to tell him about a struggle I was having with guilt. After I told him my problem, he opened the Bible to 1 John 1:8 and asked me to read this verse out loud. It says, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” In this verse, the apostle John is addressing the scenario we discussed earlier, in which a person who has real guilt attempts to deny or excuse it. John is saying that if we deny our guilt, we are simply fooling ourselves. We all sin. Therefore, we all contract guilt. If we refuse to accept that, we are engaged in perhaps the worst kind of deception, namely, self-deception. But when I read that passage, my pastor said to me: “That’s not your problem, because you’ve just told me why you came here. You came to tell me that you had a problem with sin.” Then he had me read the next verse: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

When I finished reading that, he asked me, “Have you confessed your sin?” I said: “Yes. But I still feel guilty.” He said: “OK. How about reading 1 John 1:9 for me.” I looked at him in confusion and said, “That’s what just I read.” He said: “I know. I want you to read it again.” So I picked up the Bible and I read, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Then I looked up at the minister, and he said, “So, what else?” I said: “Well, I’ve read this passage, I understand what it is saying, and I’ve confessed my sin. But I still feel guilty.” He said, “OK, this time I’d like you to read 1 John 1:9.” He made me read it again, and I ended up reading it five or six times. Finally, he got my attention. He said, “R. C., here’s what the truth of God declares: If ‘A,’ ‘B’ necessarily follows. God has promised that if you confess your sins, He will forgive you of your sins and cleanse you of your unrighteousness. You don’t believe that you’re forgiven because you don’t feel forgiven. What, then, are you trusting—your feelings or the truth of God?” I finally got the message he was trying to help me see.

Source: “What if I Don’t Feel Forgiven” by R.C. Sproul

KEY VERSE

I John 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. NKJV

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: I John 5:9-13

Introduction

1. Describe a time someone has broken a promise that they made to you. What is the difference between the promises of people and the promises of God?
2. According to this passage, what determines whether you are forgiven and have eternal life or not?

Tuesday: John 10:27-30; John 6:37-40, Romans 10:13

Seal Your Eternity In Christ

3. What are some reasons people may not personally feel assured of their salvation?
4. What promises do you see in these verses? How can these promises help you to be sure about your eternity?

Wednesday: I John 1:8-9; Psalm 32:1-5

Admit Your Sins Regularly

5. What effect does unconfessed sin have in the life of a believer who desires to have assurance?
6. How can you develop the practice of admitting your sins regularly?

Thursday: I John 2:3-6; Hebrews 12:5-6; Psalm 119:11

Faithfully Obey Your Heavenly Father

7. What is the connection between obeying God's word and having assurance of salvation?
8. What is the purpose of God's discipline when we are disobedient?

Friday: Romans 8:31-39

Enjoy Your Security As God's Child

9. What promises do you find in this passage?
10. How can these promises help you to enjoy God and the security you have in Him?
11. What are some things that God taught you through the Forgiveness series?