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Do I Really PRay?

I often say my prayers,
But do I really pray?
And do the wishes of my heart
Go with the words I say?

I may as well kneel down
And worship gods of stone,
As offer to the living God
A prayer of words alone.

For words without the heart
The Lord will never hear;
Nor will He to those lips attend
Whose prayer is not sincere!

Lord, show me what I need
And teach me how to pray,
And help me when I seek Thy grace
To mean the words I say.

– J. B.

How Bad Is Too Bad?

Some people seem to think that they cannot be forgiven because they are so bad. Are there some things that God just cannot forgive? Will we have to work extra hard to make up for something we have done?

There is something about us that wants to somehow justify our actions and try to make up for the ones that we can't justify. Many people do not find it hard to believe in God. They do find it hard to believe that God could forgive them without some effort on their part. Are there some actions just too bad for God to forgive?

We have to look into the Word of God to find the right answer to these questions. Only God's opinion is valid. Regardless of the philosophizing and opinions of any man, God does what He desires the way He desires.

In Romans 10:13 we read that, "whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." This verse gives very plain understanding about who can be saved. Whosoever means anyone, without any qualification. We cannot exclude anyone by this verse.

So, we must now determine how one receives forgiveness for their sins. Ephesians 1:7 and Colossians 1:14 plainly state that we receive forgiveness of sins through the blood of Jesus, by God's grace. Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Only through Jesus can anyone receive forgiveness of sins. There are, again, no qualifiers on what

sort of sin can be forgiven. Jesus' blood was sufficient for all sins.

So, now that we have determined that anyone can receive forgiveness of sins, and be saved by grace, we need to understand if those that have been saved can do something so bad that God cannot forgive them. We must again turn to God's Word.

In 1 John 1:9 we read that Jesus is able to forgive us, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness if we confess our sins to Him. We can be forgiven. Jesus' blood covered all our sins, not just the little things.

Now that we know that anyone, no matter how bad, can be saved (forgiven), and that those who are saved can be forgiven, we must consider one more thing. It is not our desire to continue in sin just because there is forgiveness. Romans 6:1,2, What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

So, is there anyone who cannot be saved? Only those that choose to reject God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Is such an 'easy' salvation an invitation for people to keep on sinning? No, the love of God that brought us this salvation keeps us from wanting to sin against Him. Also, this salvation is not 'easy,' it cost the Lord Jesus His life.

If some tells you that they are 'too bad' to be forgiven, you can tell them the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Gordon

Two Wolves

An old Indian Grandfather said to his grandson who came to him with anger at a friend who had done him an injustice.....

“Let me tell you a story. I too, at times, have felt a great hate for those that have taken so much with no sorrow for what they do. But hate wears you down, and does not hurt your enemy. It is like taking poison and wishing your enemy would die. I have struggled with these feelings many times.

It is as if there are two wolves inside me; One is good and does no harm. He lives in harmony with all around him and does not take offense when no offense was intended. He will only fight when it is right to do so, and in the right way. He saves all his energy for the right fight.

But the other wolf, ahhh! He is full of anger. The littlest thing will set him into a fit of temper. He fights everyone, all the time, for no reason. He cannot think because his anger and hate are so great. It is helpless anger, for his anger will change nothing.

Sometimes it is hard to live with these two wolves inside me, for both of them try to dominate my spirit.”

The boy looked intently into his Grandfather’s eyes and asked... “Which one wins, Grandfather?”

The Grandfather smiled and quietly said... **“The one I feed.”**



Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart - Jer. 15:16

Lost and found

“TURNING”

“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that *repenteth*, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.”— Luke 15:7. This Jesus spoke after telling of the lost sheep being found. Proof of truly being found in the Lord is repentance. We are touched by the testimony of the man with one hundred sheep, going out after one of them that was lost, and finding it, laying it upon his shoulders rejoicing.

This reminds us of the wonderful care, loving-kindness, and strength exercised by the Lord on behalf of the lost. He that came to seek and save that which was lost, rejoices and calls for rejoicing with Him even in heavenly places, over one, truly *turning to God*. Repentance expresses a marvelous *change* in heart, mind and direction. By natural birth humanity seems to be inclined in the opposite direction of God, and His good will and pleasure.

ALL HAVE TURNED AWAY

“All we like sheep have gone astray: we have *turned* every one to his own way; and the lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” Isa. 53:6. Many a religious person may think that they need no repentance, Some never apologize or ask for forgiveness. But the fact that the Lord God had to lay upon our beloved Lord Jesus all our iniquity; is proof positive that we each need to *turn* unto the Lord. Rom. 3:23 clearly states that all hath sinned and come short of the glory of God. Without faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as our Redeemer and Savior, and bearer of our sin, no one will ever find His way into the love, favor and fellowship of God as our Father, and His family.

Hosea 14:2 – Take with you words, and *turn* to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously...

Joel 2:12– Saith the LORD, *turn* ye even to me with all your heart.

Acts 3:19 – *Repent* ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...

Acts 26:18 – To open their eyes, and to *turn* them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.



No Words Can Describe

O to be near my glorious Lord
Wonderful ecstasy
Singing His praises and learning His Word
Nearer to Jesus who died for me.

How can I measure His wisdom?
How can I weight His Love?
It cannot be done while here on earth
The answer is waiting in heaven above.

I want to love Jesus forever
Because Jesus first loved me
I just cannot wait to look into His face
When I join all His saints in eternity.

How Do You Walk?

“Let us walk in the light of the Lord”

Let us consider Enoch, he had such a wonderful testimony that **he walked with God**. Gen. 5:21-24, “And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.”

Enoch was just a man, no super human. He had a family. He made a choice and he choose to walk with God. We all have that choice to either walk with God or go our own way which is the way of the flesh. Enoch choose the high road, he choose **“Higher Ground.”**

As far as the world is concerned they would say he didn’t leave his mark, he never made his mark here. Why there isn’t even a tomb stone with his epitaph – Here lies the man that walked with God. But he is mentioned in the genealogy of Christ (Lk. 3:37).

Enoch *was* – God made him. He *was not* – for God took him. Yet he is and shall forever be – God *has* him. Just how did God take him? Heb. 11:5. God translated him. Enoch had faith for translation. He believed that he should not see death and God honored his faith. He could not be found (they looked for him).

He had a testimony while living here that we all should desire to have, **He pleased God**. How can we please God? Heb. 11:6,

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently **seek him.**” May we seek God as Enoch sought Him. For God rewards them that come to Him believing.

When we seek Him, we are **talking to Him.** Let’s talk to God as much as we talk to one another, this pleases Him. God’s desire toward man is for communion with him. The entrance of sin spoiled that communion. But God has provided by His salvation (the giving of His Son to die for our sins) that we are brought into a sweet intimate relationship with Him, I Jn. 3:1,2.

We know that Enoch not only talked to God, but he also **listened** to Him. How do we know this? In Jude verses 14 and 15, it say that Enoch prophesied. God have him a message to speak. He spoke for God to the people.

Just think, it is our *high privilege* to walk with God as Enoch did. May we enter in more fully by faith into this marvelous privilege of walking with God. Only a few really seize upon this opportunity. It is worthy of our lives, time and attention. “*Come to Him,*” seek Him for Himself. Many follow from afar and seek Him only in times of great need. Do we want to know Him intimately? He makes Himself available to all who hunger and thirst for HIM.

May we desire like our apostle Paul to “*know Him,*” “*follow after*” and “*reaching forth,* pressing towards the mark for **the Prize** of the high calling” (Phil. 3:10-15). Notice verse 8 of this text, the Lord is speaking to our hearts to count all things lost **to win Christ.**

God spoke to Abraham in Gen. 17:1, “Walk before me, and be thou perfect.” To truly walk with God in faith and fellowship, we must walk upright for He is indeed upright. Walking denotes progress and to walk with God is to make steady progress. Did

you ever play “May I” when you were younger. You felt like you were making progress when you got to take giant steps. Does the Lord ever tell us to take giant steps? Yes.

Here are some giant steps:

Walking in *newness of life* – Rom. 6:4

Walking in *faith* – II Cor. 5:7

Walking in the *Spirit* – Gal. 5:16,25

Walking in *love* – Eph. 5:2

Walking in *light* – I Jn. 1:7

Walking in *truth* – III Jn. 3

We can have a walk that is out of this world. Ps. 84:11, “...no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.”



*Is it nothing to you who hurry by
A lonely cross in a windswept sky?
The emblem of sacrifice high in the blue
Calling you home—is it nothing to you?*

*Is it nothing to you, the debt you owe.
For His crown of thrones, His blood red flow?
That the taste of gall you give Him anew
By passing Him by—is it nothing to you?*

*Is it nothing to you that only He
Can carry you over eternity’s sea?
That He is redemption, total and true,
And your only hope—is it nothing to you?*

Seek and Find

I Tim. 4:12-15

12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

X
N C S
Q O S H T
B L I T N A W
G N I T I F O R P
U Y H N A C D M O I T
V Q B T O T B H E D N T T
E I R U I R O T D O E G Y
Q J P O T O S I I C L I X
W A P Y A H P A T T P F T
O Q P U S X I F A R M T P
R M H P R E R P T I A A H
D O U V E I I W E N X S W
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