

## Forgiven

From Cindy Buntin

*How much more then, will the blood of Christ,  
who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God,  
cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death,  
so that we may serve the living God! Hebrews 9:14*

Do you struggle with sins that you feel God could never forgive? Do you ask God to forgive you of the same sins repeatedly, yet still feel condemned instead of forgiven?

There was a time in my life I believed God could never forgive me because my sins were so bad. I kept praying for forgiveness for the same sins over and over again, but never felt forgiven.

Hebrews 9:14 taught me one of God's great truths: Christ's shed blood on the cross is the only way for my sins to be forgiven. There is nothing I can do to be forgiven on my own merit. When I surrendered my life to Christ, He forgave all my sins - past, present, and future - by His blood on the cross. I don't have to keep asking Him repeatedly to forgive those same sins.

However, even though my sins are forgiven, God doesn't remove the consequences of those sins. There are always consequences for our sins. God wants us to seek His forgiveness each day for the new sins we commit, because unconfessed sin creates distance in our relationship with Him. But once we go to Him seeking forgiveness, He removes that sin as far as the East is from the West. There is no sin God can't forgive.

Until I came to understand this truth, I did not feel worthy to be used by God. It kept me from serving Him in any capacity. Because of the shame I felt, I was highly critical of myself and others. Instead of focusing on God's grace, I was focused on His judgment because I still felt condemned.

When I embraced the truth of God's power to forgive through Christ's blood, I felt the weight of my sins lifted from my shoulders. I felt free to live for Christ! Finally, I was able to say yes to God and the plans He had for me to serve Him!

If you have surrendered your life to Christ but still have a guilty conscience because you feel unforgiven, I encourage you to embrace this truth. It will change your life so that you may serve the living God!

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