

Psalm 32:1-5

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Memorize some of these verses so you will have a reminder of how God has made close fellowship with Jesus possible because of His great love and sacrifice for you.

In the book of Psalms, David shares his experience of how his sin affected his fellowship with God.

Read **Psalm 32:1-5**.

What was David's experience before he confessed his sin?

What indicates that his fellowship with God has been restored?

Thankfulness for what God has graciously done and continues to do for you is vital to developing a closer relationship. Your relationship with God will be built on **love** and **appreciation**, rather than **guilt** and **obligation**.

Summary Thoughts And Steps Forward

What have you learned about God's heart towards you?

Which truths could you share with someone to help or encourage them in their faith?

As we finish, let's thank Him for these truths about His incredible forgiveness and mercy toward us.

This week read one passage each day. Consider what it says about God's heart. Thank God for His incredible love and forgiveness that allows you to have fellowship with Him.

Luke 15:11-32

Isaiah 53:4-6

1 John 1:5-2:2

Romans 8:31-39

Colossians 2:13-14

Luke 7:36-50

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Basic Faith Conversations About:

MAINTAINING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD



Before you received Jesus into your life, how did you view God?

Did you see God as someone you could get to know personally?

The Dynamic Aspect Of Your Relationship With God

As you develop your relationship with God it is helpful to understand that there is a permanent aspect of your **relationship** with Him, but also a dynamic quality of the relationship through your on-going **fellowship** with Him.



The relationship between a parent and child illustrates these two aspects of a relationship. If someone has a child, the parent-child blood relationship will always exist.



However, certain things may cause the fellowship between the parent and child to be broken, affecting the quality of their relationship.

God makes you His child when you place your faith in Jesus Christ.

Read **John 1:12**.

Your relationship with God is secure and enduring. You will always be His child and that will never change regardless of what you do or what may happen.

But God also wants your relationship to become **close** and **fulfilling**. God wants you to enjoy the type of fellowship with Him described in **Revelation 3:20**: "I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me."

Read **1 John 1:3-4**.

How would you describe your fellowship with God?

Does it bring you joy?

John 1:12

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

1 John 1:3-4

And indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Hindrances To Your Fellowship With God

Romans 3:23-25

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

Hebrews 10:10, 17-18

... We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all ... He adds, "their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

Psalms 103:10-13

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

Isaiah 59:2

but your iniquities [sins] have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

Unlike our eternal relationship, our fellowship with God is affected by choices we make.

What types of things put strain on your relationships with other people?

What do you think would strain your fellowship with God?

Sin affects our fellowship with God. Sin can be a wrong action or attitude, or even our failure to please God.

Before you accepted Jesus into your life, your sin – your rejection of God and His will for you – kept you from being able to have a relationship with God. Sin in a person's life makes them unacceptable to God because God is holy and cannot condone sin.

How does God provide a solution for this according to Romans 3:23-25?

According to Hebrews 10:10, 17-18, what happened to the barrier of sin and to you when you accepted God's gift by faith?

Since Christ died to forgive all your sins and make you acceptable to Him, is there anything you need to do in addition to this to make up for your sins?

As a Christian, even though your sins are forgiven and you have new life, you still have the ability to sin. Your desires and old habits may tempt you and you may make wrong choices, deciding to ignore or disobey God and pursue your own will.

How would you expect God to react to this?

How does Psalm 103:10-13 describe God's response to when His children sin?

There are consequences to sin, however. When you sin as a Christian, the sin causes your fellowship with God to be broken and you begin to become estranged from Him even though He remains your heavenly Father.

In the image on the first page, how does the child's choice affect their interaction?

Based on Isaiah 59:2, if you sin, can you still enjoy fellowship with God?

How do the verses we looked at last time assure us we are still His child (Hebrews 13:5; John 10:27-29)?

Restoring Your Fellowship With God

As a compassionate Father, God has made it possible to restore your fellowship even after you have disobeyed, ignored, or betrayed Him. He is willing to do this because you are now in Christ and every sin – past, present, and future – was paid for when Christ gave His life for you.

You restore fellowship by turning back to God and expressing to Him your sorrow for the sin, your thankfulness for His forgiveness, and your desire to change. This is called confession or repentance.



Read **1 John 1:8-9**.

Here are the steps to restore fellowship:

1. **Acknowledge to God that your sin was wrong** and has become a barrier to your fellowship with God.
2. **Thank God that He has already paid for that sin and forgives you** on the basis of Jesus' death.
3. **Ask God to change your heart** so that next time you choose God's way rather than your own.

Whenever you realize you have disobeyed God or there is some sin in your life, immediately confess it to Him. You may use words similar to these:

"Father, I am sorry for my sin. Thank You that through Christ you have forgiven and cleansed me. Please change my desires so I no longer pursue this sin, but seek to please You instead."

Once we have honestly confessed our sins, we can experience joy and freedom from guilt.

Based on Romans 8:1, why should you not feel shame or guilt after confessing sin?

If there any sin for which you still feel guilt or one you feel God could not forgive, stop now and do the following visual aid:

- Write your sin down on a piece of paper for only you to see.
- After confessing it to God, write over the top of it **John 1:9** and **Romans 8:1**.
- Thank God that through Christ this sin was fully forgiven, and your guilt removed.
- Now tear up the paper as a reminder that it is gone.

1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.