

Do You Ever Wonder if You're REALLY Forgiven?

Some people wonder if they really are forgiven, especially if they don't feel forgiven. They know in their heart that they continue to sin. It bothers them that they fall into the same kind of sin over and over even though they know it is wrong.

It isn't surprising that people wonder about forgiveness, because it is the question that nags at the heart of a person even after they have come to know their Savior, Jesus. It pops up again and again, because we continue to sin every day. Every time we sin, the devil may use that as an opportunity to try to drag us down into feelings of shame. Temptation is especially easy for the devil if we feel that our sin is more powerful than God's grace.

So how do we believe that we're really forgiven? The answer is simple: take God at his word. Believe the beautiful and simple truths the Bible tells us. The Bible assures us, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not die, but have eternal life." (John 3:16) Who did God love? Every person in the entire world. Are we part of the world? If we're living and breathing, we are a part of the world. God loved us – he loves us so much that he gave his Son as our Savior.

"But not me," we might say. "God couldn't love me." Maybe we think whatever we have done is too bad. But 1 John 1:7 tells us, "The blood of Jesus his son, purifies us from all sin." "All sins" means there's nothing Jesus' blood can't cover. To think Jesus' blood can't forgive our sin is to ignore the goodness God has shown. We don't want to throw away God's forgiveness. It is true that we have sinned against God. It is also true that he loves us enough to provide forgiveness and salvation through his Son Jesus. It seems too good to be true, right? But that's what faith does – give us the ability to believe his incredible gift of forgiveness. God loves us that much! Believe it, and live - now and eternally.

Prayer: Dear God, help me not to fall into sin. Remind me each day of your love and forgiveness. Strengthen my faith to believe that I am forgiven for all my sins. AMEN.