

*WitnessKit Bible Study:
Bible Doctrines As a System of
Thought*

*Class 9 Repentance,
Faith, and
Forgiveness;*

We can find soul satisfaction

Steps to Soul Satisfaction

by getting right with God and staying right with Him. Here's how:

1. **Repentance, Faith, and Forgiveness;**
2. **Commitment and Perseverance;**
3. **Extending Forgiveness to Others.**

Steps to Soul Satisfaction: Repentance, Faith, and Forgiveness

The Bible does not spell out the steps to eternal salvation in one place, like following a recipe.

Instead, if you study on your own, you must consider large passages of Scripture and put the answer together for yourself.

Yet He very clearly says “You must be born again.”— John chapter 3. You must go through the transition from living in your sinful state, and being or attempting to be in charge of your own life, to a NEW state of transformation with His Holy Spirit in your life, guiding you.

Repentance, Faith, and Forgiveness

God promises that those who search for Him with all their hearts will surely find Him.

The steps to eternal salvation are repeated many times in many portions of Scripture.

If you search for Him, you will find the steps.

If you search for wisdom, you will find God, according to Proverbs 2.

When you take all those steps, you will find eternal life in God's presence, and you will be able to praise Him forever.

The covenant is ETERNAL.

Repentance, Faith, and Forgiveness

We have talked about repentance of our sins.

The wish to continue in a specific sin may be a barrier to finding God.

Many sins consist in taking something good God created and corrupting it. Other sins consist in knowing God's standard for a matter, and failing to live up to it.

Often we face sins that have visible bad results and try to make them right, but we fail to face sins that are essentially between us and God.

Repentance, Faith, and Forgiveness

- Temptation is not sin, and is NOT a signal of God's displeasure. Jesus Christ faced temptation and won, and He was exactly doing what the Father wished at the time. Because He overcame temptation, He can help us overcome temptation.
- One of the lessons of His suffering—a clear demonstration that He ALWAYS wants to help us overcome temptation. He was willing to pay the most costly price possible to help us.

So we do not have to be afraid



To ask Him for help. We can trust Him with every problem. He is willing and able to help, and He wants us to trust Him about that.

God wants us to relate to Him as a loving Father who always wants the eternal best for us. He wants us to see Him that way and to love Him for being that way. We love Him because He first loved us.

If we do not see Him that way, and do not love Him, we break the most important commandment.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one!
5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.
6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates (NKJV)

Repentance, Faith, and Forgiveness

The failure to love God is a sin—a very serious sin indeed. Yet people view irreverence as pleasing and fun.

Romans 3:23 talks about sin as falling short of the glory of God. God wants us to be *gloriously good*, as He is good. We ALL fail at that task—no matter how hard we try.

Even when we are busy doing good, we often find little petty selfishness creeping in—so that we miss the glorious goodness that is God's goal for us.

Repentance, Faith, and Forgiveness

- An early step toward repentance is the realization that God has the moral right, due to His perfect goodness and His infinite intelligence, to make the rules. We don't repent on our terms, but on His terms.
- Often we must struggle to determine which rules apply to us today—but the basic willingness to accept His good rules is essential.

Repentance, Faith, and Forgiveness

- Happily, we can ASK Him to clarify which rules apply.
- We can study the New Testament for help as well, because it separates the universal standards from the particular legal code for Israel in ancient times.
- One of the promises in John 16:8 is that the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin. That means He lets us know which sins are a barrier between us and God. The first sin that springs to mind is the one to repent of first.

No sin is too difficult for God's grace—even things like divorce that humanly speaking may be irreversible.

God forgives and gives a new start when individuals are truly sorry for the wrong and seek His forgiveness.

So repenting of sins does not mean fixing the past.

It means being sorry for wrongs done, and resolving to begin and persevere in doing right, with God's help, from where you are now.

Of course, if wrongs can be corrected in the present, repentance includes trying to do that.

Repentance involves specific prayer—prayer of apology to God and prayer for help in doing what is right. Sometimes it includes prayer for help in understanding what is right.

Sometimes it involves asking God to forgive you for being angry with Him. When bad things happen to good people, we get angry, and sometimes angry with God. That anger is a failure to trust Him to keep His promises in the middle of the worst situations. He promises, in Romans chapter 8, to make ALL THINGS work together for good for those who love Him. He does not promise that all things ARE good, but only to make them work together for GOOD. So we need to apologize to Him when we react distrustfully.

Repentance and Faith: Romans 8

- It is right to fear God and it is right to be honest with God. When we feel angry because of evil in this world, we need to hang on to the understanding that God hates evil and He wants us to hate evil. He has eternal good in mind no matter how bad a situation is. He has the wisdom to work toward eternal good behind the scenes, and to empower us to accomplish good against evil, as His ambassadors on the ground. And He can do that even if we are not obvious ambassador material. Our adequacy comes from Him.

Faith

Faith is the key. Faith is trusting God. Faith is entrusting yourself and your eternal future into God's hands. Faith is trusting God to forgive you, believing that He paid the price for all your wrongs.

What does Hebrews 11:6 say about faith?

Without faith it is impossible to please God. A person must believe that God is, and that God wants to reward those who seek Him.

Faith is NOT a FEELING.

- Many times we think faith is a feeling that something is true. But if we have a lifetime of skepticism or of feelings of being rejected, faith may not reach the emotions right away, even when we exercise it. Faith is an assessment that something is true, and a resolve to act in accordance with that assessment.
- Entrusting your life into God's hands may be as simple as saying, "LORD God, if You wish for me to be in Your Kingdom and Your family, I'm right here. I would like that very much."

For those of us who have

Experienced rejection as persons, the fact that God was willing to suffer for us in the Person of His Son—the willingness on His part to pay an infinite price—demonstrates that He really **DOES want** us to be in His family and in His kingdom. So if we tell Him that is what we want, He **WILL** answer **YES!**

At that point, faith is accepting **YES!**

From that moment onward...

God promises in Hebrews 13

That He will NEVER leave us or forsake us.

The verse is a quote from Deuteronomy in the Septuagint. Study all the shades of meaning in those words in the Greek of both Testaments. That promise covers all of this:

God says:

I will never I will never send you back.

I will never turn loose of you.

I will never give you up.

I will never abandon you.

I will never leave you.

I will never desert you.

I will never let you sink.

I will never leave you helpless.

I will never fail to uphold you.

I will never leave you behind.

That Promise

Is stronger than death. It reaches from eternity into the present and back to eternity.

NOTHING can separate us from God's love for us.

God want us to find Him. He wants us to search for Him.

This minimalist faith-enough-to-search is **necessary** to begin to walk with God.

Any worldview that undermines this minimalist faith is simply wrong. In fact, this is a simple test of the potential validity of a worldview.

Any worldview that is deterministic stands in contradiction to this beginning of a walk of faith. Since almost all worldviews except the Biblical one are deterministic, this test brings us back to the Bible.

And then we have to search for God in the Bible.

Faith

- Ephesians 2:8-10⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (NKJV)
- Grace is God's free gift. Grace is God's favor—His joyful acceptance of us—extended to us.
- Faith is the way we receive that gift.

God has good works planned for us to do.

- He has already prepared the tasks for us to do that are in the good future He plans for us.
- He never stops having good tasks for us—even during the scary times such as nearing the end of life.
- God's good tasks for us will extend past this life, into eternity, if we find them and do them.
- People can accomplish good things. With God's help, we can accomplish eternally good things.

Faith is Commitment.

- First Peter 4:19 ¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator. (NKJV)

Notice that the commitment includes persevering, in doing good, when experiencing suffering. That part of the commitment may be visible to the angels, according to the book of Job. It may accomplish good we cannot even imagine.

Faith has joy as one purpose.

- First John 1:4-10 and First John 2:1-6 ⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.
- ⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

Faith is walking in the light.

- ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
- ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. 1 John 1:4-10 (NKJV)

Sometimes

- People can be so afraid of God's displeasure that they refuse to admit that they are sinners. But EVERYBODY is a sinner except Jesus. Nobody is perfect except God.
- God has a simple requirement for us. We must be honest enough to admit our sins to Him in prayer. We do that so HE can take the sins away.
- Refusing to admit to being a sinner cannot make sins go away.

Faith is walking in the light.

- First John 2:1-6 ¹ My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin.
- And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.
- ² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.
- ³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

Faith is walking in the light.

- ⁴ He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
- ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him.
- By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. 1 John 2:1-6 (NKJV)

Even though we cannot go back and re-live the past and correct past wrongs by correcting course in the past, God sees the payment for those wrongs in Christ's suffering on the cross.

His infinite payment covers those sins—but we have to ask for His payment to count for us. We can thank God that His justice was satisfied at the cross for those sins. We can trust Him for the grace and power to do better from now on.

The power of Jesus' resurrection is power over sin and death—not just symbolically in the past, but as available power for the present. We access that power through repentance and faith, in an ongoing way.

1 John 2:1-6

- When we access God's power to do what is right, He helps us to sin less than before.
- And we will be able to “catch the sin” at the level of the heart rather than the level of actions. And we will be able to confess the heart sin and He will take it away.
- Living in moment by moment fellowship with Jesus keeps the heart and life clear of sin.
- This passage calls this process “walking in the light.” It is a one-step-at-a-time process.

Faith is a strong level of commitment.

- Philippians 3:7-14 ⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.
- ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord,
- for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ
- ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*,

forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Phil 3:7-14 (NKJV)

Faith + God's Power = Perseverance

Colossians 1: 1-23. ⁹ For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

Faith plus God's Power = Perseverance

- ¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.
- ¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
- ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.
- ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Faith plus God's Power = Perseverance

- 16** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
- 17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.
- 18** And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Faith plus God's Power = Perseverance

For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight--

Faith plus God's Power = Perseverance

²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.
(NKJV)

(This passage indicates that everyone experiences the drawing of the Holy Spirit, and God is able to bring the message to each one of salvation. Paul preached to everyone because God wants everyone to be saved from sin.)

Remember the Parable of the Sower.



Faith is more than an agreement with the message that falters when persecution or pressure comes.

Faith is a thorough commitment that perseveres and becomes fruitful. Faith puts down roots.

Perseverance in faith is proof that the transformation of the spiritual birth has taken place.

For perseverance, we depend upon God.

We can find soul satisfaction

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Commitment and Perseverance;

- Luke 8:5-14 ⁵ "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶ Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. ⁸ But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Commitment and Perseverance;

- Luke 8:5-14 ⁹ Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?"
- ¹⁰ And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *it is given* in parables, that '*Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.*'"
- ¹¹ "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

Commitment and Perseverance;

- Luke 8:5-14 ¹³ But the ones on the rock *are those* who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.
- Category 1 did not understand, and could not remember the concepts. Category 2 had no root, and when persecution or testing came, fell away. So these two categories did not persevere. So commitment involves understanding and putting down roots.

Commitment and Perseverance;

- Luke 8:5-14 ¹⁴ Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.
- ¹⁵ But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep *it* and bear fruit with patience. (NKJV)
- For those truly born again, we must guard against distractions that keep us from being fruitful. That takes great faith.

Commitment and Perseverance;

- 1 Peter 1:3-9³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Commitment and Perseverance;

- 1 Peter 1:3-9⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls. 1 Peter 1:3-9 (NKJV)

God's commitment and
perseverance

More than match our commitment and
perseverance.

Commitment and Perseverance;

- Hebrews 13:5 For He Himself has said, "*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*"¹ Heb 13:5 (NKJV)
- Word Study: The verse is a direct quote of Deuteronomy 31:6 in the Septuagint—the Greek translation of the Old Testament.
- ⁶ Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

Commitment and Perseverance;

The verb *ἄνω* (leave) is the 1st person singular 2nd aortic active subjunctive of *ἀνιημι*. It has **all** the following shades of meaning.

God says:

I will never send you back.

I will never give you up.

I will never leave you.

I will never let you sink.

I will never fail to uphold you.

I will never turn loose of you.

Commitment and Perseverance;

The verb Εγκαταλιπω (forsake) is the 1st person singular 2nd aortic active subjunctive of εγκαταλειπω. It has these shades of meaning.

God says:

I will never abandon you.

I will never desert you.

I will never leave you helpless.

I will never leave you behind.

Commitment and Perseverance;

Finally, we should read and learn and count on what Jesus said about this topic, in John 10:27-30.

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give eternal life to them and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.”

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Extending Forgiveness to Others.

This is one of the most important concepts in the Bible, and also one of the most difficult.

An individual can have very good intentions of remaining in fellowship with God, and can try to do what is right consistently, and to keep his list of sins confessed to God and forgiven as soon as he realizes one has taken place.

Yet he can find himself lacking the degree of fellowship with God that he needs because he has failed to forgive others who have wronged him.

Extending Forgiveness to Others.

This is the arena of life where we most nearly experience, in a microcosm, the suffering of Christ.

- We must allow ourselves to experience **the full force of pain that others pour on us**, and still forgive them.
- This is the arena where we “take up our cross daily, and follow Jesus.”

Extending Forgiveness to Others.

I believe the single worst problem born again believers face today is failure to take up our cross and forgive others.

People think it is right to hold a grudge. It even SEEMS right. But it is wrong.

It seems right because humanly forgiving a wrong seems as though it tries to “take away” the wrong. But only God can take away a wrong.

The worse the wrong, the harder it is to forgive. The more right it seems to hold a grudge.

Extending Forgiveness to Others.

Only God through Jesus Christ can take away sins. Our forgiveness toward another human cannot accomplish that.

Our forgiveness simply takes us out of the way between them and God. At that point, their sin is between them and God.

He will work on them toward repentance if we are out of the way. IF they refuse to repent in His time, they will face the wrong in eternity. Our time and His time are not the same.

Extending Forgiveness to Others.

Jesus Christ spoke a very difficult word in Matthew 6: 14-15.

- “For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”
- This is human equality before God expressed in a concrete, difficult way.
- We cannot have the level of fellowship and fruitfulness God wishes for us, without forgiving.

Matthew 18:15-35 describes a series of steps for forgiveness toward someone who is born again.

Step 1 = private reproof. If that brings the right response, you have won your brother. If that brings the wrong response, Step 2 is to take two or three others with you to express reproof.

If that does not work, the next step is to take it to the church.

If that does not work the next step is to treat him as a tax collector or sinner—which means to witness to him, assuming he is not born again.

The goal of all of this is restoration of fellowship—not punishment or vengeance.

Extending Forgiveness to Others.



How important would a wrong have to be for the process listed in Matthew 18 to take place?

It would have to be serious enough to be worth taking people's time and attention. Small matters should be forgiven without the process.

The process is specifically for a born again brother.

Only someone born again has the understanding to accept reproof and forgiveness. Even they may be constitutionally unable to do so.

Extending Forgiveness to Others.

But the requirement in Matthew 6 is to forgive all offenses. So we have to forgive, because it is wrong to allow someone else's wrong to eat away at our souls.

How many times does the Matthew 18 passage say a person has to forgive?

- Until 70 times 7
- In Daniel 9:24-27, the seventy times seven means until Messiah comes back to reign.
- In Matthew 6, Jesus did not say “if the person asks forgiveness.” He simply said we must forgive.

So we see that Biblically this is

Complicated. We have to search for answers, not only about what to do, but about HOW to do the right thing.

And we can get weary of this process if we must deal continually with difficult or malicious people.

But even those people matter to God.

Extending Forgiveness to Others.



Of course, the Bible is full of principles that prevent wrong actions if people live by them.

Living Biblically enables righteousness to prevail, and limits moral confusion.

Biblical principles about work and family and property rights and economic principles all work together to produce peaceful, stable, prosperous societies.

So we do not want to look at forgiveness as though it is soft on wrongdoing. Real forgiveness is not.

Extending Forgiveness to Others.

Every wrong is a wrong against God. The most important forgiveness to seek, and to encourage others to seek, is His forgiveness.

The cost of forgiveness was very high—Jesus' suffering on the cross to make the payment for all sin.

His forgiveness ALWAYS requires repentance on the part of the person forgiven. He does not issue forgiveness to unrepentant hearts.

Extending Forgiveness to Others.



Human beings, on the other hand, experience being sinned against.

We experience suffering due to the sins of others.

Sins committed against us are the ones God requires us to forgive, as human beings who are equals before Him with the person we must forgive.

When we choose, as an act of the will, to forgive them then we have done our part.

Extending Forgiveness to Others.

How do we know we have forgiven them? Is it enough to say the words “I forgive them?”

If we can pray for them and truly mean it when we ask God to forgive them, that prayer demonstrates real forgiveness.

If we have not reached a point of being willing to ask God to forgive them, we have not fulfilled Jesus’ command to forgive them ourselves.

Extending Forgiveness to Others.

- What do they have to do to receive His forgiveness?
- They have to repent!
- If they truly repent, they will not keep on sinning against us.
- Forgiving them enables us to intercede for them.
- If they repent and receive Jesus' forgiveness, they will be transformed by His Holy Spirit. **THE PROBLEM WILL THEN BE SOLVED.**

Extending Forgiveness to Others.

- Nothing short of repentance will solve their problem, assuming the wrong is truly wrong before God, and not just a matter of our being overly sensitive or misunderstanding.
- Our problem of broken fellowship with God will be solved the moment we truly forgive them.
- God will send His healing Presence to help with our pain at that point.
- This is one of the miracles we can experience directly from God, confirming that we are His.

Extending Forgiveness to Others.

- Forgiving them does not mean we have to trust them to treat us well. They may remain malicious after we have forgiven them.
- Forgiving them does not mean “going back for more pain.” It does mean being determined to seek their forgiveness before God.
- Remember that God works by persuasion, not force. When we are interceding for them, His persuasion will be working on them toward repentance.

Extending Forgiveness to Others.

- This means that it is our very difficult job to forgive them **BEFORE** they repent.
- If we wait for their repentance, we will be carrying grudges to our death bed.
- Most people, if they do repent, do not do so openly.
- We will make ourselves miserable if we wait for their visible repentance.

Extending Forgiveness to Others.

We are allowed to rebuke them. We are NOT allowed to take vengeance.

According to Leviticus 19:13-18, we are allowed to do some things, and not allowed to do others. If we fail in either direction, we will have a problem between us and God.

We are not allowed to oppress a neighbor.

We are not allowed to mistreat the handicapped.

We are not allowed to act with favoritism in judgment.

Extending Forgiveness to Others.



We are not allowed to slander.

We are not allowed to act against the life of our neighbor.

We are not allowed to hate our neighbor in our heart.

We ARE allowed (but not required) to rebuke him.

We are not allowed to take vengeance.

We are not allowed to carry a grudge.

Extending Forgiveness to Others.

We are required to love our neighbor as ourselves.

- Remember that Jesus said the command to love our neighbors as ourselves is the second most important commandment.
- Part of loving our neighbors is forgiving them when they wrong us. It might be the hardest part of loving them.

Extending Forgiveness to Others.



The inward part of forgiveness is a necessity.

The outward part is something that requires wisdom.

Many people do not know how to repent, and will react very badly if confronted. (Proverbs says **DO NOT REBUKE A SCOFFER.**)

Any confrontation must be with the intention of forgiving them no matter how they react.

Extending Forgiveness to Others.

Romans 12:19 has a word of warning for those who sin and never repent.

“Vengeance belongs to God and He will repay.”

- Because that warning is so serious, if we love them we will want them to be forgiven.

Romans 8:1-2

- There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

Micah 7:18

- ¹⁸ Who *is* a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage?
- He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights *in* mercy. ¹⁹ He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (NKJV)

Homework

In 3 sets

Homework Class 9 Set 1

- What does Hebrews 11:6 say about faith?
- Read Ephesians 2:8-10. What do these verses say about faith?
- How does First Peter 4:19 describe faith in action?

Homework Class 9 Set 1

- What do the following passages say about forgiveness? First John 1:1-10 and First John 2:1-6.
- Even though we cannot go back and re-live the past and correct past wrongs by correcting course in the past, God sees the payment for those wrongs in Christ's suffering on the cross. His infinite payment covers those sins—but we have to ask for His payment to count for us.

Homework Class 9 Set 1

- We can thank God that His justice was satisfied at the cross for those sins. We can trust Him for the grace and power to do better from now on. The power of Jesus' resurrection is power over sin and death—not just symbolically in the past, but as available power for the present. We access that power through repentance and faith.

Homework Class 9 Set 1

- Read Philippians 3:7-14. What does this passage say we should do regarding past sins that are forgiven?
- What does that mean God has done about them?
- What does Colossians 1: 1-23 say to confirm this?

Homework Class 9 Set 2

- Read Colossians 1:23. What demonstrates that a person truly has been born again?
- Read Luke 8:4-14. How does this compare to the description of the various categories of people in the parable of the Sower?
- Read I Peter 1:3-9. What is the source of power for persevering in faith?
- Read Ephesians 1:7-14. What is the pledge God gives us as a seal of our salvation, showing us that our hope of heaven is secure?

Homework Class 9 Set 2

- Read Philippians 2:12-16. What are some indicators of an individual's salvation according to these verses?
- What is the source of the wish within us to remain true to God's purpose?
- Read Ephesians 5:1-10. What are some indicators in these verses for those who are staying in fellowship with God and for those who are out of fellowship?
- Read Romans 8:12-14. What are some more indicators of those who are staying in fellowship with God versus those who are not?

Homework Class 9 Set 2

- Review question: How does 1 Peter 4:19 describe the kind of commitment that stays true to God under persecution?
- Read Colossians 1:9-12. What allows us to attain steadfastness?
- Read Colossians 3:1-17. List the things we are supposed to do and things we are supposed to avoid as part of our steadfastness in Christ.
- When this passage talks about “putting off” and “putting on” it does not mean “pretend.”...

Homework Class 9 Set 2

- It means “cast away” certain things from yourself and “envelope yourself” in certain other things.
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. How does this verse describe a person after he has received God’s forgiveness through Christ?
- Read 1 Corinthians chapter 3 verses 9-17. How does this passage describe the person who has received the Holy Spirit?

Homework Class 9 Set 2

- This passage talks about the judgment of those who have been saved from their sins—meaning that everyone will go through an individual judgment. Salvation is by grace through faith. Judgment is by works. How does verse 15 describe the person who has received salvation based on Jesus' death on the cross for his sins, but who has not accomplished anything of value for God's kingdom?
- What does this imply about the idea of doing good works to stay saved?

Homework Class 9 Set 2

- What does the passage imply about the value of doing good works?
- Read Hebrews 13:5. What promise did God make in this verse, and how does that promise relate to the idea of persevering in faith?
- The verse is a direct quote of Deuteronomy 31:6 in the Septuagint—the Greek translation of the Old Testament.
- ⁶ Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He *is* the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

Homework Class 9 Set 3

- Jesus Christ spoke a very difficult word in Matthew 6: 14-15. “For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”

Does this idea seem right to you? For a long time, it did not seem right to me—because it seemed to be a demand to “poof away” the wrong as though it was nothing. That was my misunderstanding of forgiveness. None of us has the power to “poof away” someone else’s wrong.

Homework Class 9 Set 3

- Real forgiveness is costly and takes into account the seriousness of the wrong. It does not “poof it away.”
- But we are human, too. When someone wrongs us, we must realize that God has rescued us from the kind of thing they are doing—that with improper learning we might be the same way—that their inherent potential and ours are similar. We are equals before God.

Homework Class 9 Set 3

- In fact, every decision anyone makes is tremendously important to God, and He had to pay an enormous price to be able to forgive wrong decisions. Our forgiveness of the other person does not equal God's forgiveness—they have to repent and receive His forgiveness separately.
- Our forgiveness of them simply sets us free to intercede for them so that God can bring them to repentance and forgiveness. Our forgiveness of them is a reflection of humility before God, of human equality before God, and of willingness for God to heal our lives.

Homework Class 9 Set 3

- This is human equality before God expressed in a concrete, difficult way.
- Read Matthew 19:15-35. What is the process described for seeking reconciliation with a brother who is sinning? Would you describe this as a passive form of forgiveness, or an assertive form?
- How important is it to God, for forgiveness to take place, according to the parable in the latter part of Matthew 19?
- Does this match what Jesus said in Matthew 6, above?

Homework Class 9 Set 3

- How important would a wrong have to be for the process listed in Matthew 19 to take place?
- This process is within a group of believers. What if the wrong is from someone outside the local congregation? Does the same process apply? Does the requirement to forgive apply?
- How many times does the person have to forgive?
- In Daniel 9:24-27, the seventy times seven means until Messiah comes back to reign.
- In Matthew 6, Jesus did not say “if the person asks forgiveness.” He simply said we must forgive.

Homework Class 9 Set 3

- Fill in the blanks from the slides.
- For lesser wrongs, the individual should forgive _____.
- If the problem is our _____, forgiving them will completely solve that problem.
- If the problem is their _____, forgiving them will place the matter _____.
- Of course, the Bible is full of principles that prevent wrong actions if people live by them. Living Biblically enables _____ . Biblical principles about work and family and property rights and economic principles all work together to produce _____ . So we do not want to look at forgiveness as though it is soft on wrongdoing. Real forgiveness is not.

Homework Class 9 Set 3

- Every wrong is a wrong against _____. Jesus told Saul of Tarsus that when he persecuted others, he was persecuting Jesus. Jesus carried every sin anyone has ever done on the cross. Every wrong is quite literally committed against God. The most important forgiveness to seek, and to encourage others to seek, is _____. The cost of forgiveness was very high—Jesus' suffering on the cross to make the payment for all sin. His forgiveness ALWAYS requires repentance on the part of the person forgiven. He does not issue forgiveness to unrepentant hearts.

Homework Class 9 Set 3

- Human beings, on the other hand, experience _____ . We experience suffering due to the sins of others. Sins committed _____ are the ones God requires us to forgive, as human beings who are equals before Him with the person we must forgive.
- Praying for another person's well-being is called interceding in prayer. When someone hurts us, the hurt demands that we intercede for that person. That is what Jesus did on the cross when He prayed, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Homework Class 9 Set 3

- So when we forgive, we are taking up our own cross, and following Jesus.
- When we choose, as an act of the will, to forgive them then we have done our part. How do we know we have forgiven them?
- What should we do if we cannot forgive? We should ask Jesus for help at that point.

Homework Class 9 Set 3

- What do they have to do to receive His forgiveness?
- If they truly repent, they will not _____
- Forgiving them enables us _____
_____. If they repent and receive Jesus' forgiveness, they will be transformed by His Holy Spirit. The **PROBLEM WILL THEN BE SOLVED.**

Homework Class 9 Set 3

- Nothing short of repentance will solve their problem, assuming the wrong is truly wrong before God, and not just a matter of our being overly sensitive or misunderstanding.
- Our problem of broken fellowship with God will be solved _____ . God will send His healing Presence to help with our pain at that point.

Homework Class 9 Set 3

- Forgiving them does not mean we have to _____
_____. They may remain
_____ after we have forgiven them.
Forgiving them does not mean
_____. It
does mean being determined to seek their
forgiveness before God.
- Remember that God works by persuasion, not
force. When we are interceding for them, His
persuasion will be working on them toward
repentance.

Homework Class 9 Set 3

- This means that it is our very difficult job to forgive them BEFORE they repent. If we wait for their repentance, we will be carrying grudges to our death bed. Most people, if they do repent, do not do so openly. It will make us miserable if we wait for their repentance.
- We are allowed to rebuke them. We are NOT allowed to take vengeance. Read Leviticus 19:13-18. List things we are NOT to do, and list things we ARE to do, and list things we are ALLOWED to do in these verses.

Homework Class 9 Set 3

Remember that Jesus said the command to love our neighbors as ourselves is the second most important commandment. Part of loving our neighbors is forgiving them when they wrong us. It might be the hardest part of loving them.

- The inward part of forgiveness is a necessity. The outward part is something that requires wisdom. Many people do not know how to repent, and will react _____ if confronted. Any confrontation must be with the intention of forgiving them no matter how they react.

Homework Class 9 Set 3

- Romans 12:19 has a word of warning for those who sin and never repent. What is that warning?
- Because that warning is so serious, if we love them we will want them to be forgiven.