

Sin

*Lord, thank you for your grace of forgiving my sins
unconditionally. Amen.*

Yesterday, Tomorrow and Today

JUNE 20, 2017

Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

We have to be able to forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead.

We have to be able to forget the sorrow and pain of yesterday and strain forward to the dreams of tomorrow.

Let us not become dark and gloomy because of our painful past and let us not worry about our unknown future. Then today we can run pressing on.

Lord, forgive the sins of my past, give me beautiful dreams for the future and grant me the passion to press on today. Amen.

Confession

JULY 11, 2017

"If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 1:9

At the end of each day, it is important to collect oneself together. When we look back on the day's activities we might find that we made mistakes, mistakes that we regret. These regrets can make us feel down, gloomy and dark.

Verbally letting out what I am feeling inside, including my dark emotions is confession. Confession should be the daily spiritual discipline of our life.

It is liberating to confess our feelings to God who waits to hear us.

God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Lord, help me be honest with myself. Cleanse me from all my unrighteousness. Amen.

Being Clean

AUGUST 14, 2017

"Indeed, you are my lamp, O Lord, the Lord lightens my darkness."

2 Samuel 22:29

By hiding it, darkness does not become brighter. By concealing it, the burden of sin does not become lighter.

We have to bring our darkness and our burden of sins before God who is our lamp. God will lighten our darkness and forgive our sins.

When we confess our darkness and our sins, they cannot have power over us.

Lord, I stand before you. You see my deepest thoughts. Purify my heart. Amen.

Understanding

SEPTEMBER 15, 2017

"Many shall be purified, cleansed, and refined, but the wicked shall continue to act wickedly. None of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand."

Daniel 12:10

To truly understand isn't about knowing the concept. Knowing the concept is only the first and the basic stage of understanding. If we say that we truly understand when we only know the concept, we are naïve like children.

To understand means to be awakened. When there is true understanding, we become awakened. Only when we are awake, then we can experience the reality that is beyond the concept. That is wisdom.

That wisdom will make us clean and pure.

Lord, help me to acknowledge my ignorance with humility and give me the wisdom of your words that change me. Amen.

Anger

OCTOBER 16, 2017

"Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,"

Ephesians 4:26

Paul said to be angry but do not sin. Does this mean that being angry is not a sin? Then he said, "do not let the sun go down on your anger."

Anger is our reaction to our situations but if we harbor the anger within us, it will turn into hatred.

We cannot live without getting angry. It is not necessarily a good thing not to get angry at all. Even Jesus was angry when he saw the injustice. But if we harbor the anger within us and let the anger turn into hatred, even trivial things will trigger our anger. Then the anger is no more a reaction caused by our situations but an automatic result caused by our hatred.

Lord, help me not to be overcome by my own anger. Give me the wisdom and strength not to let the anger become hatred within me.

Amen.

Sin is Addictive

NOVEMBER 3, 2017

"But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness."

Romans 6:17-18

Sin is addictive. It makes us its slaves. Sometimes even if we don't enjoy it, we do it anyway because we have no power to resist it. The longer we let the sin control us, the more deeply we will be enslaved.

At one point, we need to say, "enough is enough." Let us turn to God and we will be able to see God's deep understanding for our predicament. That is God's mercy for us. He will not leave us alone. He will empower us to be free from our sins.

Lord, thank you for not leaving me alone. Thank you for the power of your grace that frees me from the power of sin. Amen.

Being Connected to God

NOVEMBER 5, 2017

"For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

Romans 8:3-4

The law makes us aware of our sins but it cannot help us because our will power is weak.

If our will power is the only power, then we have no hope. We have another power that is working in us and that is the power of the Spirit.

The power of the Spirit is the power that we have when we are connected to God. Even though we are weak, when we are connected to God, the sin cannot control us to be its slaves.

Lord, help me to abide in you. Help me to have hope and the strength in you. Release me from the power of sin. Amen.

Setting the Mind on the Spirit

NOVEMBER 7, 2017

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace."

Romans 8:5-6

Setting the minds on the things of the flesh means setting our minds on dark, sinful and negative things. These thoughts make our life dark. If we let our thoughts flow as they wish, often our thoughts move into the direction of the things of the flesh.

We should not let our thoughts flow as they wish. We need a spiritual discipline to guide our thoughts. It is important to be aware of the Spirit within us and let our minds set on the Spirit. Then we will experience life and peace.

Lord, often my thoughts move into the dark place. O Spirit, guide me so that I can set my mind on you. Amen

From Darkness to Light

NOVEMBER 24, 2017

"He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Colossians 1:13-14

Jesus died because of our sins. He died embracing our sins. Our sins died with the death of Jesus.

We didn't become holy, blameless and irreproachable* because we did anything good. Because of the death of our sins, we are considered holy, blameless and irreproachable.

Now we are able to stand before God. We can be reconciled with God. God is no longer my enemy, but my friend.

Lord, I lack so much. But thank you for forgiving me through Jesus Christ and making it possible to be reconciled to God. Help me to walk every day with God now. Amen

***Irreproachable = Free from blame**

Reconcile with God

NOVEMBER 26, 2017

"And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—"

Colossians 1:21-22

Jesus died because of our sins. He died embracing our sins. Our sins died with the death of Jesus.

We didn't become holy, blameless and irreproachable* because we did anything good. Because of the death of our sins, we are considered holy, blameless and irreproachable.

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Lord, I lack so much. But thank you for forgiving me through Jesus Christ and making it possible to be reconciled to God. Help me to walk every day with God now. Amen

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What Comes from the Heart

DECEMBER 14, 2017

"...there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

Mark 7:15-16

We are very careful about what we eat. We make sure that we don't eat food that is bad for our body. It is important because food directly affects our health.

But we should be careful more about what we think than what we eat.

The illness of the body comes from the illness of the mind. Dark thoughts, negative thoughts, and unhealthy thoughts cause harm not only to our minds but to our bodies.

Lord, heal my thoughts. Help me always think about your beautiful words. Amen.

Hearts and Lips

DECEMBER 27, 2017

"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’."

Isaiah 6:1-8

What’s in our heart comes through our mouth. When our heart is filled with impurity, impure words come through our mouth. When we have peace in our heart, our speech becomes gentle and peaceful. When our heart is filled with joy, what we say creates joy around us.

God takes control of our hearts. Let us pray that God will purify our hearts and our lips.

Let us always remember that what we say to others have profound impact on them.

Lord, purify my heart and my lips. Amen.

Darkness and Hatred

DECEMBER 29, 2017

"Whoever says, 'I am in the light', while hating a brother or sister, is still in the darkness. Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates another believer is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and does not know the way to go, because the darkness has brought on blindness."

1 John 2:9-11

This world is filled with hatred. When hatred controls our life, the darkness will soon fill our hearts. When we are in darkness, we won't know where we are going. We won't be able to discern the right from the wrong.

Let us come to the light. We pray that our eyes may be open. Let us live a life not governed by hatred but by love.

*Lord, please come into me as the light and let the darkness fade away.
Lead me to the way of love. Amen.*

Greed and a New Person

JANUARY 2, 2018

"You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."

Ephesians 4:22-24

Our greed makes us become an old self. To be a new person, we have to let go of our greed. When the New Year comes, we dream about being a new person. The first thing we need to do is to discipline ourselves to let go of our greed. Greed is endless. If we follow the greed, the end will be the corruption.

The love of money will create greed within us but the love of God will create peace and calm within us.

Lord, help me not to let greed control my life by creating chaos. Help me to find serenity within you. Amen.

Sin Grieves Us

JANUARY 31, 2018

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. While I kept silence, my body 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. Selah

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord', and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding-place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Psalm 32

Memory Verse: "Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord."

(Psalm 32:10)

Sin makes us sad. Sin brings darkness into our consciousness. When sin controls us, our soul gets drowned in darkness. Sin is not something we should hide deep within us. We should bring all our sins before God.

Lord, forgive me. Cleanse me from within by pouring your grace upon me. Amen.

Forgiveness and Sin

FEBRUARY 10, 2018

Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.’

Matthew 18:21-22

Memory Verse: “how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.’ (Matthew 18:22)

We cannot count forgiveness. Counting forgiveness means that we didn’t forgive from the first place. Forgiveness is neither putting up with sin nor turning a blind eye to sin either. Forgiveness exposes sin. People who see the sin that is exposed and repent, they will be free from the sin. But if they don’t, they will be bound by their own sins.

God sees everything.

Lord, help me not to be a slave to my own sins. Help me to be free from my sins through repentance. Amen.

Temptation

FEBRUARY 13, 2018

"Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. No one, when tempted, should say, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one."

James 1:12-13

“Blessed is anyone who endures temptation... (he/she) will receive the crown of life.” (James 1:12)

We are always surrounded by temptation. We should learn to discipline ourselves to overcome temptation instead of easily giving in to it. God does not tempt us but gives us the power to overcome temptation. Trying to overcome temptation is the best way to learn to trust in God.

Lord, give me the power to overcome temptation. Amen.

Truth will Make you Free

MARCH 21, 2018

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, ‘If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’ They answered him, ‘We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, “You will be made free”?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there for ever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.’

John 8:31-36

Memory Verse: “...you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:32)

Truth makes us free. True freedom is not doing whatever I want. That is a misconception about freedom. True freedom is to be free from the power that takes us to where we don’t want to go, the sin that binds us. True freedom is to be from this power of sin. Only the truth can do that for us.

Lord, fill me with your truth. Amen.

Sin

APRIL 8, 2018

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

1 John 1:8-10

Memory Verse: "If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

The most dangerous sin is the sin that we are not aware of. That is the sin that crucified Jesus on the cross. Jesus prayed for their forgiveness on the cross, saying that they didn't know what they were doing. You do not hide your sins but confess them. You bring them to the light. Then you will experience God's mercy.

Lord, have mercy on me. Amen.

Come to the Light

APRIL 11, 2018

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'"

John 3:16-21

Memory Verse: "The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil." (John 3:19)

Jesus did not come to the world to condemn the world but to save it.

Jesus came as the light. But the fact that Jesus came as the light became condemnation to those who love the darkness because their evil deeds were exposed. So they ran away from the light and chose the darkness. Jesus did not condemn them but they condemned themselves. Let us come to the Light.

Lord, I come to the light. Let the light chase away the darkness within me. Amen.

Power of Forgiveness

APRIL 13, 2018

"When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'"

John 21:15-19

**Memory Verse: "Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go."
(John 21:18)**

We all need forgiveness. Jesus gave Peter who denied him three times, the opportunity to be forgiven. Forgiveness has power. When we are truly forgiven, we can do anything out of appreciation for the forgiveness we have received. After all, Peter gave his life for the Lord who forgave him.

Lord, thank you for your forgiveness. Help me also to live a life of forgiving others. Amen.

Seek God's Face

MAY 8, 2018

"Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: 'I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.'"

2 Chronicles 7:12-14

Memory Verse: "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Let us seek God's face. Let us humble ourselves. God will forgive our sins and heal our land. People whose sins are forgiven and whose land is healed are the blessed people. Let us live as blessed people.

Lord, heal my thoughts and my illness. Heal my land. Amen.

Today

MAY 23, 2018

"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money.' Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that.' As it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin."

James 4:13-17

Memory Verse: "Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." (James 4:14)

There are things we must do TODAY. James said, anyone who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin. Let us not delay what we must do today. If we need to repent, let us repent today. If we want to make new resolutions, let us make them today. If there is a right thing for us to do, let us start it today.

*Lord, thank you for giving me life. Help me to live today fully alive.
Amen.*

Forgiveness

MAY 28, 2018

"Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. So also David speaks of the blessedness of those to whom God reckons righteousness irrespective of works: 'Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the one against whom the Lord will not reckon sin.'"

Romans 4:4-8

Memory Verse: "Blessed is the one against whom the Lord will not reckon sin." (Romans 4:8)

We believe that everything has a cost. We are not used to receiving something without paying the cost. We have been taught that we have to pay for our sins. We find it strange to believe that our sins are gone without punishment.

Our sins are gone not by paying for their price but by being forgiven.

We become free from our sins not by paying for our sins but by believing in God's forgiveness.

Lord, thank you for your grace of forgiving my sins unconditionally.

Amen.