IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT

What if you had a deadly disease that was extremely painful and you took a painkiller instead of medication that could cure it? "It's not your fault," is a painkiller that can keep you from making things right with God.

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All You Have To Do Is Accept Jesus

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There Is A Cure For The Deadly Disease Of Sin

John 3:16 (NIV) For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. This is God's provision to all of mankind for setting them free from the deadly spiritual disease of sin. It this prescription is taken, the person is totally healed from this eternally-deadly disease.

It's For Curing You Not Condemning You

John 3:17 (NIV) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Jesus has a wonderful solution for keeping you from feeling condemnation, guilt, or shame. However, the world has probably already given you a painkiller that is keeping you from realizing that there is a deadly, spiritual disease killing you eternally.

It Just Take One

John 3:18 (NIV) Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. Once you commit one sin, just like most physical diseases, you have exposed yourself and contracted the spiritual disease of sin. Just like it only takes one bacterium to make you sick, it only takes one sin to make you spiritually diseased. You don't need a whole bunch of them to infect you.

The Cure Is Awesome!

Whoever believes in Him is not condemned: It is like taking one pill and being completely cured from the most aggressive, deadly cancer on the planet. But, like a lot of cancers, sin can be a silent killer. People can have cancer for years and not find out until it is too late. If you had a deadly disease that was creating a lot of pain, that pain would be your friend. If there was a cure, all you needed, was to know you had the disease.

What If You Don't Know You Have It

Whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son: You already have the spiritual disease of sin. You don't have to do anything to keep it. If you don't do what it takes to get healed from it, you **stand condemned already.** Right now, the diagnosis is death. But, keep in mind, that if you take the spiritual medication, you get the permanent, eternal cure. But, do you think you need a cure?

We All Have A Deadly Spiritual Disease

Rom 3:23 (NIV) For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. What if you have this disease, because you never did anything about it. But, what could cause you to have a highly contagious, deadly, eternal disease and not do anything about it? One thing that could be happening to you is, you forgave yourself. You can self-medicate; but, you do not have the cure, in yourself. Another thing you may have done is justify yourself. You could convince yourself that you aren't all that bad. But, God is the only authority on how bad you are. He has been watching you all your life. He has seen you do some pretty hurtful things. And, he has seen you not help people where they really needed your help.

You Are Dying From It!

Rom 6:23 (NIV) For the wages of sin is death, *but* the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. What if the cure for this highly contagious, eternally deadly, disease is a free gift? But, if you have decided that none of the things you have done are your fault, you may not be interested in even a free gift. Why would you take medicine, even if it is free, if you don't need it?

What makes you think that all the wrong, bad, and evil things you have done in your lifetime aren't any of your fault? Well, maybe, since some very sophisticated experts have convinced you that you are who you are and do what you do, because of your parents, your society, and many other injustices that have shaped you in the wrong way. It would be impossible for you to feel like you have ever don't much of anything wrong, if you didn't have anything to do with what you do and the way you are.

Did You Know Not Doing Good Is A Sin?

James 4:17 (NIV) <u>Anyone, then, who *knows* the good he ought to do</u> and doesn't do it, sins. If you are the way you are because everyone has failed you, then you may not feel like you own anyone anything. With that painkiller in your life, people all around you can be going through all kinds of horrible things and you don't care. It's not your fault; it's not your problem; you have problems of your own.

You Are Right; You Were Failed

Mat 7:12 (NIV) So, in everything, do to others <u>what you would have them</u> do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. You were taught, by all kinds of people, to just care about you. That was wrong! You were taught that it wasn't your fault for how you act and what you do. That was wrong! You were taught to forgive yourself. That was wrong! If someone steals everything you have, can they just forgive themselves and no longer have the deadly, eternal sin in their life? No! If they don't get forgiveness from Jesus, they will die in their sins.

Don't Let Anyone Fool You

Gal 6:7 (NIV) <u>Do not be deceived</u>: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. If someone planted bad seeds in your life of mistreatment, lies, cheating, criticism, and neglect, all you have to do is pull up the plants. That is what you would do to weeds in your garden. The thing this verse is trying to get across to you is, you are responsible for who you are and what you do. It wasn't what people and circumstances did to you. It was your reaction to them. You used mistreatment to justify your reaction to that mistreatment.

It Wasn't Your Fault

Rom 5:8 (NIV) But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. It wasn't your fault that you were mistreated. It wasn't your fault that people and circumstances were difficult and maybe even cruel. But, it is your fault, if you don't take all those things to Jesus and allow Him to heal your heart. It is your fault if you decide to live a life of hatred, blame, revenge, shame, regret, or depression.

Do You Want To Suffer?

Mat 11:28 (NIV) Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. It will be your fault, if you don't get Jesus' rest from all your past sins, suffering, and disappointment. The first step is coming to Him for a break from all you have been suffering. He will heal you from blame, forgiving yourself, and feeling like you didn't have anything to do with the way you are. That would leave you in doom and hopelessness. But, if you will acknowledge that even though the experiences were wrong, your reactions were wrong too.

Praying For A Life Change

Mat 6:9 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: Would you be willing to accept Jesus' guidance into rest, by praying this prayer? If so, go through this prayer, from Jesus, and let it heal you from years of mistreatment and misinformation.

"'Our Father in heaven: Make this personal, by saying: My Father in heaven.

Hallowed be Your name: Tell your heavenly Father that you believe He is holy. Holiness may not mean much to you. It means your heavenly Father is perfectly fair, honest, good, and doesn't do anything that is wrong, bad, or evil. So say: Hallowed be Your name.

Mat 6:10 (NIV) Your kingdom come: You are now inviting Your heavenly Father's Kingdom into your heart, mind, and life. Jesus will spend a lot of time helping you understand this better later. But, for all the wrong, bad, and evil that has happened to you, you are not joining a Kingdom that doesn't have any of that in it. So say, Your Kingdom come.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven: You are praying for something that is bigger than you are used to. Even though you will never be able to undo all the injustices in the world, you will be able to improve your part of the world. You are asking your heavenly Father to start causing your part of the world to start working together for your good. So say, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Mat 6:11 (NIV) Give us today our daily bread: This is a change in your priorities. Rather than devoting most of your life to the care of your body, there will be some better approaches to life. Your heavenly Father will start supplying all of your needs, without you having to spend almost all of your life earning a living. So, make it personal and say: Give me today my daily bread.

Mat 6:12 (NIV) Forgive us our debts: The word "debt" isn't as meaningful as it will be later. Right now you need to be asking for your heavenly Father to forgive you for all your past, present, and future sins. When you hurt yourself, other people, and your heavenly Father's plans, it creates a debt of sin. So say: Forgive me my debt of sin.

As we also have forgiven our debtors: This is when it really gets personal. All those people, who have done you wrong, are in need of your forgiveness. And, you are in need of forgiving them. Without trying to remember them all, just think of the person, who is the hardest to forgive, because they hurt you the most. First, ask Jesus to empower you to sincerely forgive them. You aren't forgetting what they did, or, saying it wasn't horrible. You are just asking Jesus to help you forgive them for what they did. Later you will be empowered to forgive a bunch of others.

Now, ask Jesus to empower you to pray this part of this prayer. Make it personal, as you say: Forgive me my sins, as I also forgive this person of their sins against me.

Mat 6:13 (NIV) And lead us not into temptation: It will be a little bit difficult for you to think of any reason your heavenly Father would lead you into temptation. But, there are times when you will get full of yourself and do things that will need to be dealt with. In worse case scenarios, He may have to let you go on your own for a while, so you can get humble enough to do things God's way. So say: Lead me not into temptation.

But deliver us from the evil one: If it isn't already, it will soon become obvious why you would want to pray this. You have a major enemy in Satan. He has been doing most of the damage you have experienced in your life. He works behind the scenes; but, it is always him instigating your problems, temptations, and struggles. So say: Deliver me from the evil one.

A Little Warning
As you start moving forward in your Christian life with Jesus. He will bring other people to your mind that you will need to ask Him to empower you to forgive. He will only give you one or two at a time to forgive. If many start coming into your mind, resist them. Ask Jesus to help you not think about them for a while. Satan will try to torment you with bad memories of people, who have hurt you. You will be able to get around to forgiving them eventually; but, not all at once.

Mat 6:14-15 (NIV) For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. If you think of some, who are almost impossible to forgive, spend time with Jesus, asking Him to help you forgive them. As you can see, in this passage above, it isn't optional as to whether or not you forgive them. But, it can take some time and a lot of prayer, before it actually takes place.

A Prayer We Are Praying For You
Ephesians 1:17-18 (NIV) I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe.

That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

There may be a lot of this that you don't understand yet. But, it is a prayer that will make a huge difference in your life. Jesus understands what we are asking Him to do through this prayer. So, you will get some immediate benefits from it. Later, you will want to personalize it and make it a prayer from you to your heavenly Father.