GETTING FORGIVENESS FOR A MISTAKE OR A SIN

What do you do when you mess up? How do you get forgiven for something you did wrong? Jesus has provided you with a way back to forgiveness.

Getting Back on Track with Your Life

Christian Living

Having A Perfect Record with God

Let Jesus help you with a spiritual mistake or a sin. Since you have accepted Jesus as your Lord, Savior, and King, His sacrifice on the cross cleansed you of ALL sin; you start off with a perfect record with God. **1 John 1:7 (NIV) But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from ALL sin.** If you sin, God considers it a mistake, as long as you don't do it on purpose. If you are not sure you are a Christian, get the pamphlet, **"How to Become a Christian."**

Keeping Or Getting Your Perfect Record Clean

1 John 2:1 (NIV) My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have One Who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. Jesus uses the Bible to help you make less and less mistakes (things that used to be sins). In other words, **I write this to you so that you will not sin.** He is helping you stop making these spiritual mistakes or sinning on purpose, which are wrong, bad, or evil things against yourself, others, and God's plan.

Contaminating Your Perfect Record

But if anybody does sin: You **have One Who speaks to the Father in** your **defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.** Jesus is providing you a process for you, when you sin a sin that has been covered by His blood. Which is a sin you didn't do on purpose. But, if you did SIN on purpose and want to get forgiven, you need to get that taken care so God will start listening to your other prayers. It that case, you are dealing with a sin, not a mistake. Mistakes you refuse to deal with and sins done on purpose, take away your perfect record, until dealt with.

Keeping Your Perfect Record Or Cleansing It

1. You made a mistake (prior to salvation it was a sin) or you sinned on purpose: **Rom 7:15 (NIV) I do not understand what I do. For what I WANT to do I do not do, but what I HATE I do.** This "want" and "hate" MUST be your attitude about this. If it isn't, pray until it is. You must want to do good and hate doing bad.

2. The Holy Spirit helped you feel bad about the mistake or sin (guilt): **John 16:8 (NIV) When He comes, He will convict the world of GUILT in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.** He is speaking to your conscience and creating guilt. This is your warning that your perfect record is in jeopardy or has been compromised.

3. You ask God to empower you accept the truth that you made a mistake or sinned. And, you ask Him to help you accept it in a way that doesn't destroy you or your God-confidence (grace): **1 John 1:8 (NIV) If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.** You must accept what the Bible says about your mistake or sin.

Failure to admit the mistake or sin can cost you your relationship with God. The mistake can turn into a sin and destroy you. **1 John 1:10 (NIV) If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives.**

4. You admit you made a mistake (did something labelled sin but covered with Jesus' blood) or sinned on purpose: **James 5:16 (NIV) Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.** Your admission isn't repentance; but it is vital as a step into repentance.

5. You confess your mistake or sin and ask God to forgive you (repentance): **1 John 1:9 (NIV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.** Repenting of a mistake, keeps your record with God perfect. Repenting of a sin, makes your record with God perfect.

6. You ask for God's help to make it right with the people you hurt (power): **Mat 5:23-24 (NIV) Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.**

7. You act in faith that God gave you the power to go where the people are that you hurt (if possible) and apologize for the things you did to them (restitution): **Mark 11:24 (NIV) Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.** This Scripture is saying that God gave you the power to go.

   Also, if you got hurt in the process, you need to ask God to empower you to forgive them (forgiveness). **Mark 11:25 (NIV) And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.** If the person you hurt doesn't ask for your forgiveness, don't tell them you forgive them; just tell God.

8. You thank God for forgiving you for the mistake or sin and for keeping or making your record with Him perfect. AND you thank Him for giving you the power to go make it right with the people you made the mistake with or sinned against (thanksgiving): **Phil 4:6 (NIV) Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.**

9. You ask God to deliver you and empower you to never do that again. **Rom 1:32 (NIV) Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.**

10. You go on with your day, asking God to guide your plans, decisions, and actions (including God): **Prov 3:5-8 (NIV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart <u>and lean not on your own understanding</u>; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. <u>Do not be wise in your own eyes</u>; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.**

Moving Into Less Mistakes

Life is so much better when you don't make spiritual mistakes in the first place. One of the bad things about spiritual mistakes or forgiven sins is that you still reap the side-effects and consequences of your error. **Gal 6:7 (NIV) Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.** This keeps those from getting by with it who want to USE the grace of God. And, it explains why you still have memories of the extreme pleasure of some kinds of sins. You will still have the memory of the pain from other kinds of sins. And, you will still have the relationships to deal with that developed from other types of sins.

Spiritual Growth

Jesus is willing to help you grow in power, success, and victory in the areas of your behavior and relationships. He has seen to it that you have resources to help you defeat temptations, avoid mistakes, and identify pitfalls that we all face. With His training through the Bible, you will be able to recognize traps. You will be able to resist temptations that would have pulled you in. And you will be able to develop a much better relationship with Him, yourself, and others. All you have to do is join Him in training and He will give you a victorious life.

World Changers TLC

If you will go to the **wctlc.com** website, you will find wonderful help and training with Jesus. He will help you find the very best resource for you. Let Him guide you into the way to live the Victorious Christian Life!

You might start with, **"I would like to be a BETTER Christian."** This is for Christians who have been born again for quite some time, but are still finding themselves struggling with areas in their Christian life where they can't seem to win.

Devotions with Jesus is another tremendous spiritual growth program. Just select, **"I would like to have DEVOTIONS to do each day."** Also, there are great books, audio messages, resources for you to use to help others, and prayers for you to use. Just let Jesus guide you into those things that He wants as your next step into living victoriously in Him.