

## Deeper Life Notes

Assurance of Forgiveness, John 1:9  
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Watertown  
Evangelical  
Free Church

*Begin with Prayer – Ask God for an open mind and heart, willing hands and feet to discover and declare and enjoy the promises of God.*

List at least three realities/truths from these Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 10:13 *“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”*

Romans 3:23-24 *“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”*  
See also James 4:17

Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

### Read

What is the context of 1st John?

*“This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 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 his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say 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 we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”* 1 John 1:5-10(ESV)

Discover a number of scenarios and situations regarding fellowship with God:

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ Scene - verse 6 (dis-ingenuousness, duplicity, dishonesty, fakers)
2. The Honesty Scene - verse 7
3. The Deceived Scene - verse 8, 10 (misled, hoodwinked, duped, deluded, blinded)
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ Scene - verse 9 (pardoned, excused, absolved, exonerated)

Where do you see yourself? What is God saying to us here?

Who is the “We” in verse 9 of 1st John?

**Immediate Application** Are we a unbeliever, make believer, or believer? See 1 John 5:11-12

What does the “If” mean? In what sense is God’s forgiveness conditional?

To confess means to agree with (Homolegeo = to say the same thing). We are talking about sin, so what does it mean to say the same thing about sin?

4 kinds of repentance

- A. Madison Ave repentance - Matthew 3: Pharisees
- B. Daddy don’t spank me repentance - 2 Samuel 15: King Saul
- C. Sorrow of the world repentance - 2 Corinthians 7:4-ff: Peter versus Judas
- D. Godly sorrow - 2 Corinthians 7:11, Psalm 51; 1 Timothy 1:8-15; Isaiah 6:5-8

Jerry Bridges noted in his book *“Respectable Sins: Confronting the Sins We Tolerate”* this list of “Acceptable Sins—Fear, apathy, ungodliness, anxiety, frustration, discontent, unthankful, pride, selfishness, lack of self-control, impatience, irritability, anger, judgmentalism, envy, jealousy, sins of the tongue, worldliness, gluttony, flattery.” Have any of these “acceptable sins” crept into your life?

**Immediate Application** Agree with God about your sin

- Pray, (listen, learn) I heard from God \_\_\_\_\_
- Name them \_\_\_\_\_
- Turn from it
- Become accountable: I have asked \_\_\_\_\_ to help me stay right with God.

What does 1 John 1:9 say about God? His character and capabilities?

What does God say about the promise of forgiveness?

Define forgiveness:

*“...the decision to release a person from the obligation that resulted from injury.”* James MacDonald

What is judicial and parental and the difference between the two?

Judicial forgiveness—Titus 3:5; Jeremiah 4:4

Parental forgiveness—Deuteronomy 1:34-37; 9:18-20; 1 King 11:9; Mark 10:14

How does God want us to respond to others in light of the forgiveness we have received? Matthew 6:12-14

### **Resources to help understand, receive and extend forgiveness**

DVD *“Have the Funeral”* by James MacDonald

DVD/Bible Study Peacemaker material *“7 A’s of confession, 4 Promises of Forgiveness”*

Neil Anderson’s *“The Steps to Freedom in Christ: Step 3 Bitterness versus Forgiveness”*

### **Quotes to consider**

*“...when I’m not filled with the poison of unforgiveness. Serious diseases can develop as a result of the stress and pressure that bitterness, resentment and unforgiveness put on a person. Mark 11:22-26 clearly teaches us that unforgiveness hinders our faith from working. The Father can’t forgive our sins if we don’t forgive other people. We reap what we sow. Sow mercy, and you’ll reap mercy; sow judgment, and you’ll reap judgment. So do yourself a favor—and forgive.”* Joyce Meyers

*“Forgiveness must be immediate, whether or not a person asks for it. Trust must be rebuilt over time. Trust requires a track record. If someone hurts you repeatedly, you are commanded by God to forgive them instantly, but you are not expected to trust them immediately, and you are not expected to continue allowing them to hurt you.”* Rick Warren

*“A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers.”* - Robert Quillen