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The Life of Abraham—The Forgiveness of God

GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Psalms 103:2-3; 11-12 A Psalm Of David.

- (2) Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:
- (3) Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,
- (11) For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;
- (12) As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

How great it is to sing praises unto our God for His grace, mercy and forgiveness. Our hearts can truly rejoice that our sins in the past, present and future are washed away by the blood of Christ and that our eternal destiny is with God as joint-heirs with Christ. When you accept Christ as your Savior, God has forgiven your sins.

Five Reasons for Forgiveness

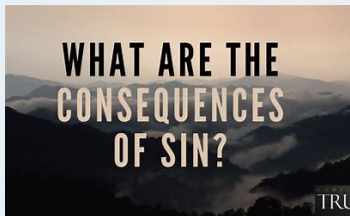
1. **Blots out Sin**—Isaiah 43:25 "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.
2. **Gives Remission of Sin**— This is Freedom, deliverance from Sin
Matthew 26:28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sin.
3. **It Pardon's Sin**—Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.
4. **It Forgets Sin**— Jeremiah 31:34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."
5. **It Heals the Sinner**— 2 Chronicles 30:18-20 For a multitude of the people, many from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet they ate the Passover contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, "May the good LORD provide atonement for everyone (19) who prepares his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he is not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary." (20) And the LORD listened to Hezekiah and healed the people.

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- ◇ Blots
- ◇ Remission
- ◇ Pardons
- ◇ Forgets
- ◇ Heals



Earthly Consequences

However, the earthly consequences of your sin may have a lasting affect on you and others. While sins can be forgiven, the effects of sin sometimes are not erasable.

30 BIBLE VERSES
about
THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

Romans 6:23	Galatians 6:7-8	Isaiah 59:2
Romans 5:12	Mark 9:43	1 John 1:9
Ezekiel 18:20	Proverbs 14:12	1 John 3:4
Jude 1:7	2 Peter 2:4	Romans 3:23
John 3:16	John 3:3	2 Thessalonians 1:9
Psalms 38:3	Matthew 25:46	Psalms 66:18
1 John 2:11	Numbers 32:23	Genesis 1:28
James 4:17	Matthew 25:41	Mark 9:47
Genesis 2:17	Galatians 5:19-21	Philippians 3:18-19
Proverbs 11:31	1 Corinthians 6:9-10	1 John 1:8

BIBLE PORTAL

The Harmful Effects of Sin

I. The Harmful Effects of Sin. Genesis 21

Children were breast fed up until about the age of three years old. It was at this time that a celebration was to be held for Isaac. (Gen. 21:8) Ishmael, the son of Hagar, (Genesis 16) *Hagar the servant whom Abram had sexual relations with*, was about 17 yrs. old. Often an older child feels threatened by the birth of a younger sibling. The emotions that they have may be unfounded but nevertheless they are real emotions. Hurt, jealousy, unsure of their standing with their parents as the joy and happiness of the newborn overshadows the older child's life. Here is where it gets ugly.

Genesis 21:8-10

(8) So the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the same day that Isaac was weaned.

(9) And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing.

(10) Therefore she said to Abraham, "Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, namely with Isaac."

In verse 9 Ishmael in the KJV the word scoffing is rendered as mocking which has the same root word as Isaac's name "to laugh". In this form the verb takes on a different nuance. It carries the idea to jest, to make sport of, to play with. He wasn't just laughing but making fun of Isaac and Sarah saw/heard and as you can imagine all of her protective motherhood came in to

Gen 21:10 Therefore she said to Abraham, "Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, *namely* with Isaac."

Family Gatherings and Drama

II. Family gatherings always seem to bring drama.

This is what modern day psychology likes to refer to as "The Blended Family" My step sister affectionately refers to me as *A brother from another mother*. We love each other but that relationship is unique for her and I. Other step-siblings may have misgivings and mistrust towards each other. Who has not heard the name of Cinderella and her "evil" stepsisters and step Mother? Could such portrayals' taught to children, have subliminally affected those blended relationship only to have put them in a blender and further harmed them? It all began with Abraham and Sarah not trusting God and looking for another way. Try not to put your family in a blender.

III. Not Trusting God is Sin

The results of this sin, see Hagar and Ismael hastily sent on their way with little food and water. It must have hurt Abraham to the core to see his oldest son whom he had taught and raised be forced to leave but what could he do? Sarah was his wife. Happy wife, happy life. God was amazing through all of this!

Gen 21:12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called.

Gen 21:13 Yet I will also make a nation of the son of the bondwoman, because he *is* your seed."

Genesis 21:16-19

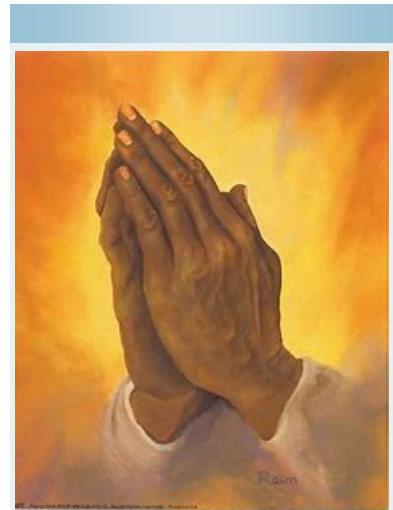
(16) Then she went and sat down across from him at a distance of about a bowshot; for she said to herself, "Let me not see the death of the boy." So she sat opposite him, and lifted her voice and wept.

(17) And God heard the voice of the lad. Then the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said to her, "What ails you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is.

(18) Arise, lift up the lad and hold him with your hand, for I will make him a great nation."

(19) Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water, and gave the lad a drink.

We close out this chapter by seeing once again, the Faithfulness of God. All He promised was fulfilled. God loves, protects, helps, heals and saves. Maybe you have made mistakes in life. I know I have. Maybe those mistakes, sins have had some rough consequences. Rest in knowing that God will help you through that. Stay faithful to God and his calling in your life and you will be blessed.



*Dear Heavenly Father,
We praise you for your forgiveness and faithfulness. We could not ask for a greater Father God. Help those who are hurting from the consequences of their sin and reassure them that you are there for them. Dry the tears from their eyes and may your Holy Spirit comfort them and also give them guidance and direction in their lives. We humbly pray this in Jesus name. Amen!*

IV. The Essence of Christianity John 3

Read The Gospel of John chapter 3. In essence Christianity would not exist without the message of Salvation through Jesus the Christ. Salvation was accomplished for men by the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ by the shedding of His blood on the Cross of Calvary.

V. The Entrance of Salvation—How Can A person Be Born Again

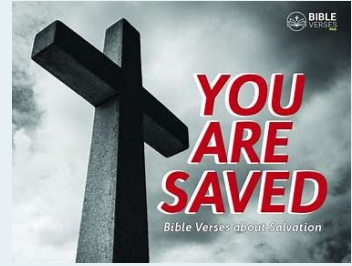
The work of Christ on the cross is the objective basis for a person's salvation (His shed blood—and that alone is what saves us). "What can wash away my sin?" the song asks, "nothing but the blood of Jesus." But there is also a subjective side to salvation which we must understand. We must now move on from the object of our faith to the obtaining of salvation through faith. There are two major terms which encompass the entrance of a person into the wonders of eternal salvation through the blood of

Christ: **repentance** and **belief**. Repentance is fundamentally a change of mind, which results in a change of behavior. Repentance involves a recognition of our sinful state and the dreadful consequences of our sin apart from faith in Christ. Before we can be saved, we must be convinced that we are lost and doomed. Repentance recognizes this and determines to make whatever changes are required to be saved.

"... that whoever believes may in Him have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" ([John 3:15-18](#)).

V. The Expression of Christianity

The essence of Christianity is narrow, for only the shed blood of Jesus Christ saves anyone. The expression of Christianity is exceedingly broad, for it affects every facet of our existence.



Salvation Prayer

"Lord Jesus, please forgive my sins. Thank You for loving me and dying on the cross to save me. Come into my heart and be my Lord and Savior. Help me become the person that You want me to become in every area of my life, in Jesus' name, amen!"

