

MEMORY VERSE: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Hebrews 11:1, NKJV

LESSON STUDY INTRO

“This week’s lesson examines steps involved in availing ourselves of God’s forgiveness—namely conviction, repentance, and confession.

1. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin (Sun, Mon, Tue)

- Whether willfully or ignorantly, we have all sinned and are subject to judgment (Ps. 14:2,3; Rom. 3:23; Lk. 14:37, 38; see Monday’s illustration).
- The Holy Spirit makes us aware of our sinful condition (Jn. 16:7, 8).
Real sorrow for sin is the result of the working of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit reveals the ingratitude of the heart that has slighted and grieved the Saviour, and brings us in contrition to the foot of the cross. DA 300
- How we respond to conviction determines our destiny (Heb. 10:26, 27).
 - “The truth is, we can’t grow in our relationship with God when chosen and cherished sins stand between us and Him.” Qtly, Mon, par 5

God works by the manifestation of His Spirit to reprove and convict the sinner; and if the Spirit’s work is finally rejected, there is no more that God can do for the soul. PP 405

2. Genuine repentance is key to reconciliation (Tue)

- God’s consistent message to humanity is “Repent!” (Ezek. 18:30-32; Mt. 3:1,2; Mk. 1:14, 15; Rev. 3:19).
 - “The Lord is... not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:18).
- Like conviction, repentance is also prompted by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 2:4; Ac. 3:17-19; 5:31; 17:30, 31).
- True repentance involves sorrow for sin *and* turning from sin (Ezek. 14:6; Lk. 3:7-14; Ac. 26:19, 20).

No repentance is genuine that does not work reformation. The righteousness of Christ is not a cloak to cover unconfessed and unforsaken sin; it is a principle of life that transforms the character and controls the conduct. DA 555, 556

3. We need Christ's Robe of Righteousness (Wed, Thu)

- By confession we give our filthy garments of guilt to Christ; in return He give us His Robe of Righteousness (Lev. 1:1-4; Is. 53:6; 1 Jn. 1:9).
 - Christ's Robe of Righteousness covers our nakedness, not our filthiness (Zech. 3:1-4; Is. 61:10).

By His perfect obedience [Christ] has made it possible for every human being to obey God's commandments. When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah. COL 311.4

The righteousness of God is embodied in Christ. We receive righteousness by receiving Him. MB 18.1

- The righteousness of Christ is essential for our participation in His kingdom (Mt. 22:1-4).
 - Clothed in His righteousness, we can have confidence in Christ's forgiveness (Rom. 8:31-39; Rev. 3:5).

All that have put on the robe of Christ's righteousness will stand before Him as chosen and faithful and true. Satan has no power to pluck them out of the hand of Christ. Not one soul that in penitence and faith has claimed His protection will Christ permit to pass under the enemy's power. His word is pledged: 'Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me' (Isaiah 27:5). CCh 351

CONCLUSION

"Identifying our sins in response to the Holy Spirit's promptings and surrendering self in repentance are vital parts of having a thriving relationship with God. Knowing that we are completely forgiven and covered by Jesus' robe of righteousness is the most transformative experience for a human being. Not only do we feel the weight of sin lifted, but we feel the love of God surround us as we are drawn closer to Him. This binds us to God, strengthens us spiritually, and compels us to love Him with every fiber of our being." Qttly Fri, par 4