

# Steps to Christ

**Bible Study Series**



**Faith and Acceptance**

7 - 16

**(1) AS OUR DESIRE TO HAVE PEACE AND HARMONY WITH GOD GROWS, WHAT WILL BE OUR GOD-GIVEN REACTION TO THE EVIL OF SIN?**

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*Ezekiel 36:31*

**Related Texts:** Ezekiel.6:9; 20:43; Luke 18:13; 5:8; Romans 6:21; Psalm 40:12; Ezra 9:6; 2 Corinthians 7:9-11

As your conscience has been quickened by the Holy Spirit, you have seen something of the evil of sin, of its power, its guilt, its woe; and you look upon it with abhorrence. You feel that sin has separated you from God, that you are in bondage in the power of evil. The more you struggle to escape, the more you realize your helplessness. Your motives are impure; your heart is unclean. You see that your life has been filled with selfishness and sin. You long to be forgiven, to be cleansed, to be set free. Harmony with God, likeness to Him—what can you do to obtain it?

**(2) TO WHOM DOES THE LORD OFFER THE LIVING WATER OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE?**

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*Isaiah 55:1*

**Related Texts:** Isaiah 41:17; John 4:14; 7:37, 38; 12:32; Revelation 21:6; 2 Peter 3:9

It is peace that you need—Heaven’s forgiveness and peace and love in the soul. Money cannot buy it, intellect cannot procure it, wisdom cannot attain to it; you can never hope, by your own efforts, to secure it. But God offers it to you as a gift, “without money and without price.”... It is yours if you will but reach out your hand and grasp it. The Lord says, “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” Isaiah 1:18.

**(3) WHAT WONDERFUL PROMISE HAS THE LORD GIVEN US TO CLAIM IN OUR SEARCH FOR PEACE?**

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*Ezekiel 36:26*

**Related Texts:** Ezekiel 11:19, 20; Deuteronomy 30:6; Jeremiah 32:39; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 3:3; John 3:3-6

You have confessed your sins, and in heart put them away. You have resolved to give yourself to God. Now go to Him, and ask that He will wash away your sins and give you a new heart. Then believe that He does this because He has promised. This is the lesson which Jesus taught while He was on earth, that the gift which God promises us, we must believe we do receive, and it is ours.

**(4) WHY WERE THE SIGNS AND MIRACLES OF CHRIST RECORDED IN SCRIPTURE?**

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*John 20:31*

**Related Texts:** Matthew 9:6; Mark 2:7, 10; John 5:24, 39; 6:40; 1 John 5:10-13

Jesus healed the people of their diseases when they had faith in His power; He helped them in the things which they could see, thus inspiring them with confidence in Him concerning things which they could not see—leading them to believe in His power to forgive sins.

**(5) WHAT PART DO WE TAKE IN RECEIVING FORGIVENESS OF SIN?**

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*Mark 11:24*

**Related Texts:** Matthew 8:13; 21:22; 9:6; Psalm 32:10; Ephesians 2:8; 1 Timothy 4:10

From the simple Bible account of how Jesus healed the sick, we may learn something about how to believe in Him for the forgiveness of sins. Let us turn to the story of the paralytic at Bethesda. The poor sufferer was helpless; he had not used his limbs for thirty-eight years. Yet Jesus bade him, “Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.” The sick man might have said, “Lord, if Thou wilt make me whole, I will obey Thy word.” But, no, he believed Christ’s word, believed that he was made whole, and he made the effort at once; he willed to walk, and he did walk. He acted on the word of Christ, and God gave the power. He was made whole.

## **(6) WHY CAN WE NOT BRING HOLINESS TO THE HEART BY OUR OWN EFFORT?**

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*Jeremiah 17:9*

**Related Texts:** Jeremiah 13:23; 16:12; Psalm 51:5; 53:1-3; Genesis 6:5; Job 15:14-16; Ecclesiastes 9:3; Mark 7:21, 22; James 1:14, 15; Romans 7:14-20; Ephesians 2:3

In like manner you are a sinner. You cannot atone for your past sins; you cannot change your heart and make yourself holy. But God promises to do all this for you through Christ. You believe that promise. You confess your sins and give yourself to God. You will to serve Him. Just as surely as you do this, God will fulfill His word to you. If you believe the promise,—believe that you are forgiven and cleansed,—God supplies the fact; you are made whole, just as Christ gave the paralytic power to walk when the man believed that he was healed. It is so if you believe it.

Do not wait to feel that you are made whole, but say, “I believe it; it is so, not because I feel it, but because God has promised.

## **(7) IF IN FAITH WE SEEK FORGIVENESS FROM GOD, WHY CAN WE HAVE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE RECEIVED IT?**

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*Matthew 7:11*

**Related Texts:** Mark 11:24; Luke 11:11; 1 John 5:14, 15; Psalm 86:5; 103:11-13; Micah 7:18, 19; Romans 5:8-10; 8:32; Ephesians 2:4-6; Titus 3:4-7

There is a condition to this promise—that we pray according to the will of God. But it is the will of God to cleanse us from sin, to make us His children, and to enable us to live a holy life. So we may ask for these blessings, and believe that we receive them, and thank God that we have received them. It is our privilege to go to Jesus and be cleansed, and to stand before the law without shame or remorse. “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” Romans 8:1.

## **(8) HOW CAN WE MAINTAIN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?**

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*Colossians 2:6*

**Related Texts:** Hebrews 11:6; 3:14; Galatians 5:16; John 15:4-9; 1 John 2:6; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Ephesians 5:1, 2; Matthew 6:33

Henceforth you are not your own; you are bought with a price. “Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold;... but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” 1 Peter 1:18, 19. Through this simple act of believing God, the Holy Spirit has begotten a new life in your heart. You are as a child born into the family of God, and He loves you as He loves His Son.

Now that you have given yourself to Jesus, do not draw back, do not take yourself away from Him, but day by day say, “I am Christ’s; I have given myself to Him;” and ask Him to give you His Spirit and keep you by His grace. As it is by giving yourself to God, and believing Him, that you become His child, so you are to live in Him.

## **(9) WHAT DOES CHRIST OFFER TO ALL WHO COME?**

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*Matthew 11:28*

**Related Texts:** Isaiah 11:10; 48:17, 18; Jeremiah 6:16; Hebrews 4:1

Some seem to feel that they must be on probation, and must prove to the Lord that they are reformed, before they can claim His blessing. But they may claim the blessing of God even now. They must have His

grace, the Spirit of Christ, to help their infirmities, or they cannot resist evil. Jesus loves to have us come to Him just as we are, sinful, helpless, dependent. We may come with all our weakness, our folly, our sinfulness, and fall at His feet in penitence. It is His glory to encircle us in the arms of His love and to bind up our wounds, to cleanse us from all impurity.

**(10) WHAT REASSURANCE HAS GOD GIVEN EVERY REPENTANT SINNER?**

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*Isaiah 44:22*

**Related Texts:** Isaiah 1:18; 43:25; Jeremiah 33:8; Titus 2:13, 14; 1 John 1:9

Here is where thousands fail; they do not believe that Jesus pardons them personally, individually. They do not take God at His word. It is the privilege of all who comply with the conditions to know for themselves that pardon is freely extended for every sin. Put away the suspicion that God’s promises are not meant for you. They are for every repentant transgressor. Strength and grace have been provided through Christ to be brought by ministering angels to every believing soul. None are so sinful that they cannot find strength, purity, and righteousness in Jesus, who died for them. He is waiting to strip them of their garments stained and polluted with sin, and to put upon them the white robes of righteousness; He bids them live and not die.

**(11) HOW DOES GOD DEAL WITH OUR SIN PROBLEM IF WE FOLLOW HIS LEADING TO REPENTANCE?**

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*Psalms 103:10-12*

**Related Texts:** Psalm 103:13-19; 130:3, 4; Ezra 9:13; Nehemiah 9:31; Job 11:6

God does not deal with us as finite men deal with one another. His thoughts are thoughts of mercy, love, and tenderest compassion. He says, “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and

to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” “I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins.” Isaiah 55:7; 44:22.

I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.” Ezekiel 18:32. Satan is ready to steal away the blessed assurances of God. He desires to take every glimmer of hope and every ray of light from the soul; but you must not permit him to do this. Do not give ear to the tempter, but say, “Jesus has died that I might live. He loves me, and wills not that I should perish.

## **(12) HOW DOES OUR HEAVENLY FATHER TREAT HIS WAYWARD CHILDREN WHO RETURN TO HIM?**

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*Luke 15:20*

**Related Texts:** Deuteronomy 30:2-4; Psalm 86:5, 15; 78:3; 145:8

We just like the prodigal son can say, “...I have a compassionate heavenly Father; and although I have abused His love, though the blessings He has given me have been squandered, I will arise, and go to my Father, and say, ‘I have sinned against heaven, and before Thee, and am no more worthy to be called Thy son: make me as one of Thy hired servants.’” The parable tells you how the wanderer will be received.

But even this parable, tender and touching as it is, comes short of expressing the infinite compassion of the heavenly Father. The Lord declares by His prophet, “I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.” Jeremiah 31:3. While the sinner is yet far from the Father’s house, wasting his substance in a strange country, the Father’s heart is yearning over him; and every longing awakened in the soul to return to God is but the tender pleading of His Spirit, wooing, entreating, drawing the wanderer to his Father’s heart of love.”

## **(13) WHAT PROMISE IS GIVEN TO ALL WHO SEEK THE LORD?**

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*John 6:37*

**Related Texts:** Matthew 11:28; Hebrews 7:25; Psalm 102:17; Isaiah 55:7; Revelation 22:17; 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 8:31, 32; 5:8

With the rich promises of the Bible before you, can you give place to doubt? Can you believe that when the poor sinner longs to return, longs to forsake his sins, the Lord sternly withholds him from coming to His feet in repentance? Away with such thoughts! Nothing can hurt your own soul more than to entertain such a conception of our heavenly Father. He hates sin, but He loves the sinner, and He gave Himself in the person of Christ, that all who would might be saved and have eternal blessedness in the kingdom of glory. What stronger or more tender language could have been employed than He has chosen in which to express His love toward us?

Look up, you that are doubting and trembling; for Jesus lives to make intercession for us. Thank God for the gift of His dear Son and pray that He may not have died for you in vain. The Spirit invites you today. Come with your whole heart to Jesus, and you may claim His blessing.

As you read the promises, remember they are the expression of unutterable love and pity. The great heart of Infinite Love is drawn toward the sinner with boundless compassion. “We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” Ephesians 1:7. Yes, only believe that God is your helper. He wants to restore His moral image in man. As you draw near to Him with confession and repentance, He will draw near to you with mercy and forgiveness.

**(14) WHAT BLESSED PROMISES MAY ALL GOD’S CHILDREN CLAIM?**

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*Isaiah 49:15*

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*Hebrews 13:5*

**Related Texts:** Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Malachi 3:17; Romans 8:38, 39; Jeremiah 31:33-35; 32:38-40; John 10:27-30



*As I have studied God's Word, I have felt His Spirit knocking on the door of my heart (Revelation 3:20).*

Please Circle:                      Yes                      Undecided

*I realize that I am a lost sinner in need of a Saviour (Romans 3:23).*

Please Circle:                      Yes                      Undecided

*I am amazed that God demonstrated His love by sending His Son Jesus to save me from destruction (John 3:16, 17) and I know He is the only Door to salvation (John 10:9).*

Please Circle:                      Yes                      Undecided

*I understand that if I, with a sincere heart, confess my sins, Jesus' precious blood will cleanse me from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).*

Please Circle:                      Yes                      Undecided

*If you answered "Yes" to the above questions, I invite you to make the most important decision of your life. By faith, you can receive Jesus as your personal Saviour and experience His great peace, power, and steadfast love in your life. Simply repeat the following prayer with a sincere heart (John 1:12):*

"Dear Father in heaven, I know that I am a sinner and believe You sent Your Son to die for me. I ask, in faith, to receive Jesus as my Saviour and for His precious blood to cover my many sins (as much as possible be specific). I choose to turn from my sinful ways and ask You to become the LORD of my life. In Jesus name, Amen."

*Congratulations! You may or may not feel different but, because of your faith, you ARE a redeemed child of God and a new creature in Christ (Acts 16:31)! Now, as the branch to the vine, abide in Him every moment (John 15:1-8) and one day He will come to take you to your new home with Him in heaven (John 14:1-3).*

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