

**FAITH TRACKS: Day 3**  
**Basic Guides to Spiritual Growth - Track 2 (Tuesday)**

**HOW CAN I EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS?**

So now you are a Christian, but there are times when you still blow it. Let's take a look at what to do and how you can experience God's love and forgiveness, especially when you mess up.

**1. THE NEED FOR FORGIVENESS**

It's helpful to understand why you need to be forgiven. Let's take a look at what God's Word says.

Read Romans 3:23 and Isaiah 53:6. According to these verses, how many people have sinned? \_\_\_\_\_

What is sin: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the result of sin? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Hebrews 9:22. What is the requirement for forgiveness?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2. THE EXTENT OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS**

Read Colossians 2:13-14 and Psalm 103:12. How many of your sins did Christ die for when He died on the cross? \_\_\_\_\_

Does this mean all sins committed in the past? \_\_\_\_\_

All in the future? \_\_\_\_\_

If all future sins are forgiven, can you just go out and sin all you want and take advantage of your forgiveness? \_\_\_\_\_ Why or why not?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Bible is clear that if you really understand and accept God's love and forgiveness, you won't want to continue to sin.

**3. HOW TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS**

Christ died for all your sins past, present and future. Thus as a Christian, you're totally forgiven by the God of the universe. Even though this is true, you may not always feel or experience this love and forgiveness. Let's look at how you can.

**a. Relationship vs. Fellowship with Others**

There is a difference between a relationship and fellowship (say with you and your father).

Suppose you have an argument with your father, where you are wrong. It will have an effect on your fellowship with him. What do you need to do in order to Restore that fellowship? \_\_\_\_\_

Even if your fellowship changes, will your relationship (the fact of being your father's child) ever change? \_\_\_\_\_

**b. Relationship vs. Fellowship with God**

Similarly, you have both a relationship and fellowship with God. Sometimes you may take the control for your life (control that belongs to God) and do what you want to do. As a Christian, your relationship is not affected because you will always belong to Him, but your disobedience and selfishness will affect your fellowship with God. It's times like these you may feel far away from God.

**c. Restoring Fellowship with God**

Your relationship with God doesn't change, but you must take steps to restore your fellowship with Him when it is broken or strained. That involves confession and turning away from what God says is wrong and doing what's right. Remember, the reason for confession is not to satisfy God but rather to benefit you and restore your relationship with God.

*You can follow these steps:*

*1. Confess or agree with God that what you've done is sin. (Confession in the New Testament means to agree with God about your sin. It's like saying, "God, I admit I was wrong.")*

*2. Thank God that He has already forgiven you.*

*3. Turn from your sin.*

Knowing how important it is to confess your sins, realize that God does not intend for you to spend all your time digging for your sins to confess. Rather, you are to confess those sins you know and are aware of, then you are to trust the Holy Spirit to give you the power to live as He wants you to live.

**4. TRUSTING GOD'S PROMISES**

As you continue to grow in your relationship with God, it's important to know and remember the promises He has given. Let's look at His promise to forgive.

Write out 1 John 1:9: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read Proverbs 28:13, and Psalm 32:5. What does God promise in these verses?  
\_\_\_\_\_

On your own, take some time to read God's Word and discover more of His precious promises.