

## Lesson 2

### SIN, REPENTANCE & FORGIVENESS

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Opening Verse: **Matthew 22:36-38**

*Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.** This is the first and great commandment.*

#### **Introduction:**

In our first lesson, you learned that being born-again was the “entrance” into God’s Kingdom, and in the succeeding lessons, you will learn how to GROW in Christ so that you can “stay” saved. In this lesson, you will learn about SIN and about the greatest commandment of God. You will also learn about what factors will separate us from God (iniquity, unrepented sins and unforgiveness). You will also see the importance of daily repentance and forgiveness, as a continual means to keep our hearts clean before God, to preserve our salvation and relationship with God.

#### **What is the Greatest Commandment of God?**

To give ourselves **WHOLLY** unto God.

- **ALL means everything without any reservation**
- That everything we do is for Him and for His will
- That we acknowledge that He “owns” us
- That we realize that all that we have is His

*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33)*

Does God expect us to put Him **FIRST** in everything? **YES!**

#### **What is Sin?**

*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. (1 John 2:1)*

**Sin** is missing the **mark** or the **WILL OF GOD** in our life.

- Greek root word = *hamartia*
- **It means to miss your portion, part or share in God’s will for you** (per Strong’s Concordance).

It is doing those things that would prevent me from having or participating in my place in God that He and His will has ordained for me.

#### **NOTES**

**More on Sin ...**

- Not sinning is doing those things that would let me have my portion or share in God's will.
- Per *Thayer's* – sin is not having our portion, part, share or destiny that is assigned to us.
- **Thus, God created each one of us with a part of God's plan with our name on it!**
- Not sinning is doing the will of the Father which is obeying the Word of God.
- Sin **results** into disobeying God's commandments or Word, which is the same as His will.
- Thus, temptation to sin will always involve a battle between our will and God's will.

God's will for each one of us is SPECIFIC:

**The Word of God is the will of God; God's Spirit takes the Word of God and applies it in our lives personally, which becomes His will for us to do every day!**

**It is not about a list of rules and regulations** but we obey His Word by **LOVING God wholly**:

*But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected (matured or completed): hereby know we that we are in him. (1 John 2:5)*

### **Immorality = Sin**

**The works of the flesh will not inherit the kingdom of God: Gal. 5:19–21** <sup>19</sup>*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness (impurity), lasciviousness (indecent),* <sup>20</sup>*Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance (causing trouble), emulations (jealousy), wrath (anger or selfishness), strife (fighting), seditions (causing people to argue), heresies (causing people to divide into separate groups),* <sup>21</sup>*Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings (having wild parties), and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that **they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.***

**Sin ≠ Immorality** Sin is not equivalent to immorality. For what man considers moral and immoral is not synonymous with sin and not sin. A life of sin can result into immorality but **doing moral things will not disqualify us from not sinning.**

## What is Iniquity?

- Iniquity is the **ROOT** of all sin.

*Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till **iniquity** was found in thee. (Ezekiel 28:15)*

Iniquity was the original sin, the sin of Lucifer. In heaven, God has made all the decisions and always will. Lucifer was one of the Archangels and when he said, “I want to be LIKE God,” he introduced ANOTHER WILL in heaven other than God’s will – and his fate was sealed!

### **Isaiah 14:12–14**

*How art thou fallen from heaven, O **Lucifer**, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*

*For thou hast said in thine heart, **I will ascend** into heaven, **I will exalt my throne** above the stars of God: **I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend** above the heights of the clouds; **I will be like the most High.***

- Iniquity is exercising **SELF-WILL** or self-sufficiency.

It is seeking our own control or exercising self-sufficiency. It is a lifestyle of **not seeking or doing the will of the Father**. It is when we make our own decisions and run our own life.

Just because we have the Spirit of God, that does not make us exempt from seeking His will in everything that we do. But in our daily life, we need to be **GOVERNED** by the Spirit of God.

Iniquity is not the same as **IMMORALITY** but can result into immorality (i.e. works of the flesh, Gal. 5:19-21). That means that the most moral people can be spiritually lost! **Self-righteousness or doing good works on our own will can NOT save us** but only God’s righteousness can save us!

**\*Being free from iniquity will be God’s final standard of salvation at our time of judgment (Matt. 7:21-23).**

**Matthew 7:21-23 God's Final Standard of Salvation**

*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

**God “knowing” us means that God APPROVES of our relationship with Him.**

- It means that we have obeyed His greatest command (to love Him wholly) which will **result into us knowing Him EXPERIENTIALLY**.
- **Experientially** = applying or keeping His Word cautiously or intentionally (not casual or hit and miss)
- For God can't really know us if we don't possess a true relationship with Him in daily prayer and in continual submission of our will to His.
- For we can't really say that we **LOVE** Him if we are not giving ourselves wholly to Him – *our bodies, time, relationships, money, possessions, etc.*
- **Exercising Self-Will = NOT LOVING God** or not giving ourselves wholly to Him.

**Colossians 3:2** *Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

**1 John 2:15–17** *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: **but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.***

**Matthew 10:37–39** *He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.*

**NOTES**

**1 John 2:3–5**

<sup>3</sup> *And hereby we do know that we know him (experientially), if we keep his commandments*  
<sup>4</sup> *He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.* <sup>5</sup> *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

As God reveals to us our sin, we need to **REPENT** of it.

**2 Corinthians 7:1; 10**

*Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. For **godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.***

**What is Repentance?**

- The word *repentance* comes from the Greek word *metanoia* which means “a change of mind.”
- **It means to experience a change in your heart and mind and to turn from SIN or SELF-WILL and turn toward God.**
- It is remorse or regret that needs to be accompanied by a **DECISION**.
- Both repentance and remorse will bring a feeling of regret, but true repentance brings a change of our **WILL** or direction, from self to God.
- Since the root of sin is iniquity, every soul that seeks salvation needs to sincerely repent of the sin of iniquity.

**The Seven Works of Repentance:**

***II Corinthians 7:11***

*For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea what revenge!*

- 1) **Carefulness** – a disciplined watchfulness lest you sin.
- 2) **Clearing** – to leave behind your guilt
- 3) **Indignation** – A hatred of sin and anything considered unjust, offensive, insulting or biased.
- 4) **Fear** – of the results of sin
- 5) **Vehement desire** - a longing for righteousness and delight in obeying God.
- 6) **Zeal** – fervor for God and his cause
- 7) **Revenge** – to be cleared from accusation; freedom

**NOTES**

This describes the true spirit of repentance.

## Steps to Repentance:

- 1) Confess your sins to God. Ask God to cleanse you from missing or disobeying His will in your **thoughts, speech and actions.**

**Prov 28:13** *He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*

- 2) Ask God to forgive you and receive His forgiveness.

**1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

**The blood of Jesus is re-applied over us every time we confess of our “new” sins.**

\*Take note that the cleansing blood is **REMOVED** from us whenever we **fail to forgive** others. We need to make sure that we do not hold any grudges against anyone.

- 3) Ask God to **search your heart** continually and to deliver you from self-will and from anything that would displease Him.

As you “**die to yourself,**” ask God to transform you with a renewed mind and with His godly desires to replace your carnal nature. A **life of repentance** will progressively bring a change in your mindset, values, habits and lifestyle,

## The Sin & Consequence of UNFORGIVENESS

*For if ye forgive men their trespasses (sins), your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matthew 6:14-15)*

**Unforgiveness** = withholding forgiveness towards others due to their offense against you or others; holding a grudge against someone for their offense.

God’s **PEACE** is one of our most valuable treasures in the kingdom of God (Rom. 14:17) that lets us know when there are **no hindrances** in our relationship with God, such as any unrepented sins or grudges.

## NOTES

**\*As God convicts your heart and reveals to you the sin of INIQUITY – you need to repent of it.**

Since unforgiveness is one of the most effective ways that the enemy uses to remove God’s peace from us, we need to be careful of his subtle and “self-preserving” lies that he puts into our minds to withhold our forgiveness.

There are **3 Types of GRUDGES:**

1. Towards **Another Person** (most common)
2. Towards **GOD.**
3. Toward **SELF** (this is also called as SHAME).

### **How to Forgive:**

- We forgive by choosing to “let go” of the person’s offense. It is not seeking vengeance or recompense for the “wrong” that was done to us or others. We leave that in the hands of God. (Rom. 12:19)
- It starts with the “will to forgive.” We may not be emotionally motivated to forgive but it starts with the will to forgive as we speak it out in prayer.
- If we value our peace and eternal salvation – we will choose to forgive every time.

### **PRAYER GUIDE:**

#### **Forgiveness for PEOPLE who have offended you:**

*Father, by Your help and grace, I choose to forgive (state names) for their offensive actions and/or speech towards me.*

#### **Forgiveness Prayer for GOD:**

*Father, by Your help and grace, I forgive YOU for allowing traumatic experiences in my life, specifically (state those situations). By Your grace, I will receive and trust in your perfect love for me in Jesus’ name.*

#### **Forgiveness Prayer for SELF:**

*Father, by Your help and grace, I forgive and release myself from (state the hurtful situation/s in your past). And by Your grace, I receive Your unconditional love for myself.*

**Note:** You might need to pray this (prayer for self) more than once, or daily until you feel that **release in your spirit** or the confirmation of God’s **complete healing** in you.

## NOTES

### **What is SHAME?**

**Shame is a grudge that I harbor against myself due to an experienced or perceived FAILURE in my life.**

This is when I have become **unable to love and accept myself** because I have perceived myself as a **failure** in my **RESPONSE:**

- To the **rejection** or criticism of significant people in my life,
- To the **traumatic experiences** in my life, and/or
- To my **own failures.**

This can greatly affect my **other relationships** – especially with God (in my ability to receive His love and forgiveness) and with the people in my life.

## Application:

- ❑ **To truly REPENT of the sin of INIQUITY.**  
This will result into having a made-up mind not to follow our own will but to continually surrender our will to His.
- ❑ To **maintain** a walk of **submission** to God's will on a daily basis.
- ❑ To confess of any "new" sins that God convicts you of and to seek His forgiveness during your daily prayer.
- ❑ To exercise **FORGIVENESS** against any and every offense. Always choose not to hold any grudges in your heart.
- ❑ To allow God's **PEACE** to confirm your obedience to His will, as you repent and forgive.
- ❑ To be a part of our **Encounter God Retreat** to receive spiritual deliverance and emotional healing.

## NOTES

This is the **BIG EVENT** that everyone needs to experience!

After this big event – we need to **MAINTAIN** a daily walk of submission to God's will.

The **Encounter God Retreat** is very helpful in dealing with deep rooted SHAME or other strongholds.