

What would happen if I didn't realize I've committed a sin?

Jews under the law offered sacrifices in the Tabernacle.¹

Regarding Leviticus 4:1-2² J. Vernon McGee wrote:

The emphasis here is upon a sin committed in ignorance...

...Sins of ignorance reveal the underlying truth that man is a sinner by nature. My friend, I must say this to you: You are a sinner whether you know it or not. You are a sinner by nature, and so am I. That is the reason we commit sins....

...The sins of ignorance were acts committed by a person who at the time did not know they were sin. "Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults" (Ps 19:12). How we need to confess to God that we are sinful human beings! If you can't think of anything special to confess, then just confess who you are, a sinner...

...If a man sinned through ignorance, rashness, or accident, God made provision for his deliverance. He established the cities of refuge (Nu 35:11). God has a refuge for you too, my friend; He has a remedy for you. "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 Jn 2:1).³

The believer in the church age has the great privilege of receiving forgiveness for his sins based on Christ's shed blood (Heb 9:22) and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Ro 8:9-11) when he repents and trusts in Christ as his Lord and Savior (Ac 2:37, 38).

James MacDonald said, "Repentance is not where you visit. Repentance is where you live." Because of godly sorrow one repents (2 Cor 7:9, 10) and lives (Mt 3:8).

The apostle Paul wrote:

For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter. 2 Co 7:10-11, NKJV

Everyone has offended a holy God in unknown ways. The Holy Spirit does not pile on all offenses on an individual at once (Jn 16:12); rather, he gently leads the believer into remembrance of anything that

¹ The sacrifices in the Tabernacle: the correct way to sacrifice (Lev 17:1-9; 22:17-33), the burnt offering (Lev 1:1-17; 6:8-13), the grain offering (Lev 2:1-16; 6:14-23), the peace offering (Lev 3:1-17; 7:11-38; 19:5-8), the sin offering (Lev 4:1-35; 6:24-30), the guilt offering (Lev 5:1-19; 6:1-7; 7:1-10), the offering for the firstborn (Ex 34:19-20). Willmington, H. L. (1999). *The Outline Bible* (Ex 34:19-Le 17:9). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

² And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a soul shall sin through ignorance against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which ought not to be done, and shall do against any of them [Lev 4:1-2]

³ McGee, J. V. (1991). *Thru the Bible commentary: The Law* (Lev 1-14) (electronic ed., Vol. 6, pp. 48-51). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

offends him (Jn 14:17). The Holy Spirit addresses concern (Jn 14:16, 26); yes, but he is there to help his children in their weakness (Ro 8:26) enabling them to make it to eternity in his presence (Ro 8:2).

The Holy Spirit can; however, be grieved (Eph 4:30) by those who won't repent (Ac 7:51). Sinning against him leads to eternal death (Mt 12:31, 32).

When one is in Christ, he has been forgiven of his sins. Paul wrote, "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Ro 8:1)." A Christian can live in victoriously knowing that he pleases his Father. He keeps short accounts with God—confessing when needed—abiding in him.

The apostle John wrote, "The world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever (1 Jn 2:17)."