

*Why do I need to ask God for forgiveness?*

Forgiveness is available when you appropriate it (Ac 2:38, Col 2:6). Are you willing to be baptized? This would be your first act of obedience (Ac 2:41, 18:8).

The Son has made a way for men to be saved (Jn 3:16); but, many (Mt 7:13-14) unfortunately will not be (Ps 78:41, Mt 23:37).

Many believe that they are Christians; but, they are not (Mt 7:22-23). Men are saved when they place their trust in the Lord. The *demons* believe—and they are going to hell (Jas 2:19). Placing one's trust in the Lord means: *I was going one way doing one thing. I stop, turn around and go another way.* It is a departure from the world's way of thinking and living (Jn 10:10) to another way of thinking and living (Jn 10:10, 14:6). After one is convicted of his own sin (Ac 2:37, 38), he naturally: "turns" (Ac 9:35), "repents" (Ac 8:22) and/or "returns" (1 Sa 7:3) to the Lord (Ac 9:1-20, 15:3) because he has an all-new nature—He has been born of incorruptible seed (1 Pe 1:23).

The Christian is not sinless—he sins *less* (1 Jn 3:9). When a believer stumbles, he asks for forgiveness. This is what loving people in loving relationships do—they ask for forgiveness when they do wrong. God is faithful and just to forgive (1 Jn 1:9). Christianity is a love affair with the lover of our soul.

Christians are positionally declared righteous before God (Phil. 3:9). A believer won't be perfect on this side of the grave (Phil 3:12); but, he will be made more into Christlikeness daily (2 Co 3:18). The Lord took our position and we took his position (2 Cor. 5:18, 19). Christians are saved by grace (Eph 2:8) and they can look forward to heaven (1 Jn 3:14, 5:13).

Believers should be grateful for all that the Lord has done to save men (Lk 17:15–19). Keeping a right relationship with him is important (Jn 15:5, Ro 8:14). God knows the heart of each individual (1 Sa 16:7).