

Devotion 8: Go to Jesus When Troubled by Sin

Audience: For Patient and Caregiver

Theme: Go to Jesus and learn from him!

Bible Passage: *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light* (Matthew 11:28-30).

Devotion: Even though we are God's children and believe in His Son Jesus as our Savior we still 'sin much in word and deed'. Paul reminds us: *There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one* (Romans 3:11, 12). This is why we must have a Savior.

For the Christian, Paul is talking here about our old sinful nature. He goes on to say: *The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are not controlled by the sinful nature, but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you . . . if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness* (Romans 8:6-8, 9a, 10).

Though we still sin because of our sinful nature, with Christ's Spirit — the Holy Spirit — at work in our hearts we are no longer 'slaves to sin' but can go to Jesus for forgiveness — and know that we have it!

Therefore, when next we struggle with sin and feel sadness over our weaknesses we can take heart. There is Someone who understands—Someone who stands ready to help us. Remember, our sins are forgiven by Christ's great work of redemption—His perfect life and sacrificial death for us all. *God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them* (2 Corinthians 5:19).

Let's compare Peter with Judas to affirm this truth in our hearts. Both disciples sinned against Jesus on that night in which He was betrayed. Both felt sorrow over their sins. By God's grace Peter accepted Christ's forgiveness. Judas, however, simply wouldn't believe our Lord could possibly forgive him.

We can hold God to His promise in 1 John 1:9. *If we confess our sins he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* Forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Bible Readings: Psalm 51 ; Isaiah 43:1 ; Romans 7:7-25; Romans 8:1-17.