

SALVATION REQUIREMENTS

REPENTANCE

The process of repentance includes:

1. The recognition of and acceptance of personal responsibility for sin.
2. A sincere feeling of remorse and sorrow for having sinned.
3. A conscious decision to stop the wrong-doing.
4. An actual "turning away from" the sin. This is a change of direction in behavior.
5. A confession of sin and a humble request for forgiveness. The request for forgiveness is made to the one who has been hurt by the sin.
6. An offer to make amends for the hurt that was caused by the sin.

Repentance is not just an intellectual exercise of "feeling sorry" for sins. Repentance involves a "turning" or "reorientation" of one's life. The evidence of that change is seen in the "fruit," or how a person lives. John the Baptist told those who came to confess their sins that they must "bear fruit that befits (evidences) repentance" (Matthew 3:8).

HUMBLE SUBMISSION

[James 4:7-10](#)

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you....

1. The thing enjoined is submission to God, proceeding from humility, than which nothing is or can be more acceptable unto Him, nothing more commendable among men. Men submit themselves unto God divers ways.
 - (1) In obediently and reverently yielding themselves to His will and His heart, in hearing what He commandeth and carefully performing what He enjoineth.
 - (2) As by obeying His will men submit themselves unto God, so by yielding themselves to God's pleasure, to do with them after His will, men likewise submit themselves unto Him.
 - (3) Neither thus only submit men themselves unto God, but also when they bear with patience the cross which the Lord layeth upon them, then submit men themselves to God.
 - (4) The next thing in this first part of duty is the contrary: we must submit ourselves to God, but we must resist the devil also. Wherein we are taught whither all our strivings must tend, even to the withstanding of Satan, with whom we have continual war, and therefore ought we wholly to bend ourselves with all might against him.
 - (1) Now the devil is sundry ways resisted of men, first by faith in Jesus Christ, wherewith we are armed, stand fast without wavering, and thereby resist the assaults of Satan.
 - (2) As we resist him by faith, so also we resist him by prayer, when in our manifold temptations we fly by prayer unto God for succour against the devil — our ancient enemy.
 - (3) Moreover the saints resist the devil when they earnestly give themselves over to the study of virtue and practice of godliness, serving the Lord in righteousness and true holiness of life. Hereby all entry for Satan is shut up; hereby all holes of our hearts are stopped so that he cannot invade us.

FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is the act of pardoning an offender. In the Bible, the Greek word translated “forgiveness” literally means “to let go,” as when a person does not demand payment for a debt. Jesus used this comparison when he taught his followers to pray: “Forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is in debt to us.” ([Luke 11:4](#)) Likewise, in his parable of the unmerciful slave, Jesus equated forgiveness with canceling a debt.—[Matthew 18:23-35](#).

We forgive others when we let go of resentment and give up any claim to be compensated for the hurt or loss we have suffered. The Bible teaches that unselfish love is the basis for true forgiveness, since love “does not keep account of the injury.”—[1 Corinthians 13:4, 5](#).

What forgiveness does not mean

- **Condoning the offense.** The Bible actually condemns those who claim that bad actions are harmless or acceptable.—[Isaiah 5:20](#).
- **Pretending that the offense never happened.** God forgave King David of serious sins, but he did not shield David from the consequences of his actions. God even had David’s sins recorded so that they are remembered today.—[2 Samuel 12:9-13](#).
- **Allowing others to take advantage of you.** Suppose, for example, that you loan money to someone, but he wastes it and then cannot repay you as he had promised. He is very sorry and apologizes to you. You could choose to forgive him by not harboring resentment, not rehashing the matter with him continually, and perhaps even canceling the debt altogether. However, you might also choose not to loan him any more money.—[Psalm 37:21](#); [Proverbs 14:15](#); [22:3](#); [Galatians 6:7](#).
- **Pardoning with no valid basis.** God does not forgive people who are guilty of willful, malicious sin and who refuse to acknowledge their mistakes, change their ways, and apologize to those whom they have hurt. ([Proverbs 28:13](#); [Acts 26:20](#); [Hebrews 10:26](#)) Such unrepentant ones become God’s enemies, and he does not require us to forgive those whom he has not forgiven.—[Psalm 139:21, 22](#).

What if you are the victim of cruel mistreatment by someone who refuses to apologize or even admit to what he has done? The Bible advises: “Let go of anger and abandon rage.” ([Psalm 37:8](#)) While not excusing the error, you can refuse to be [consumed with anger](#). Trust that God will bring the person to account. ([Hebrews 10:30, 31](#)) You can also take comfort in knowing that God will bring a time when we will no longer feel the deep pain or hurt that may burden us now.—[Isaiah 65:17](#); [Revelation 21:4](#).

- **“Forgiving” every perceived slight.** Sometimes, rather than pardoning a so-called offender, we may need to admit that we had no valid cause for being offended in the first place. The Bible says: “Do not be quick to take offense, for the taking of offense is the mark of a fool.”—[Ecclesiastes 7:9](#), footnote.

How to forgive someone

1. **Remember what forgiveness involves.** You are not condoning the wrong or acting as if it never happened—you are simply letting it go.
2. **Recognize the benefits of forgiving.** Letting go of anger and resentment can help you to keep calm, improve your health, and increase your happiness. ([Proverbs 14:30](#); [Matthew 5:9](#)) Even more important, forgiving others is a key to receiving God’s forgiveness for your own sins.—[Matthew 6:14, 15](#).
3. **Be empathetic.** All of us are imperfect. ([James 3:2](#)) Just as we appreciate being forgiven, we should likewise forgive the mistakes of others.—[Matthew 7:12](#).
4. **Be reasonable.** When we have a minor cause for complaint, we can apply the Bible’s counsel: “Continue putting up with one another.”—[Colossians 3:13](#).
5. **Act quickly.** Work to forgive as soon as you can rather than letting your anger fester.[Ephesians 4:26,27](#).