

Sins and Iniquities

The Problem

God has a specific destiny for your life, but so does the devil. God's destiny leads to freedom and eternal glory in Heaven. The devils' plan for you ends in torment and destruction. Two opposing Kingdoms, with opposite goals, are vying for your soul. Fortunately, you get to choose which Kingdom you will abide in. Although God offers the far superior choice, the kingdom of darkness has the home field advantage.

Unfortunately, we are all born into a fallen world that's been invaded by the kingdom of darkness. In fact, humanity is so at home with the presence of evil that most people are convinced that their wicked thoughts are just a normal part of their personalities. When the kingdom of darkness is all you know, it feels comfortable and right to follow the herd, which is pursuing the goals and pleasures of this fallen world.

“There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”
Proverbs 14:12

“For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.” Matthew 7:13

The bad news is the kingdom of darkness is out to destroy your life. The devil wants to afflict you with fear, greed, perversion, addiction, disease and eventually, death. The good news is Jesus made a way for every human being to leave the kingdom of darkness, and enter into His eternal Kingdom of Life.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” John 3:16

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.” John 3:17

God wants all His children to live inside His Kingdom, where there is no torment or trouble. The problem is that humanity is infected with evil. How can God possibly allow evil into His Kingdom without contaminating Heaven? He can't. Therefore, before anyone could ever cross from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of Light, God had to come up with a way for souls to be cleansed from every type of sin and defilement. Thankfully, Jesus agreed to be the solution to this complex problem two thousand years ago, when He went to the cross.

Jesus Provides the Only Way Out

Jesus' death on the cross included a descent into hell, where He preached to imprisoned spirits, and concluded with a victorious ascension into Heavenly glory. These two apocalyptic journeys allowed Jesus to create the only spiritual pathway, in all creation, that extends from the depths of hell, all the way to the throne room of Heaven. No matter how low a hell you may find yourself in, Jesus has gone before you, in order to offer Himself as your pathway out.

When Jesus went to the cross, He took every ounce of sin and evil that exists in this fallen world onto His Person, as a sacrifice for all humanity, including you and me. His work on the cross was an eternal work, orchestrated by the Father in Heaven for an eternal purpose. Therefore, Jesus' cross still remains the only definitive location, in the spiritual realm, where all evil is consumed yesterday, today and forever.

The cross was the exact mechanism needed to bridge the two opposing kingdoms of good and evil. Absolutely nothing from the kingdom of darkness can pass through Jesus' cross. Therefore, whatever sins you bring to the cross stay there for eternity. More importantly, you are now able to continue going forward into God's presence with a cleansed soul that will not contaminate heaven. What a triumph!

Remember how God created a way for His Hebrew children to escape their enslavement in Egypt by parting the Red Sea? Likewise, the red sea of Jesus' shed blood creates an equally miraculous way for us to escape our enslavement in the kingdom of darkness. The process of leaving your sins on the cross transforms your soul, and catapults you right into God's presence. The Bible says:

“God has given you a place in Christ Jesus, through whom God has given us wisdom and righteousness and salvation, and made us holy:” 1 Corinthians 1:30

The cross is our only way out of this fallen world. If we reject it we are, by default, choosing to remain in our sins, embedded inside the kingdom of darkness, separated from God. No other salvation is coming, because the cross was a perfect work. It's the only one of its kind. The cross is why Jesus emphatically declares,

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through me.**” John 14:6

Jesus' work on the cross not only allows you to be reconnected with your loving Creator, but it also makes it possible for you to come to God just as you are. No matter what you've done, or how messed up your life is, God's Word announces to every sinner:

“Now is the time of God's favor. **Now is the day of salvation.**” 2 Corinthians 6:2

Calling all sinners

Hopefully by now, you recognize that your sinful nature is the result of being born into a fallen world, overrun by the kingdom of darkness. There is no reason to be ashamed of yourself. God is not mad at you for being infected with sin. He is lovingly and continuously offering you a way out. Turning your back on Jesus, because you feel ashamed of your sin, is like a drowning victim hiding from a lifeguard. The Bible says:

“God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

The cross is the most generous and extravagant gift that God has ever given mankind. It makes our entrance into His holy Heaven possible. Once you're inside Christ, you have officially arrived in a realm where evil cannot follow. Hallelujah!! Christ is seated in heavenly places, far above all torment.

As a follower of Jesus, you can access His Kingdom anytime, by quieting your heart in prayer. Jesus says:

“They can't say, 'Here it is!' or 'There it is!' You see, the kingdom of God is within you.” Luke 17:21

After you are cleansed by your Savior, you are to:

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.” Psalm 100:4

You'll know when you arrive in God's Kingdom, because you'll actually experience the fullness of joy, along with profound peace. At last, your search for true love will have been fulfilled.

“You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forevermore.” Psalm 16:11

GENERATIONAL INIQUITIES

Jesus' perfect work on the cross not only covers your sins, but the sins of your ancestors that have caused your life to be cursed. A generational iniquity is a sin that someone in your family line committed, but never took to the cross in repentance, before they died. All unrepented sin empowers demons to afflict succeeding generations of the guilty party.

“The LORD...He never lets the guilty go unpunished, punishing children... for their parents' sins to the third and fourth generation...” Numbers 14:18

If you are battling with a chronic problem, or feel you're living under a curse, you may have a generational iniquity operating in your life. Due to God's just laws, demons have a legal right to wreak havoc on you until you receive salvation in Christ. You don't need to waste time researching your family line to find out what sins your ancestors empowered. Jesus' work on the cross sets you free from every generational iniquity in your family line, whether you have personal knowledge of those sins or not.

Once you receive Jesus' free offer to be your substitute for sin, you will no longer be cursed based on your ancestors choices. But unfortunately this does not mean the devil will give up harassing you without a fight. That is why you must KNOW exactly what Jesus died to give you. Only then will you stand your ground and command your freedom, and declare all your debts fully PAID by Jesus.

The only way to gain true victory over sins and iniquities is through the cross. Jesus has done all the work. All you have to do is turn from the kingdom of darkness, receive Jesus' offer to cleanse you from all unrighteousness, and surrender to the divine life God designed you to live. God's plans for you are exactly what you yearn to experience, but will never find on your own.

“Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Matthew 6:33

“For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.” Mark 8:36

If you have already received Jesus, but are living with one foot in darkness and one foot in God's Kingdom, then you still haven't received the fullness of what Jesus died to give you. The purpose of this chapter is to help you understand everything Jesus accomplished on your behalf so you can defend your freedom in Christ and have power over sin. It doesn't matter if you have called yourself a Christian for twenty years, or if you have never received salvation in Christ. If you are trapped in darkness, Jesus is offering the only sure way out.

“...if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” John 8:36

The following prayer is for those who have already received salvation. Those who have not received Christ will have an opportunity to do so in the next section.

PRAYER - Jesus, thank You for providing a way out of this dark, fallen world. I am so grateful that You've cleansed me and given me access to Your glorious Kingdom. I pray for more understanding about the perfection and thoroughness of your work on the cross, so I can refute the lies of the enemy and boldly declare my freedom in You. I want to live the life You died to give me. Thank You for Your generous sacrifice. Amen.

Two categories of sin:

The two categories of sin that Jesus bore for you at the cross are:

1. Your Personal Sin – every evil thought, word, and action you have ever done.
2. Every Generational Iniquity in your family line – all the un-repentred sins your ancestors committed, that have created a legal right for the kingdom of darkness to curse your life.

Before you can receive Jesus' free gift of salvation, you need to recognize that you are a sinner in desperate need of a Savior. The following exercise is for those who are still not sure. The Bible says that one of the Holy Spirit's jobs is to help unbelievers become aware of their sinful condition.

“And when He has come, **He will convict the world** of sin...” John 16:8

If you still are not convinced about your personal need to receive Jesus' offer to save you, then invite the Holy Spirit to help you see the truth. Find a quiet place where you can be alone with God for as long as it takes. Don't worry if looking back at all your mistakes starts to make you feel uncomfortable, it will only make you that much more grateful to receive Jesus' offer. Jesus said of the woman caught in adultery:

“She was forgiven many, many sins, and so she is very, very grateful. If the forgiveness is minimal, the gratitude is minimal.” Luke 7:47 (The Message)

PRAYER: Holy Spirit, come and convict me of the sinful things I have done, and the bad habits I have formed in the world. Show me what has caused pain to myself, to others, and to You. I invite You to penetrate the darkest parts of my heart and soul right now. Illuminate the areas that have been unloving and sinful.

“Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, promiscuity, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of anger, quarrels, conflicts, factions, envy, murder, drunkenness, wild partying, and things like that.” Galatians 5:19-21

◆ **Holy Spirit - show me the vices, lies, prideful attitudes, lusts, pornography, unclean acts, rage, adultery, stealing, murder, cheating, word curses, gossip, slander, dishonor towards my parents, authority figures and other leaders, I have engaged in.**

◆ **Holy Spirit - show me any curses that are plaguing my life because of the un-repentred sins of my ancestors. (alcoholism, sexual sins, idolatry, anxiety)**

If you are now convinced you need a Savior, or you would like to turn back to the Savior once again, His eternal work on the cross stands ready to cleanse you from all your personal sins and the sins of your ancestors.

“Blessed are they whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.”
Romans 4:7

Sinner's Prayer — To choose Jesus as your Lord and Savior and receive ALL that He died to give you, please pray the following prayer:

◆ **Lord Jesus, I turn from (repent) and I renounce every sin that I and my ancestors have ever committed. I break every previous agreement that we knowingly and unknowingly made with the kingdom of darkness by committing those sins.**

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

◆ **I choose to leave the kingdom of darkness and turn to You, Jesus, for Salvation. I RECEIVE YOUR OFFER to stand in my place and to take upon Yourself every sin and curse, including mine and my ancestors, at the cross. Thank You for experiencing the terror of a complete separation and judgment from God the Father, so I wouldn't have to.**

“About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"—which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46

◆ **Lord Jesus, thank You for loving me enough to die for me. I am so grateful that Your perfect sacrifice covers all my sins, and washes me clean from all guilt and condemnation forever. I believe that You rose from the dead and are alive today. I want You to be the Lord of my life, and to guide me into my divine future. Thank You for making me a child of God, and for ushering me into Your holy Heaven, where I am no longer under sin's dominion. I am so grateful that the punishment that has been on my family line is now legally cancelled in my life. Hallelujah! Thank you for setting me free. I receive into my heart the gift of Your eternal life, joy, and peace right now. I am forever grateful for the cross. Amen.**

“When you were dead in your sins and in the un-circumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. **He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross.**” Colossians 2:13-14

Congratulations!!! By receiving Jesus' gift, you have been cleansed from all personal and generational defilement.

“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” Jeremiah 31:34

Inheritance Alert – NO CONDEMNATION

One of the greatest inheritances that is given to all Christians is the gift of “no condemnation.” It is vital that you receive and enjoy the fullness of this inheritance. Take a moment and see Jesus peeling away all the guilt, and shame, and self-hatred that was wrapped around your soul.

“There is therefore now no condemnation for them that are in Christ Jesus.”
Romans 8:1

Any time the kingdom of darkness tries to bring up your past sins, draw on your inheritance of no condemnation. Jesus gives you the power to laugh at the devil, and to proclaim that all your sins have been consumed by His blood.

“Praise the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits-
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
... **as far as the east is from the west, so far has**
He removed our transgressions from us.”
Psalm 103:2-12

To be pronounced innocent by the King of Kings and Lord of Lords is a priceless gift of peace that money cannot buy. You are so rich in Christ. Hallelujah!

Abiding in Heaven Now

Now that you have access to God’s Kingdom through the cross, your goal as a Christian is to abide there. But how do you abide there, while you’re still living on the earth? From the moment you ask Jesus into your heart, your spirit is immediately recreated and anchored in Heaven. The Bible says:

“...even when we were dead in our trespasses, God made us alive together in Christ, and raised us up together, and **made us sit together in the heavenly places,** in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 2:4-6

From now on it is only your soul that the kingdom of darkness and the Kingdom of Heaven will contend for. So, it’s your soul that we’re going to focus on for the rest of this chapter.

Your soul is made up of **your mind, your will, and your emotions.** In order for your soul to remain inside the protection of God’s Kingdom, you need to keep:

- Your mind focused on God’s truth,
- Your will submitted to God’s will, and
- Your emotions surrendered to the Holy Spirit.

When all three aspects of your soul are given to Christ, the devil can’t touch you. So, let’s go over each element of your soul in detail, to make sure you really understand how to remain securely inside God’s Kingdom.

YOUR MIND

Your mind is like the steering wheel of your soul. Wherever it turns, the rest of your soul will automatically follow. Therefore, you must be vigilant at all times about where your mind is headed. In other words, what thoughts are you focusing on? God’s Word tells us to:

“...bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”
2 Corinthians 10:5

Check your thoughts regularly to make sure they are obedient to God’s Word. The next time you feel overwhelmed, notice what you’re focusing on. Is it God’s truth, or is it a lie from the enemy? Your thoughts will always reveal which kingdom has captivated your mind.

“Since you have been raised with Christ, keep focusing on the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Keep your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on the earth.” Colossians 3:1-2

When your mind is focused on things “above”, you’ll think eternally truthful thoughts that are full of love, faith, hope, joy, peace, and wisdom. When you feel discouraged, fearful, or doubtful about God’s love or provision for you, you need to recognize that your mind is focused on lies. So, just turn back to Jesus. He is always the way, the truth, and the life you need in any situation. No matter how desperate your circumstances get, keep your mind on God and His Word. Scripture says:

“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – think on these things.” Philippians 4:8

What Scripture would be personally beneficial for you to meditate on?

Whenever you need something true, noble, or lovely to focus on, look no further than Jesus. The Bible promises that there is GREAT benefit to keeping your mind on the Lord. Did you know you will miraculously begin to take on the image of Jesus just by staring at Him?

“But we all, with unveiled faces, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory...” 2 Corinthians 3:18

Once you see Jesus’ holiness, you can’t help but to worship Him. God designed all human beings to be worshippers. We worship something by focusing on it. What are you worshipping? The Scripture above clearly states that we will become like what we worship. If we worship Jesus, we will become like Him. Conversely, if we waste our time worshipping and focusing on ungodly subjects, we will become just as ungodly as they are.

Take a moment to focus on the purity and beauty of Jesus. What do you see?

Can you feel God’s peace flood your heart just by visualizing Him? God wants you to spend lots of time focusing on Jesus, and resting in His finished work whenever possible.

What do you spend most of your time focusing on now?

YOUR WILL

Your will is the part of your soul which makes decisions. God’s Word says you will become a slave to whatever you submit your will to:

“Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?” Romans 6:16

God will faithfully guide His servants into blessings and honor. On the other hand, if you submit your will to sin, then the devil becomes your master, and he will just as surely guide you deeper and deeper into his kingdom of bondage. As a result, your heart will become hardened towards God, making it increasingly more difficult for you to choose righteousness.

“I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants.” Deuteronomy 30:19

In what areas of your life have you submitted to the kingdom of darkness and served sin?

What consequences did you experience as a result of serving sin?

The moment you realize you are serving sin, instead of righteousness, turn to the cross QUICKLY. This is called repentance. It's only by the blood of Jesus that you will ever escape the kingdom of darkness. Once you renounce whatever sin you were serving, take a moment to see Jesus consuming your sin at the cross. Then refocus your mind on your new spirit seated in heavenly places. God's Spirit will infuse your new spirit with self-discipline, and His grace will teach you how to serve righteousness.

“For the **grace** of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It **teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age...**” Titus 2:11-13

As you keep your eye on the Lord, you will be strengthened to battle the enemy's lies that attempt to lure you back into slavery.

“... those who wait upon the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.” Isaiah 40:31

This is an exciting promise that you don't want to miss out on. So, how exactly do you wait on the Lord? You do it by faith. Simply go off by yourself and pretend that Jesus is with you. Sit in front of Him, by faith. Everything in God's kingdom is accessed by faith. We are saved by faith, and we abide in God's Kingdom by faith. As an act of your will, choose to believe that God wants to meet with you. Engage your whole mind and emotions as you wait on Him to give you strength and direction for your life.

Do you have a circumstance in your life that needs strength or direction from God?

What part of your day can you devote to waiting on God for strength and answers?

Jesus says, “My sheep hear my voice, and the voice of a stranger they will not follow.” (John 10:27) God uses many ways to speak to his sheep, including Scripture, dreams and visions. As you seek to follow God’s lead, just remember, His will ALWAYS lines up with His Word. The more familiar you are with God’s Word, the more difficult it will be for the enemy to deceive you into making wrong choices.

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” Psalm 119:105

If you feel led in a direction that does not line up with God’s Word, then you’ll know it is definitely not God’s will for you. For example, I heard a story about a woman who believed she was supposed to marry a certain man. She was convinced it was God’s will. The only problem was that the man was already married. God is very clear in His Word that adultery is a sin. Clearly, this woman’s deceived thinking caused her will and her emotions to become defiled.

YOUR EMOTIONS

It’s important to know that your emotions will automatically go in the same direction as your mind and will. When you see yourself as righteous in Christ, you will be empowered to make righteous choices, and as a result, bear the fruit of God’s Spirit.

“...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” Galatians 5:22-23

The kingdom of darkness is always agitated, always angry, always depressed, and always defeated. The next time you’re raging mad, feeling bitter, or downright fearful, take a moment to repent. You are definitely bearing fruit from the wrong kingdom. The devil’s kingdom is a disaster, and when you come into agreement with his lies and deceptions, you can’t help but to become emotionally disturbed.

Describe the last time you were emotionally stressed out:

What were your thoughts at the time?

What lie did the enemy want you to believe?

What's the truth from God's Word that combats that lie? If you can't think of an appropriate Scripture, ask another Christian for help.

God wants you to run to Him in the midst of your battles with temptation, so He can help you. The Bible says:

“Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:16

Every time we reject God's grace, and succumb to sinful temptation, we turn our backs on God and return to the kingdom of darkness. Thankfully, God never turns his back on us. No matter what sin we are caught up in, God mercifully waits for us at the cross. Jesus is always our connection point back to God's Kingdom. After you repent, and refocus your mind on truth, your emotions will automatically reflect the peace and joy of one residing in Heaven.

Remember, God has a specific destiny for your life, but so does the devil. God's destiny leads to freedom and eternal glory in Heaven, but the devils' ends in torment and destruction. Thanks to Jesus, every moment of every day, you get to choose which Kingdom your soul will abide in. If you keep your mind focused on Jesus and God's Word, you will supernaturally live out the glorious life God specifically designed for you.

“For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

Get ready to be blessed.

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21

Construction Zone – SLOW DOWN

Jesus didn't come to create a way into Heaven for perfect people. God knew this fallen world had nothing but dark souls, polluted with every form of evil. Yet, God sent His Son to come and get us anyway. Jesus is here now to remove the lies in the wall between you and God, regarding His unconditional love for you.

As you renounce the following lies, and break all agreements with the kingdom of darkness, those pieces of your wall will come tumbling down.

- I renounce the lie that my sins have made me unlovable to God. I now accept the truth that God came to seek and save sinners just like me.

"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."
Luke 19:10

- I renounce the lie that I can earn my way into Heaven by my good behavior. The power of the cross is the only thing that makes my entrance possible.

"For by grace you have been saved, through faith, and that not by yourself; it is a GIFT of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

- I renounce the lie that I need to get my life in order before I approach God. I now accept the truth that being in God's presence is the only way to get my life in divine order. I cannot figure out my life nor do anything righteous, apart from God's Spirit. Jesus says:

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for **apart from Me you can do nothing**." John 15:5

- I renounce the lie that when I succumb to temptation, God will turn from me in disgust and rejection. I now accept the truth that God will never leave me, nor forsake me. All Christians stumble and fall as they are learning to stay focused on who they are in Christ.

"For a righteous man falls seven times, and rises again..." Proverbs 24:16

Can you feel God's love and encouragement beginning to break through these lies? If not, just keep focusing on the truth and receive His love by faith. He's right there with you now.

Praise The Lord

Let's praise the Lord for defeating every spiritual force of evil and redeeming you from every curse of sin, disease, or mental torment (Colossians 2:14-15). Tell the Lord three things you are grateful He endured for you at the cross.

Private Practice - BAPTISM

When Jesus gave the Great Commission, he also established that all believers should be baptized. He specifically said:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**”
Matthew 28:19

Water baptism is a public, outward act that perfectly mirrors the inward change that occurs when you become "born again" through faith in Jesus Christ. As you are submerged into the water, you are establishing the death, and burial of your old life and sinful nature. And as you arise out of the water, you are proclaiming your resurrection as a new creation in Christ.

“In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, **having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.**” Colossians 2:11-12

If you just received Jesus for the first time, you will want to arrange to be baptized by your local church as soon as possible, in obedience to God's Word. **After your baptism, you must practice seeing yourself, by faith, as a new creation in Christ.**