

CONVICTION OF SIN

Psalm 32:5 NIV - Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

DESCRIPTION

God already knows how we have sinned against Him through our actions (transgressions) and even in our thoughts (iniquities.) Sin is anything we do or think that is not like God. We were created to be like Him but we have all fallen terribly short.

Conviction is not a ritual self-assessment of how we find ourselves to be faulty. We are not God. Instead, one of the roles of the Holy Spirit (who is God) is to bring conviction of sin by making us aware that we are in violation of God's will and ways. He does this even as we are in the act of doing or thinking it!

Before the Holy Spirit enters our lives, we may not think that the things we do, think, or feel are wrong. But once we place our faith in Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit in our inner man, He begins to reveal our ungodliness so that we can confess our sins and be free. This is God's way of purifying our hearts, choices, and behaviors from the inside out.

In the Old Testament, when an Israelite became aware that they had sinned, they brought a sacrifice to the Priest, confessed their sins over the sacrifice, and trusted that the blood cleansed away their sin.

In the New Covenant, Jesus is our only High Priest and ultimate sacrifice for our sins. When the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, we can confess our sins to Jesus, trusting that His blood washes us clean.

The practice of Conviction of Sin is about inviting the Holy Spirit to bring conviction of sin in areas where we are falling short of the glory of God. Then, we can acknowledge how we are out of alignment with God and His ways, receive His forgiveness, and move forward into new life.



PURPOSE:

To invite the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts to bring conviction of sin.

To come into agreement with God about our sin so that we may receive His forgiveness.

To be purified from sin through the blood of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit.

SPIRITUAL FRUIT:

Honesty and integrity before God.

The development of Christlike character.

Deeper submission to and alignment with God.

Clear conscience from our failures in order to live new life in Christ.

TALK WITH GOD

Consider the fact that Jesus never sinned, from childhood to manhood, even in His heart. How does this increase your respect and awe for Him? Tell Him about it.

Consider the fact that the same Holy Spirit who dwelt in Jesus now dwells in you to empower you to resist sin. How does this strengthen you to live a new life with God's power? Talk to God about this.

PRAYER

Father, thank you that you sent Jesus to be the sacrifice for my sins. Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to convict me of sin. Examine my life and my heart so that I can be more like you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRACTICE

1. Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal some areas where your thoughts and actions are out of alignment with God.
2. Ask God to reveal to you why these thoughts or behaviors are unlike Him or not what He desires for you. For example:
 - Are they unloving, hypocritical, arrogant, selfish, or unbecoming?
 - Are they contradictory to how God sees you – His child?
 - Are they rooted in trusting in something other than God?
 - Are they harmful, damaging, or dangerous to you or others?
 - Are they part of pattern of choices from your old life?
 - Do they stem from a wrong motive?
 - Are they unwise? Do they lead to unfortunate consequences or poor choices?
3. When you feel a *genuine* recognition of how you have been in error, acknowledge your faults to God. This is confession of sin.
4. Receive total forgiveness as a free gift because of the blood of Jesus. You are now clean. Praise God!

NOTES: _____



ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES:

John 16:8

Acts 2:37

Luke 18:13

1 John 1:9

Proverbs 28:13

James 5:16

Leviticus 5:5

Acts 19:18

1 John 1:10

Hebrews 9:14