

Forgiven

1 John 1:9

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.*

If you've been a Christian for any time at all, these words are quite familiar to you. In fact, the tune as well as the lyrics of *Amazing Grace* are known by many who've never darkened the door of a church or bowed their head in prayer. Penned by John Newton in 1779, this great hymn of the church has stood the test of time. Indeed, it's estimated that the song has been recorded professionally nearly 2,000 times.

The popularity of *Amazing Grace* can in large part be attributed to its powerful lyrics. Verse by verse, it describes in beautiful terms the incredible grace of God that delivers the repentant heart from sin and implants within that individual the hope of eternal life.

Sadly, however, many who sing this song struggle to apply its promise personally. They can't imagine that God would actually grant them grace and forgive their sins. "I've fallen too far," they fear. "God could never forgive me for what I've done. How could His grace cover someone like me?"

For those who find themselves gripped by the bondage of a life-controlling addiction, the thought of grace can be especially hard to grasp. The guilt, regret, and pain can seem overwhelming. Add to that the stigma that addictions carry and they're left to wonder if there's any hope at all. The strong promise of 1 John 1:9 should be music to their ears.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Note that this verse carries no restrictions. There's no small print placing conditions on the offer. God knows that we've all sinned in ways too numerous to describe. He recognizes that we need grace desperately. And He responds by offering His grace freely.

Do you ever struggle to believe that God will forgive every sin you've ever committed. Is it beyond comprehension that He offers you new life, no matter where you are or what you've done? Cling to the promise of 1 John 1:9. Confess your sins, commit to following Christ, and receive the joy of knowing God has cleansed you completely. When you do, you'll quickly discover that God's grace is indeed amazing.

Why do people sometimes struggle to believe that God's grace will cover every sin when we repent and surrender our lives to Christ?

Do you ever struggle to accept God's forgiveness for everything in your past? Why or why not? How can you overcome doubts about His forgiveness?