

How can I return to God after backsliding?

There are many professing Christians who are concerned that they may have lost their salvation or that it is now impossible for them to return to fellowship with God after they have committed some form of sin.

1. What should I do after sinning?

1 John **1:9**
Romans **7:23-25**

Revelation **2:4-5**
Psalm **51:14-17**

After sinning, regardless of what the sin is, it is important to confess your sins and to pursue a path of repenting (turning away from and no longer doing) of them. We are to called to turn to God in a state of understanding that God is not required to forgive but He has promised to forgive those with a broken heart over having sinned against God.

2. What is my relationship to God based upon?

Titus **3:3-7**
John **1:11-13**

Ephesians **2:8-9**
Ephesians **1:12-14**

My relationship to God has never been based upon my performance before Him. In other words, God's love is not based upon obedience but upon faith. Our relationship is totally dependent upon His grace and His mercy and His work. The faith that we have in God through Christ is likewise dependent upon God placing that faith with us that we might believe.

3. How long am I considered to be in a positive relationship with God?

John **10:27-29**
John **6:37-39**

Hebrews **13:5**
John **3:14-18**

Since it is God who does the saving, through faith in Jesus Christ, we can know with certainty that we have eternal life. We cannot lose our salvation but are totally secure in our relationship with God through Christ.

4. What are some other things I should keep in mind about committing sins after placing faith in Christ?

Romans **7:14-21**
1 Corinthians **10:11-14**

Hebrews **6:4-6**
John **6:65-68**

As Christians, we need to remember that we will continue to sin against God. As we sin and we feel bad about our sin (which is a good thing to feel), we need to remember that there is nothing else that we can offer up for forgiveness. The only acceptable sacrifice to God for sins is the shed blood of Jesus Christ. To reject Christ is to reject the only hope, so we seek forgiveness for having sinned against God and plead for restoration again. It is only in Christ that we have the possibility for life and forgiveness.