

## The stuff that holds you here - Outline

September 16, 2018

**What keeps you from moving forward?** What would the average psychologist or counselor say?

1. Fear
2. Previous Failures
3. Guilt
4. Shame
5. “Inner Demons”
6. Anger
7. ...

Secular thinking says that these things are the root of your problems and it teaches you how to deal with them.

Yet the biblical writers argue that these things are not the root layer. There is a deeper layer that is the true root cause of our troubles.

### **The story of Adam and Eve**

*He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.”*  
(Genesis 3:10, NLT)

The root cause of our trouble is pushing God away and disobeying God.

### **The story of Cain and Abel**

*but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.*  
(Genesis 4:5, NLT)

*“Why are you so angry?” the LORD asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.”*  
(Genesis 4:6–7, NLT)

Your anger, your dejection, is there because you refuse to do what is right.

Sin is crouching at your door.

### **Sin is something that we all need to contend with.**

*For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. (Romans 3:23, NLT)*

The word sin means to “miss the mark.”

To fall short means to be unable to finish the race.

**The main problem with sin is that it doesn’t go away.**

*As the Scriptures say, “No one is righteous— not even one. (Romans 3:10, NLT)*

Sin is deeply connected to the need for justice.

In fact, sin is eternal in the sense that, without justice, its effects live on and on.

**God initiated a solution to the sin problem.**

*But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him (Romans 3:21a, NLT)*

1. He offers us a righteousness that comes through faith in Jesus.

*We are made right with God **by placing our faith** in Jesus Christ. (Romans 3:22a, NLT)*

2. And this gift of righteousness is open to everyone who believes.

*And this is true **for everyone who believes**, no matter who we are. (Romans 3:22b, NLT)*

3. It is a gift that you can never earn.

*Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. (Romans 3:24a, NLT)*

4. It is a gift that was costly.

*For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. (Romans 3:25a, NLT)*

5. And it is a gift that completely covers our sin.

*For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:21, NLT)*

*Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit. (1 Peter 3:18, NLT)*

**So how do we access this gift?**

*People are made right with God **when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.** (Romans 3:25b, NLT)*

SORRY                      For what I've done in the past

THANK YOU                For dying for me, for your love and forgiveness

PLEASE                     Come into my life by your Holy Spirit

## **Deeper Study Guide**

A guide for individuals and small groups.

Based on your observations of the world, do you think people are basically good or basically bad?

What do you think is the underlying or root cause of the troubles people face in life?

### **Read Genesis 4:1-16**

How would you define the word 'sin'?

What makes an action right or wrong?

Who has the authority to Judge here?

What do you see in this story about sin and its effects on our lives?

What do you think of the idea that Sin seems to be personified in this account?

Based on this story, what are the consequences of sin?

Assuming everyone is a sinner and sin destroys our relationship with God, do you think there is any hope for us?

Do you see any hope (or grace) here in this story?

### **Read Romans 3:20-25**

*We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. (Romans 3:22, NLT)*

Where is our hope found in these verses?

Talk together or think about this hope that you have in Jesus.

What does it mean to you?

What questions do you have as you think about these concepts?

Write them down.