

Psalm 32 | Experiencing the Joy of Total Forgiveness

3 synonyms for sin:

- Transgression - an act of rebellion, lawlessness and disloyalty
- Sin - "missing the mark"
- Iniquity - A crooked, distorted act usually with conscious intent to do wrong.

Sin is a strange, theological word.

It is a disease, a law that works against us, a hostile agent actively working towards our destruction, and a means of describing our intentional rebellion against our creative purpose.

At every mention of sin the Lord helps and enables joy:

- Transgression is **forgiven**. Carried away and removed so that there is no guilt.
- Sin is **covered**. Atoned so that the person is reconciled and the past is no longer brought up against them.
- Iniquity is **not counted**. Justified so that the person is not charged or held liable.

Joy for sinners is dependent on forgiveness.

There's often a gap between our knowledge that forgiveness exists and accepting it for ourselves and experiencing joy. Psalm 32 describes another prerequisite to experiencing joy: "and in whose spirit is no deceit." (v2)

Shame has accompanied and continues to accompany sin from its beginning.

One way to approach its essence is to understand it as an undercurrent of sensed emotion...[declaring].. *I am not enough; There is something wrong with me; I am bad; or I don't matter.* Dr. Curt Thompson, The Soul of Shame (24)

Shame by its very nature encourages us to hide and create distance.

The things we do to avoid acknowledging sin are painful (v3). *"when I kept silent"*

Yet God is pursuing us with his steadfast love (v4). *"Your hand was heavy on me."*

Come out of hiding. Draw near. Receive God's forgiveness. Trust him. This is your rescue.

The same three words for sin are used again, now tied to three verbs of confession (v5):

- **Acknowledge** sin
- **Did not conceal** iniquity
- **Confess** transgressions

The joy of Psalm 32 is contingent on not hiding, but rather drawing near and acknowledging the truth. Confession is the way to enjoy God's full forgiveness.

The rest of the psalm is wisdom based on this experience:

1. Pray immediately and experience deliverance (vv6-7)
2. Don't be stubborn (vv8-9)

Our stubbornness takes many forms:

- Ignore sin
- Minimize sin
- Redefine sin
- Justify sin
- Shift the blame for sin
- Doubt the ability of Jesus to forgive sin

I'm ok. I don't really need God.

Many pains come to the wicked, but the one who trusts in the Lord will have faithful love surrounding him. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones; shout for joy, all you upright in heart. (vv10-11)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

How are you still in the process of receiving God's forgiveness?

Are you daily benefiting from your advocate?

Where does Jesus' encouragement to forgive 77x7 times feel unattainable?