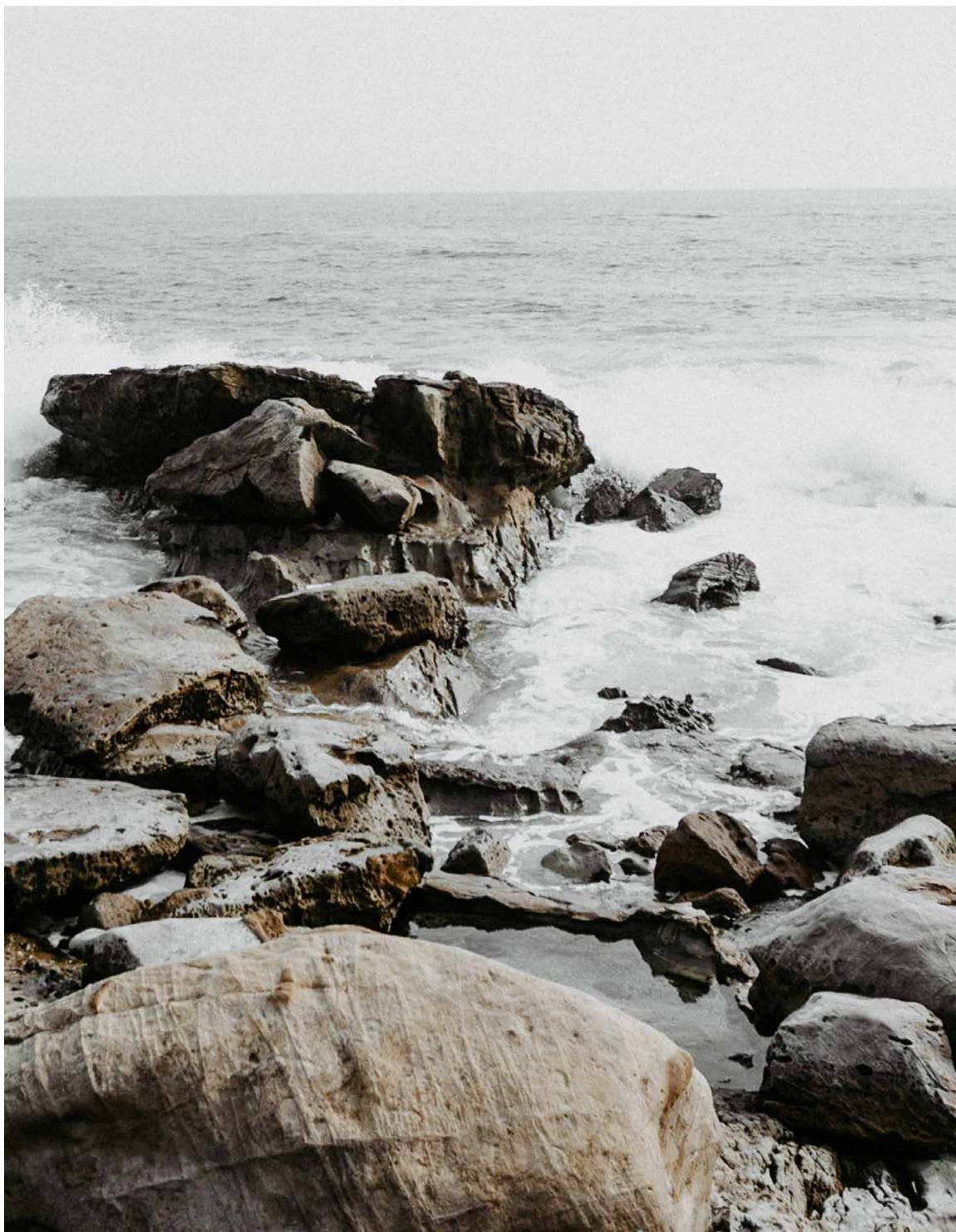


SESSION NINE

Problem of Sin

PRAYING WITH OTHERS | LEVEL TWO



SESSION NINE

Problem of Sin

THE DOORWAY



Sin is the problem Jesus came to solve. "The reason Christians are not different is because we have never been taught that when Jesus came to free us from our sins, it is not just for past actions. He forgives us of the guilt of our past—but in the present he frees us, through the power of the Spirit, from those fallen aspects of our humanity that draw us into sin: the sickness and weakness in our minds, our wills, our emotions, and our bodies."

All of these addictive inclinations are made worse by demonic in-fluences.

What would be different in your life if you lived not only free from past guilt BUT free in the present from fallen aspects of your humanity?

This week we will explore the terrible, horrible problem of sin, it's effect on us, those around us, and what to do with it.

Reflecting on the Words of C. S. Lewis

"We have a strange illusion that mere time cancels sin. I have heard others, and I have heard myself, recounting cruelties and falsehoods committed in boyhood as if they were no concern of the present speaker's, and even with laughter. But mere time does nothing either to the fact or to the guilt of a sin. The guilt is washed out not by time but by repentance and the blood of Christ: if we have repented these early sins we should remember the price of our forgiveness and be humble."

— *The Problem of Pain*

"When a man is getting better he understands more and more clearly the evil that is still left in him. When a man is getting worse he understands his own badness less and less. A moderately bad man knows he is not very good: a thoroughly bad man thinks he is all right. This is common sense, really. You understand sleep when you are awake, not while you are sleeping. You can see mistakes in arithmetic when your mind is working properly: while you are making them you cannot see them. You can understand the nature of drunkenness when you are sober, not when you are drunk. Good people know about both good and evil: bad people do not know about either."

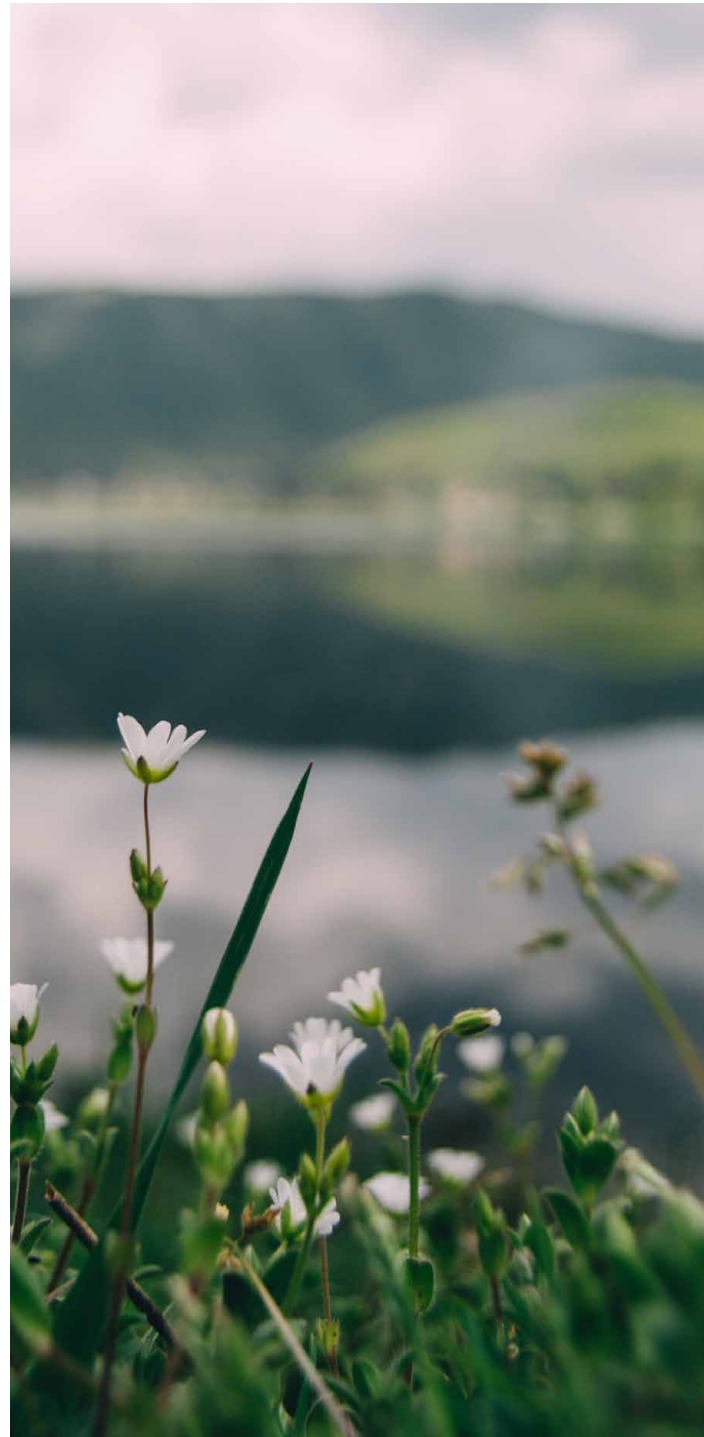
— *Mere Christianity*



Think. Reflect.

Who in your past do you have yet to forgive?

What in your sinful nature do you need to wake up to?



How Sin Enters

Just how does sin enter our lives ... and what does it have to do with abiding?



Ways That Sin Enters Our Lives

- Intrusion of the Enemy
- Disobedience
- Inner Vows and Judgements
- Curses
- Emotional Trauma
- Unforgiveness

Supporting Scriptures

If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.

—*Romans 11:16*

But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

—*1 John 3:5-6*

Sin & Abiding

When abiding in Christ becomes close and unbroken, so that the soul lives from moment to moment in perfect union with the Lord his keeper, He does, indeed, keep down the power of the old nature to such an extent that it does not regain dominion over him.

Ignorance of the promise, unbelief, or carelessness, however, opens the door for sin to reign. And so the life of many believers is a course of continual stumbling and sinning. But when a believer seeks full admission into a life of continual, permanent abiding in Jesus, the sinless one, then the life of Christ can keep him from yielding to it.

—*From "Abiding in Christ" by Andrew Murray*



Lordship Prayer

Jesus, because my life is my life, I can do whatever I choose with it. I thank you that You loved me when I was your enemy. You have bought me with a price. You redeemed me from the slave market of sin. You desire to give me an abundant life. You desire to have intimate fellowship with me.

Forgive me for resisting you. Forgive me for going my own way, for making my own decisions. I confess I have often not followed you with my whole heart. I confess I have often not trusted you with my whole life. But right here, right now, I give you my whole

heart. I give you my whole life. I give you all that I am. I give you the known and the unknown. I give you my past, my present and my future. With some fear and trembling, but without reservation, I abandon myself to you.

I now choose to surrender every area of my life to You and I choose to put You on the throne as the Lord of my life. I ask that you fill me with your Holy Spirit to empower me to walk in Your ways. Open my ears to hear your voice as you lead me and guide me all the days of my life. Amen.



Disobedience

Definition

Failure or refusal to obey rules or someone in authority.

Root

Can be pride or unbelief

Examples

Directly disobeying the word of God by doing what God has told us NOT to do or not doing what God has told us to do. This is rebellion.

Finding Freedom

Confess sins and know that He will forgive and cleanse all unrighteousness. —1 John 1:9



Repentance Prayer

Either read this yourself or repeat the words after the prayer minister.

Heavenly Father, I confess and repent that I have willfully chosen to rebel against You and Your Word. Please forgive me and cleanse me. Today, I choose to agree with You, that no sin will have dominion over me. I turn away from the sin of [name of sin].

By Your grace, I am dead to this sin. From this day forward, with Your help, I will walk in Your freedom. I receive Your forgiveness and cleansing by the blood of Jesus, and I declare that I am free from this sin in Jesus' name. Amen.

Harvest House

Disobedience in my life that I choose to address either past or present—things that have not yet been confessed:

Inner Vows and Judgments



Breaking Inner Vows Prayer

Have prayer recipient repeat after you.

Heavenly Father, I confess that my judgments of [name of person] are sin. I now repent and turn from the judgments and from the making of inner vows. Please forgive me and cleanse me. I renounce these ungodly vows.

I repent from my heart for the lies I have believed about you, about others and about myself based on these judgments. In Jesus' name I break the vow of [repeat whatever you vowed]. I speak to my spirit and I withdraw the thoughts, the decisions made and any words spoken to create these vows. I call back the assignment in the heavenlies and cancel their effects. I cast the judgments and vows at my feet and break their power over my spirit, my health, my finances, my ancestry, my marriage, my relationships, my thoughts, my emotions, my decisions, and my body. Any demonic spirits assigned to enforce these vows are now sent to Jesus' feet for Him to deal with. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for breaking these vows and restoring my relationship with You, Heavenly Father, and [name of person]. Praise You, Lord Jesus, that I am free from all the effects of these inner vows and judgments as I pray right now. Amen.

Material largely influenced by Dr. Henry Malone and Harvest House

Definition

A determination set by the mind and heart into all the being in early life. It is not a vow to God but to self and relies on a person's efforts and not God's power.

Root

Based on judgments about another, ourselves or God.

Examples

Judgment: It's not safe to have feelings.

Vow: I will never feel or I will always be in control of myself or I won't remember.

Judgment: I can't trust anyone.

Vow: I will always take care of myself.

Judgment: It's not OK to be me.

Vow: I'll never be important.

Finding Freedom

Name vow and judgment and by the power of the Holy Spirit, break the sin patterns of thought and behavior that have resulted. The lies upon which the vows were based must be replaced with the truth.

Inner Vows and Judgments I've made and want to find freedom from:

Emotional Trauma

Definition

Wounds and bruises to the heart that have occurred as a result of a severely distressing event.

Root

Based on judgments about another, ourselves or God.

More

Wounds or bruises to the heart can lay us open to the enemy's lies and keep us in bondage to the past.

Examples

Abuse, violence, abandonment, accidents, rape rejection, fearful experiences, domination, molestation, divorce, death of close family member, near-death experiences, betrayal.

Finding Freedom

We are responsible for how we respond to what has happened to us. In prayer and in counseling, we can open our heart and bring the pain to Jesus. Joel 2:25 says that God will restore what has been lost.

Traumatic experiences in my life:



Prayer for Emotional Healing (Pain & Trauma)

Prayer Recipient

Lord Jesus, I open my heart to You. I open every room, every closet, and every hidden place. I thank you that You love me and that You went to the cross so that I could be whole in spirit, soul and body. Jesus, please invade every dark place and shed your light deep within my heart. Lord, all the pain I have experienced, I give to You.

All the rejection, the hurt, the betrayal, every abuse, every wounding, I give to You. I speak to the pain deep within—even that which is so repressed I no longer am aware of it. I say pain come up—come up and be healed. I give the pain to You, Lord, and I ask You to take it now. I release it all to You, Lord. Pour Your healing love into every bruised place. You carried my shame and my defilement. You carried my rejection so I could be free. I don't want to live with this pain any longer, Lord. I let it all go. I give it to You. I hold nothing back. I pour it all out. Amen.

Prayer minister

Place your hand near their heart and pray for the Lord to lift all the pain and trauma from their spirit, soul and body. Pull out the pain and replace it with the love of Jesus and the fruit of the Spirit.

Curses



Curses in My Life

Circle the curses that may exist in my life or my family.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Prejudice | <input type="radio"/> Gambling |
| <input type="radio"/> Alcoholism | <input type="radio"/> Depression |
| <input type="radio"/> Bitterness | <input type="radio"/> Drug Use |
| <input type="radio"/> Sexual abuse | <input type="radio"/> Chronic Sickness |
| <input type="radio"/> Chauvinism | <input type="radio"/> Witchcraft |
| <input type="radio"/> Gossip | <input type="radio"/> Manipulation |
| <input type="radio"/> Anger | <input type="radio"/> Immorality |
| <input type="radio"/> Divorce | <input type="radio"/> Pride |
| <input type="radio"/> Lying | <input type="radio"/> Division |
| <input type="radio"/> Stealing | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Criminal Activity | <input type="radio"/> |

Material largely influenced by Dr. Henry Malone and Harvest House

Definition

The calling down of evil on someone. Curses need to be broken.

Root

Result of previous generation, or our own choices. Curses result from not obeying God.

Examples

Work, relationships, health, finances, personal purpose.

Finding Freedom

Renounce the curse and pray for the blessing of the opposite spirit.

Unforgiveness

Definition

The refusal to let go or excuse the debt owed by another; to hold onto an offense.

Things to know:

- Forgiveness is a command.
- God has forgiven us completely.
- Unforgiveness brings bondage.
- Forgiveness is not humanly possible; it is only possible through Christ.
- There is a difference between forgiveness and restoration.
- We need to understand what forgiveness is and what it is not.

Finding Freedom

We must forgive the person who has wronged us and bless them.



Think. Reflect.

Because I want to experience freedom and be obedient to Christ, I want to approach forgiveness. These are the people I need God's help to forgive. (We will have a more complete lesson coming up).

STUDY

Read through the passage from Romans.

ROMANS 8:1-17

Life Through the Spirit

¹Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

⁵Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

¹¹And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

¹²Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Write down characteristics of those who follow the Spirit.

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Write down characteristics of those who are led by the flesh.

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DISCUSSION



How has sin entered into your life?

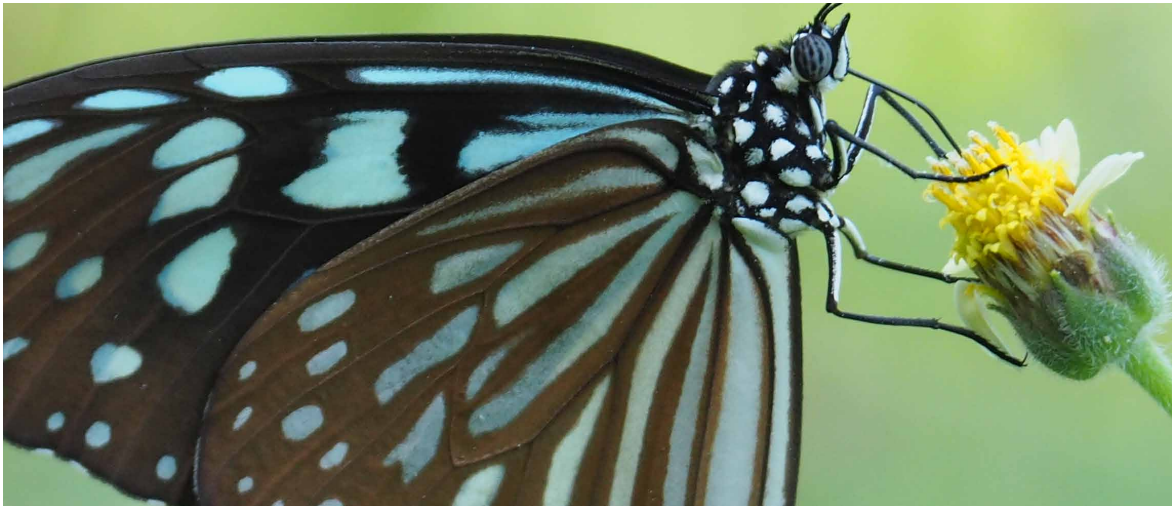
Do you have a rhythm of confessing?

Are there unconfessed sins that are blocking blessings?

How much freedom have you experienced through confession?

How would you explain the role of confession in freedom?

MINISTRY



Today in Ministry

Begin with the Lordship prayer and then choose from the prayers of repentance, breaking inner vows and/or forgiveness.

Take an inventory of your life using the ten commandments and ask God to show you unconfessed sins. Write them down on pieces of paper. Ask God to forgive you and then destroy the paper.

The Jesus Prayer as a Breath Prayer

[BREATHE IN]
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

[BREATHE OUT]
have mercy on me, a sinner.

The Ten Commandments

You shall have no other gods before Me.

You shall not make idols.

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet.

Garden of the Heart



A Group Time Exercise

We may do an exercise during group time based on a teaching from Conlee and Signa Bodishbaugh in their book, *Journey to Wholeness* (pg. 152-155). One person should use the below as only a guide. Let the Spirit lead you.

Use your imagination, your senses to approach the garden of your heart. Visualize the garden. Enjoy being there.

Hear, see, smell, feel, taste what is around you.

Notice the size, the colors, the air—are there trees? What season is it?

Walk along the garden and ask God what needs to be done in the garden. Do you see Him there?

Are there any weeds of sin?

Notice anything in the garden that needs to be pulled out.

Lord, help [name of person] to see any plant/weed that does not belong here.

As you see any weeds of sin, name them. Clasp your hand around them and pull them up and out.

What are the weeds names? (These might be named unforgiveness, idols, critical spirit, omission, lying, covetness, not attending to Sabbath, breaking of 10 commandments, adultery, dishonoring someone, etc.)

Take the weeds one by one and give them to Jesus. What does he say? Can you see His face? What does HE do with your weeds? Lord, would you make a lasting impression on [name of person's] heart by showing him/her what you do with the weeds of sin. Holy Spirit, fill, wash and renew [name of person] as she/he stands close to You. Speak to [name of person's] heart in its own language.

RESOURCES

Books

***Victory Over the Darkness:
Realizing the Power of
Your Identity in Christ***

Neil T. Anderson

***The Bondage Breaker®:
Overcoming *Negative Thoughts
*Irrational Feelings *Habitual Sins***

Neil T. Anderson

***The Steps to Freedom in Christ:
A Biblical Guide to Help You
Resolve Personal and Spiritual
Conflicts and Become a
Fruitful Disciple of Jesus***

Neil T. Anderson

Videos

The Gospel

by Matt Chandler [YouTube]

Forgiveness

Matt Chandler Sermon Jam

by Matt Chandler [YouTube]

When Sin Looks More Enjoyable Than God

by Francis Chan [YouTube]

Does God Hate Sin, But Love the Sinner?

by David Platt [YouTube]

Opportunities at Third

Freedom

Consider taking a Freedom class or small group offered each semester at Third Church.

