THE QUESTION

What did the early Christians believe about forgiveness after baptism?

Asked by a THF member on May 22, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 14 numbered quotations · the 36 early Christian passages and 245 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-the-early-christians-believe-about-forgiveness-after-baptism

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

The early Christians taught that baptism washes away past sins once, and the baptized must stop sinning. Yet they knew believers still sin, so they prayed daily for pardon, confessed their sins and trusted God's promise to forgive. Repentance stayed open even for those who fell badly, though it had to be real, not a habit.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

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POINT 1 OF 8

Baptism washes away the sins before it

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Justin says the one who repents and chooses new birth receives in the water the forgiveness of sins already committed. Irenaeus compares this to Naaman's healing: we are cleansed from our old sins by the sacred water and calling on the Lord.

1 “Since at birth we were born without our own knowledge or choice, due to our parents coming together, and were raised with bad habits and wicked training; so that we may not remain children of necessity and ignorance, but may become children of choice and knowledge, and may obtain in the water the remission of sins previously committed, the name of God the Father and Lord of the universe is pronounced over the one who chooses to be born again and has repented of sins.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 7, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

2 “For just as we are lepers in sin, we are made clean by means of the sacred water and the invocation of the Lord from our old transgressions, being spiritually regenerated as newborn babes, just as the Lord has declared: "Unless a man is born again through water and the Spirit, he shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 10, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 8

The baptized are called to stop sinning

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Apostolic Constitutions say that those baptized into Christ's death must no longer keep sinning, and warn that sin after baptism without repentance leads to judgment. Clement of Alexandria agrees that the forgiven ought not to sin anymore.

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3 “Beloved, know this: those who are baptized into the death of our Lord Jesus are required no longer to go on sinning.”

later in the same passage

“Now whoever sins after baptism, unless he repents and turns away from his sins, will be condemned to hell fire.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 29, page 9** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

4 “So, the person who has received forgiveness of sins ought not to sin anymore.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 2.13 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 13, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 8

Believers still sin and need daily pardon

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian says the Lord's Prayer teaches us that we sin every day, since we are told to ask every day for forgiveness. Methodius admits that even after baptism believers are often found in sin, because its roots remain in us.

5 “He is instructed and taught that he sins daily, since he is told to ask daily for his sins to be forgiven.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 25, page 9** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

6 “But as things are, even after believing, and even after the time when we have been touched by the water of sanctification, we are often found in sin.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Methodius,** *From the Discourse on the Resurrection* (c. 270–311 AD) **Source 34, page 9** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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POINT 4 OF 8

God promises pardon to those who ask

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian reads John's letter as a promise: the God who taught us to pray for our sins will keep His word and forgive. An early liturgy asks God to pardon every kind of offense, whether done on purpose or not.

7 “Therefore he said that the Lord is faithful to forgive sins, keeping the faithfulness of His promise, because He who taught us to pray for our debts and sins has promised that His fatherly mercy and pardon will follow.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 25, page 9** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

8 “O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, Lamb and Shepherd, who takes away the sin of the world, who freely forgave the debt of the two debtors and gave remission of her sins to the woman who was a sinner, who gave healing to the paralytic along with the remission of his sins: forgive, remit, and pardon, O God, our offenses, voluntary and involuntary, in knowledge and in ignorance, by transgression and by disobedience, which Your all-holy Spirit knows better than Your servants do.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Early Liturgies,** *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (c. 200–400 AD) **Source 16, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 8

Even the fallen may repent and be pardoned

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian is amazed that some would refuse repentance to believers who had lapsed. He points to Christ's calls to repent in Revelation and says the Lord would not urge repentance unless He promised mercy.

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9 “But I am amazed that some are so stubborn that they think repentance should not be granted to the lapsed, or that pardon should be denied to those who repent, when it is written, “Remember from where you have fallen, and repent, and do the first works,””

later in the same passage

“Certainly the Lord would not urge them to repent unless He promised mercy to those who repent.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 21, page 8** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 8

Repentance must be real, not a habit

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Alexandria says a believer who sins after baptism may be pardoned when he repents, but should still fear. Asking forgiveness again and again for the same sins, he warns, only looks like repentance.

10 “But if someone sins after this, then even if he receives pardon when he repents, he ought to be afraid, because he is no longer being washed for the forgiveness of sins.”

later in the same passage

“So, asking forgiveness again and again for the things in which we often sin is only the appearance of repentance, not repentance itself.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 2.13 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 12, page 8** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 8

Showing mercy goes with receiving mercy

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Cyprian says baptism forgives sins once for all, and after that, steady works of mercy are a way God's mercy is given again. Polycarp repeats the Lord's teaching that those who forgive will be forgiven.

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11 “And because in baptism the remission of sins is granted once for all, steady and unceasing labor, following the likeness of baptism, again bestows the mercy of God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 24, page 9** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

12 “Judge not, that you be not judged; forgive, and it shall be forgiven to you; be merciful, that you may obtain mercy; with the same measure you use, it will be measured to you again;" and once more, "Blessed are the poor, and those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of God.””

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Polycarp,** *Epistle to the Philippians* (c. 100–155 AD) **Source 6, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 8 OF 8

Church leaders must offer forgiveness, not hide it

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian says Christ gave the power to forgive sins to the apostles and the bishops who followed them. The Apostolic Constitutions tell bishops not to hide the promises of repentance or be quick to cast people out.

13 “Therefore, the power of forgiving sins was given to the apostles, and to the churches that they established after being sent by Christ, and to the bishops who succeeded them by succession in office.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 27, page 9** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

14 “Do not hide the divine laws and the promises of repentance. Do not be quick to thrust people out and expel them, but be steady.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 28, page 9** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not agree on how many times serious sins after baptism can be forgiven.

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- They do not describe one fixed process for confessing and returning to the church.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 36 early Christian passages and 245 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–36, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 37–150, in Bible order), then 131 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *36 passages from 18 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 4 (on point 4) the church you shall acknowledge your transgressions, and you shall not come near for your prayer with an evil conscience… [continues online] **read ›**

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · source 2*

2 *Epistle of Barnabas* (1885 English; on point 4) "shalt confess thy sins. Thou shalt not go to prayer with an evil conscience. This is the way of light… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 3–5*

3 *Shepherd* (on point 5) the Shepherd had examined all their branches, he said to me, "I told you that this tree was tenacious of life. You see," he continued, "how many repented and were… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 6) heard, sir, some teachers maintain that there is no other repentance than that which takes place, when we descended into the water and received remission of our former sins… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Shepherd* (on point 4) "this river, I came to a plain. Then I bent down on my knees and began to pray to the Lord and confess my sins. As I prayed, the heavens… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · source 6*

6 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English) **Quote 12, page 6** "and it shall be forgiven unto you… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · source 7*

7 *First Apology* (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** "order that we may not remain the children of necessity and of ignorance, but may become the children of choice and knowledge, and may obtain in the water the remission… [continues online] **read ›**

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Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 8–9*

8 *Diatessaron* 27 (on point 7) pay all that he owed. So my Father who is in heaven will do to you, if each one of you does not forgive his brother's wrong conduct from… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Diatessaron* 9 (on point 3) kingdom come. Your will be done, as in heaven, so on earth. Give us today our daily food. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgave those who trespassed against… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · source 10*

10 *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** "spiritually regenerated as new-born babes, even as the Lord has declared: "Except a man be born again through water and the Spirit, he shall not enter into the kingdom… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 11–14*

11 *Instructor* 1.6 (on point 1) "human faith and divine grace, our transgressions being taken away by one Paeonian medicine, the baptism of the Word. We are washed from all our sins and are no longer… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Stromata* 2.13 (1885 English) **Quote 10, page 5** "consists in repenting by not giving way to the same fault… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Stromata* 2.13 (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** "in addition to the first and only repentance from sins (this is from the previous sins in the first and heathen life — I mean that in ignorance), there is immediately… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Stromata* 4.9 "have done at the end one good work. Their witness, then, appears to be the cleansing away of sins with glory. For example, the Shepherd says, "You will escape the… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · source 15*

15 *On Modesty* 19 (1885 English; on point 4) "we confess our sins, faithful and just is He to remit them to us, and utterly purify us from every unrighteousness… [continues online] **read ›**

Early Liturgies, *c. 200–400 AD · sources 16–17*

16 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 **Quote 8, page 4** "woman who was a sinner, who gave healing to the paralytic along with the remission of his sins: forgive, remit, and pardon, O God, our offenses, voluntary and involuntary, in… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (1885 English; on point 4) "us entreat from the Lord forgiveness and remission of our sins and transgressions… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · sources 18–19*

18 *Refutation of All Heresies* 36 (1885 English) "by this (other baptism) they wickedly subvert those that remain with them in expectation of redemption, as if persons, after they had once been baptized, could again obtain remission… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (on point 4) "but sealed up to be kept for judgment. But as many as will believe in Him as One able to forgive sins, have their sins wiped away. Therefore he says… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · source 20*

20 *Commentary on Matthew* 14 (on point 7) He added the seventy to the number seven also, Matthew 18:22, and said that there should be forgiveness for brothers here, and for those who have sinned in matters… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 21–27*

21 *Epistles* **Quote 9, page 5** I am amazed that some are so stubborn that they think repentance should not be granted to the lapsed, or that pardon should be denied to those who repent, when… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Epistles* (on point 8) declares in His Gospel that sins can be taken away only by those who have the Holy Spirit. For after His resurrection, when He sent out His disciples, He spoke… [continues online] **read ›**

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23 *Epistles* in baptism is a witness to the truth. For when we say, “Do you believe in eternal life and the forgiveness of sins through the holy Church?” we mean that… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 11, page 6** “because in baptism remission of sins is granted once for all, constant and ceaseless labour, following the likeness of baptism, once again bestows the mercy of God… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Treatises* **Quotes 5, 7, pages 3, 4** “if we confess our sins, the Lord is faithful and just to forgive us our sins… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *Epistles* (1885 English; on point 8) “whosesoever sins you retain, they are retained… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *Epistles* **Quote 13, page 6** “16:19. And again, in the Gospel, when Christ breathed on the… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 28–31*

28 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 14, page 6** “not before their eyes." Now the way of peace is our Savior Jesus Christ, who taught us, saying, "Forgive, and you shall be forgiven. Give, and it shall be given… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 3, page 3** “he who sins after his baptism, unless he repent and forsake his sins, shall be condemned to hell-fire… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 7) the Lord: "Loose every bond of wickedness," Isaiah 58:6. For the Lord has given you authority to forgive those sins of your brother that he has committed against you… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *Apostolic Constitutions* be satisfied with one baptism only, the one into the death of the Lord; not the one given by wicked heretics, but the one given by blameless priests, in the… [continues online] **read ›**

Commodianus, *c. 250–300 AD · sources 32–33*

32 *Writings* (1885 English; on point 4) “confession of your fault shall not be in vain… [continues online] **read ›**

33 *Writings* (on point 2) “by example, do not sin gravely. Translated by the laver, rather have charity… [continues online] **read ›**

Methodius, *c. 270–311 AD · source 34*

34 *From the Discourse on the Resurrection* **Quote 6, page 3** “God, the builder, by the timely use of death, checked His own temple, man, when man had nourished sin like a wild fig tree, killing, as Scripture says in Deuteronomy… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · source 35*

35 *Divine Institutes* 12 (1885 English; on point 4) “has a great reward; for God promises it, that He will remit all sins… [continues online] **read ›**

Peter of Alexandria, *c. 300–311 AD · source 36*

36 *Genuine Acts of Peter* (on point 3) “God the builder, by the timely use of death, stopped His own temple, man, when he had nourished sin like a wild fig tree, killing, as Scripture says in Deuteronomy… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *114 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

37 **Genesis 22:15** An angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, **read ›**

38 **Exodus 10:17** Now therefore forgive my sin this once more, and pray to the Lord your God, and let him take this death away from me.” **read ›**

39 **Exodus 30:18** “Make a bronze washbasin with a bronze base for washing, and put it between the tabernacle of witness and the altar, and pour water into it. **read ›**

40 **Exodus 30:20** Whenever they go into the tabernacle of witness, and whenever they come near the altar to minister and to offer whole burnt offerings to the Lord, they shall wash with water, and so they shall certainly not die. **read ›**

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41 **Exodus 30:21** They shall wash their hands and their feet with water. Whenever they go into the tabernacle of witness, they shall wash with water, so that they do not die. It shall be a perpetual ordinance for them, for Aaron and for his generations after him." **read ›**

42 **Exodus 32:30** On the next day Moses said to the people, "You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to God, so that I may make atonement for your sin." **read ›**

43 **Exodus 32:32** And now, if you will forgive them their sin, forgive it; but if not, blot me out of your book that you have written." **read ›**

44 **Exodus 34:7** keeping righteousness and mercy for thousands, taking away lawlessness and unrighteousness and sins; and he will not clear the guilty, bringing the lawlessness of the fathers upon the children and upon the children's children, to the third and fourth generation." **read ›**

45 **Exodus 38:27** The hundred talents of silver went into the casting of the hundred pillar tops of the tabernacle and into the pillar tops of the veil: (Septuagint Exodus 39:4 (Exodus 38:27 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

46 **Exodus 40:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

47 **Exodus 40:30** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

48 **Leviticus 4:20** He shall do with the calf just as he did with the calf of the sin offering; so it shall be done. And the priest shall make atonement for them, and the sin shall be forgiven them. **read ›**

49 **Leviticus 4:26** And he shall offer up all its fat on the altar, like the fat of the peace offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him for his sin, and it shall be forgiven him. **read ›**

50 **Leviticus 4:35** He shall take away all its fat, just as the fat of a sheep is taken away from the peace offering, and the priest shall put it on the altar upon the whole burnt offering of the Lord. So the priest shall make atonement for him for the sin which he has sinned, and it shall be forgiven him. **read ›**

51 **Leviticus 5:5** then he shall confess the sin concerning the things in which he has sinned by that sin. **read ›**

52 **Leviticus 5:6** And for what he has trespassed against the Lord, for the sin which he has sinned, he shall bring a female from the sheep, a lamb, or a female goat from the goats, as a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for him for his sin which he has sinned, and the sin shall be forgiven him. **read ›**

53 **Leviticus 5:10** And the second he shall make a whole burnt offering, as is fitting. So the priest shall make atonement for his sin which he has sinned, and it shall be forgiven him. **read ›**

54 **Leviticus 5:13** And the priest shall make atonement for him for his sin which he has sinned in any one of these things, and it shall be forgiven him. What is left shall belong to the priest, like the sacrifice of fine flour.'" **read ›**

55 **Leviticus 5:16** What he has sinned in the holy things he shall repay, and he shall add the fifth part to it and give it to the priest; and the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering, and it shall be forgiven him. **read ›**

56 **Leviticus 8:6** Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons near and washed them with water. **read ›**

57 **Leviticus 13:54** the priest shall give orders, and one shall wash the thing on which the plague is, and the priest shall set the plague apart seven days a second time. **read ›**

58 **Leviticus 14:8** The one who is cleansed shall wash his garments, shave off all his hair, and bathe in water, and he shall be clean. After that he shall come into the camp, but he shall stay outside his house seven days. **read ›**

59 **Leviticus 15:13** When the man with the discharge is cleansed of his discharge, seven days shall be counted for him for his cleansing; then he shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water, and he shall be clean. **read ›**

60 **Leviticus 16:19** He shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and sanctify it from the uncleannesses of the children of Israel. **read ›**

61 **Leviticus 16:24** He shall bathe his body in water in a holy place and put on his garment; then he shall go out and offer his whole burnt offering and the whole burnt offering of the people, and make atonement for himself, for his house, and for the people, as for the priests. **read ›**

62 **Leviticus 16:26** The one who sends away the goat that was set apart for release shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water, and after that he may come into the camp. **read ›**

63 **Leviticus 16:28** The one who burns them shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water, and after that he may come into the camp. **read ›**

64 **Leviticus 19:22** The priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering before the Lord for the sin that he sinned, and the sin that he sinned shall be forgiven him. **read ›**

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65 **Leviticus 22:6** the person who touches any of these shall be unclean until evening. He shall not eat of the holy things unless he washes his body with water; **read ›**

66 **Leviticus 26:40** Then they shall confess their sins and the sins of their fathers, that they transgressed and disregarded me, and that they walked contrary before me, **read ›**

67 **Numbers 8:7** And thus you shall perform their purification: you shall sprinkle them with water of purification, and a razor shall pass over their whole body, and they shall wash their garments and be clean. **read ›**

68 **Numbers 8:21** And the Levites purified themselves and washed their garments; and Aaron gave them as a gift before the Lord, and Aaron made atonement for them to purify them. **read ›**

69 **Numbers 14:18** 'The Lord is long-suffering, great in mercy, and true, taking away lawlessness and unrighteousness and sins; yet he will by no means acquit the guilty, repaying the sins of fathers upon children to the third and fourth generation.' **read ›**

70 **Numbers 14:19** Forgive the sin of this people according to your great mercy, just as you have been gracious to them from Egypt until now." **read ›**

71 **Numbers 19:7** Then the priest shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp; and the priest shall be unclean until evening. **read ›**

72 **Numbers 19:13** Everyone who touches the dead body of a human soul, if he has died, and does not purify himself, has defiled the tabernacle of the Lord; that person shall be destroyed from Israel, because the water of sprinkling was not sprinkled on him; he is unclean; his uncleanness is still in him. **read ›**

73 **Numbers 19:19** And the clean man shall sprinkle the unclean on the third day and on the seventh day, and he shall be purified on the seventh day; and he shall wash his garments and bathe in water, and he shall be unclean until evening. **read ›**

74 **Numbers 19:20** But the man who is defiled and does not purify himself, that person shall be utterly destroyed from the midst of the congregation, because he has defiled the holy place of the Lord, because the water of sprinkling was not sprinkled on him; he is unclean. **read ›**

75 **Numbers 31:23** everything that passes through fire shall be clean; yet it shall be purified with the water of purification. And whatever does not pass through fire shall pass through water. **read ›**

76 **2 Chronicles 6:37** and they turn their heart in their land to which they were carried away, and also turn and plead with you in their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned, we have acted lawlessly, we have done unrighteously,' **read ›**

77 **Ezra 9:8** And now our God has been gracious to us, to leave us a remnant for salvation and to give us a support in the place of his sanctuary, to enlighten our eyes and to give us a little reviving in our slavery. **read ›**

78 **Psalms 3:5** I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. (Septuagint Psalm 3:6 (Psalm 3:5 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

79 **Psalms 13:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

80 **Psalms 32:5** I made my sin known, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my iniquity against myself to the Lord"; and you forgave the ungodliness of my heart. Pause. (Septuagint Psalm 31:5 (Psalm 32:5 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

81 **Psalms 38:18** For I will declare my iniquity, and be anxious over my sin. (Septuagint Psalm 37:19 (Psalm 38:18 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

82 **Psalms 51:2** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. (Septuagint Psalm 50:4 (Psalm 51:2 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

83 **Proverbs 15:8** The sacrifices of the ungodly are an abomination to the Lord, but the prayers of those who walk uprightly are acceptable to him. **read ›**

84 **Proverbs 28:13** He who covers his own ungodliness will not prosper, but he who sets forth rebukes will be loved. **read ›**

85 **Ecclesiastes 10:4** If the spirit of the one in power rises up against you, do not leave your place; for healing will put an end to great sins. **read ›**

86 **Jeremiah 14:20** We know, O Lord, our sins, the unrighteousness of our fathers, for we have sinned before you. **read ›**

87 **Jeremiah 18:13** Therefore thus says the Lord: Ask now among the nations, who has heard such very dreadful things as the virgin of Israel has done? **read ›**

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88 **Jeremiah 31:1** At that time, said the Lord, I will be God to the family of Israel, and they shall be my people. (Septuagint Jeremiah 38:1 (Jeremiah 31:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

89 **Jeremiah 31:5** For you have planted vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; plant, and praise. (Septuagint Jeremiah 38:5 (Jeremiah 31:5 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

90 **Jeremiah 50:9** For behold, I am stirring up against Babylon congregations of nations from the land of the north, and they will line up for battle against her; from there she will be taken; as the arrow of a skilled warrior, it will not return empty. (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:9 (Jeremiah 50:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

91 **Jeremiah 50:11** Because you rejoiced and boasted as you plundered my inheritance, because you leaped about like calves in the grass and butted like bulls, (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:11 (Jeremiah 50:11 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

92 **Lamentations 1:7** Zain. Jerusalem remembered the days of her humiliation and of her rejection, all her desirable things that were from days of old, when her people fell into the hand of the oppressor, and there was none to help her; her enemies saw it and laughed at her dwelling. **read ›**

93 **Lamentations 1:8** Heth. Jerusalem has sinned a sin; therefore she has become a thing tossed about; all who honored her have humbled her, for they have seen her shame; and she herself groaned and turned backward. **read ›**

94 **Lamentations 1:13** Mem. From his height he has sent fire; into my bones he has brought it down; he has spread a net for my feet; he has turned me back; he has made me desolate, in pain all the day. **read ›**

95 **1 Esdras 8:75** for our sins have multiplied above our heads, and our sins of ignorance have risen up to heaven, **read ›**

96 **1 Esdras 9:8** Now therefore make confession and give glory to the Lord God of our fathers, **read ›**

97 **Tobit 3:5** And now your judgments are many and true, in dealing with me for my sins and those of my fathers, because we did not keep your commandments; for we did not walk in truth before you. **read ›**

98 **Tobit 13:3** Give thanks to him, you children of Israel, before the nations; for he has scattered us among them. **read ›**

99 **Judith 7:28** We call to witness against you heaven and earth, and our God and the Lord of our fathers, who punishes us according to our sins and according to the sins of our fathers, that he may not do according to these words this day." **read ›**

100 **Wisdom of Solomon 15:2** For even if we sin, we are yours, knowing your power; but we will not sin, knowing that we are counted as yours. **read ›**

101 **Wisdom of Sirach 3:30** Water will quench a blazing fire, and an act of mercy will make atonement for sins. **read ›**

102 **Wisdom of Sirach 4:26** Do not be ashamed to confess your sins, and do not force the current of a river. **read ›**

103 **Wisdom of Sirach 8:5** Do not insult a man who turns from sin; remember that we are all under penalty. **read ›**

104 **Wisdom of Sirach 17:24** Yet to those who repent he has granted a way back, and he has encouraged those whose endurance was failing. **read ›**

105 **Wisdom of Sirach 17:25** Turn back to the Lord and forsake your sins; make your prayer before his face and lessen your offense. **read ›**

106 **Wisdom of Sirach 20:3** and he who confesses will be kept from loss. **read ›**

107 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:1** My child, have you sinned? Do not do so again, and pray concerning your former sins. **read ›**

108 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:2** Forgive your neighbor the wrong he has done, and then, when you pray, your sins will be released. **read ›**

109 **Wisdom of Sirach 31:25** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

110 **Wisdom of Sirach 44:16** Enoch pleased the Lord and was taken away, an example of repentance to the generations. **read ›**

111 **Wisdom of Sirach 50:21** And he bowed down in worship a second time, to show forth the blessing from the Most High. **read ›**

112 **Baruch 1:17** because we have sinned before the Lord, **read ›**

113 **1 Maccabees 13:39** We pardon the errors and the offenses committed up to this day, and the crown tax that you owed; and if any other tax was collected in Jerusalem, let it be collected no longer. **read ›**

114 **1 Maccabees 15:8** Every debt owed to the king, and whatever is owed to the king in the future, let it be canceled for you from now on and for all time. **read ›**

115 **2 Maccabees 8:29** When they had done this, they made a common plea and begged the merciful Lord to be fully reconciled with his slaves. **read ›**

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116 **2 Maccabees 10:4** When they had done this, they fell on their faces and begged the Lord that they might never again fall into such evils, but that if they should ever sin, they might be disciplined by him with gentleness, and not be handed over to blasphemous and barbaric nations. **read ›**

117 **2 Maccabees 12:42** and they turned to pleading, asking that the sin that had been committed might be wholly blotted out. And the noble Judas urged the multitude to keep themselves free from sin, since they had seen with their own eyes what had happened because of the sin of those who had fallen. **read ›**

118 **3 Maccabees 2:19** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

119 **3 Maccabees 2:24** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

120 **1 Enoch 1:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

121 **1 Enoch 1:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

122 **1 Enoch 22:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

123 **1 Enoch 63:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

124 **1 Enoch 104:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

125 **Matthew 3:6** They were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. **read ›**

126 **Matthew 3:8** Therefore produce fruit worthy of repentance! **read ›**

127 **Matthew 9:5** For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven;' or to say, 'Get up, and walk'? **read ›**

128 **Matthew 9:6** But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—then he said to the paralyzed man—"Get up, take up your bed, and go to your house." **read ›**

129 **Mark 1:4** John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins. **read ›**

130 **Mark 3:28** Amen, I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may speak; **read ›**

131 **Luke 3:3** He came into all the region around the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for remission of sins, **read ›**

132 **Luke 5:24** But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, arise, take up your cot, and go to your house." **read ›**

133 **Luke 7:48** He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." **read ›**

134 **John 20:23** If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone's sins, they have been retained." **read ›**

135 **Acts 2:38** Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

136 **Acts 13:24** after John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to Israel before Jesus' coming. **read ›**

137 **Acts 13:38** Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you; **read ›**

138 **Acts 19:3** He said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." **read ›**

139 **Acts 19:4** Paul said, "John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Christ Jesus." **read ›**

140 **Acts 19:18** Many also of those who had believed came, confessing and declaring their deeds. **read ›**

141 **Acts 22:16** Now why do you wait? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.' **read ›**

142 **Romans 14:7** For none of us lives to himself, and none dies to himself. **read ›**

143 **Romans 14:20** Do not tear down God's work for the sake of food. All things are indeed clean, but it is evil for the person who eats in a way that involves stumbling. **read ›**

144 **1 Corinthians 1:17** For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be emptied of its power. **read ›**

145 **Ephesians 1:7** In him we have our redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace **read ›**

146 **Colossians 1:14** in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins. **read ›**

147 **Hebrews 10:18** Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. **read ›**

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148 **James 5:16** Confess your trespasses to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. A righteous person's prayer has great power in its working. **read ›**

149 **1 Peter 3:21** Baptism, which corresponds to this, now also saves us—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but the appeal of a good conscience to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **read ›**

150 **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *131 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 9:5 · 9:18

Exodus 20:7 · 23:14 · 32:34

Leviticus 19:15

Deuteronomy 32:10 · 32:23

Job 1:6

Psalms 18:26 · 24:4 · 110:4

Proverbs 11:5 · 22:6 · 31:20

Isaiah 1:15 · 1:17

Jeremiah 5:8

Ezekiel 1:28

Zechariah 3:1

Matthew 5:3 · 5:8 · 5:9 · 5:22 · 5:23 · 5:28 · 5:42 · 5:45 · 6:12 · 7:1 · 7:2 · 9:29 · 10:32 · 18:17 · 18:22 · 19:14 · 19:17 · 28:19

Mark 6:13 · 16:16

Luke 4:18 · 6:20 · 6:30 · 6:36 · 6:37 · 6:38 · 7:37 · 10:21 · 12:8 · 12:11 · 14:11 · 22:31

John 1:3 · 1:7 · 1:8 · 1:9 · 1:13 · 1:17 · 2:1 · 3:3 · 3:5 · 3:9 · 3:36 · 6:40 · 8:44 · 11:25 · 19:34

Acts 4:32 · 12:13 · 17:24 · 17:31

Romans 3:15 · 8:5 · 8:11 · 8:15 · 8:29 · 10:10 · 15:27

1 Corinthians 1:10 · 2:8 · 6:14 · 8:6 · 12:13 · 13:11 · 14:20

2 Corinthians 4:14 · 7:1

Galatians 3:23 · 3:26 · 3:28 · 4:7

Ephesians 1:4 · 2:12 · 3:9 · 4:26 · 5:8 · 6:5 · 6:9 · 6:14

Philippians 2:2 · 2:10 · 3:16

Colossians 2:13 · 3:2 · 3:22 · 4:1

1 Thessalonians 5:12

1 Timothy 6:10

2 Timothy 3:2

Titus 1:16

Hebrews 6:4 · 10:26 · 10:39 · 12:15 · 12:16 · 13:7

James 1:8

1 Peter 1:13 · 1:21 · 3:9 · 3:22

1 John 1:7 · 1:8 · 2:1 · 3:3 · 3:9 · 3:10

Revelation 4:1 · 17:3 · 21:10 · 22:18

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Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What did the early Christians believe about forgiveness after baptism?” on May 22, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY