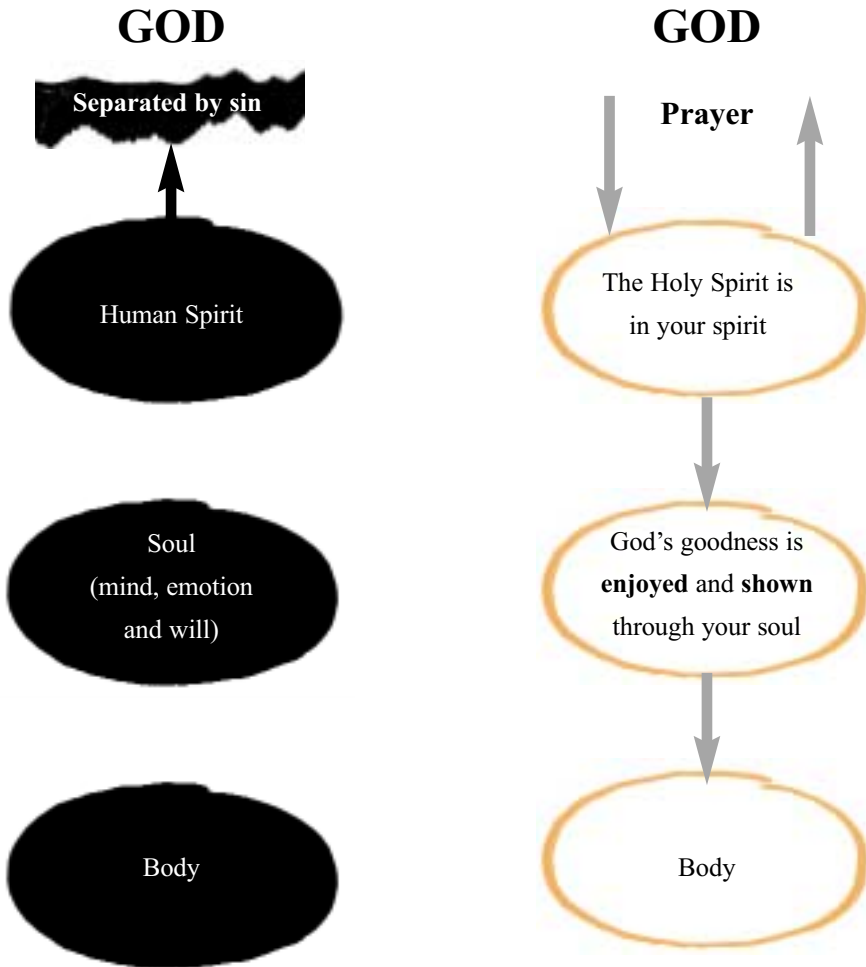


THE SECRET IS OUT!

You chose to receive God's goodness

God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness into us!
2 Corinthians 5:21 TLB



Before you became a child of God all the good things God has for you were like secrets because you were unable to see or understand them (2 Corinthians 4:4).

What are these good things?
The secret is out, as we share in this section.



When you chose to become a child of God, you received God's acceptance, freedom, power and nature. The benefits of your choice are that you have spiritual guidance along the way, spiritual armor for protection, spiritual authority and equipment to help you overcome obstacles in life. Let's look at each of these.

1. You have received God's acceptance

The Bible says that the moment you became God's child, your name was written down in Heaven. You were accepted by God because of who you are – his child – recorded in his family register (Philippians 4:3, Luke 10:20). You belong to God's family.

Your heavenly Father gets so much enjoyment from his children.

He will rejoice over you with joy;...in his love he will be silent and make no mention (of past sins, or even recall them); He will rejoice over you with singing.

Zephaniah 3:17 Amp

According to the Bible, no matter how many good things you do or how noble their cause, they will not earn God's acceptance. You are accepted and loved simply because you became his child.

It was not because of any good deeds that we ourselves had done, but because of his own mercy that he saved us, through the Holy Spirit, who gives us new birth and new life by washing us.

Titus 3:5 GNB

2. You have received freedom

When you became God's precious child you were not only saved from your sins, but from the power that causes you to have a bias toward sinning – the power that keeps you locked into addictions, weaknesses and destructive patterns. These can include chemical addictions of alcohol or drugs; emotional addictions of depression, rejection or anger; activity addictions of gambling; food or sexual addictions.

*Your old evil desires were nailed to the cross with him (Jesus); that part of you that loves to sin was crushed and fatally wounded, so that **your sin-loving body is no longer under sin's control**, no longer needs to be a slave to sin; for when you are deadened to sin you are freed from all its allure and its power over you.*

Romans 6:6-7 TLB

This Bible verse does not say you will be free from sin, but free from the power that causes you to be a slave to sin. That is because the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is in you and will set you free.

God sent Jesus to bless you and set you free from sin's power and bad habits (Acts 3:26).



Before Jesus returned to heaven he instructed his disciples to tell others of the good news of his death, burial and resurrection and baptise those that believe (Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16).

When born-again Christians are baptized or immersed in water they are outwardly declaring what Jesus has done for them. They rely on the fact that their sin-loving nature was put out of action when Jesus died, and when he rose from the dead they were given a wonderful new life to enjoy (Romans 6:2-11).

Pray this prayer until you are free from addictions, weaknesses or destructive patterns.

**Thank you Jesus that you died to bless me by taking upon yourself my sins and evil desires.
I consider my sin-loving nature powerless today and look to your presence and power to give me victory.
In your name Jesus, I declare that every addiction, weakness and destructive pattern in my life will no longer be my master, for you are my master and Lord.**



Brad finds freedom

Brad started experimenting with drugs after his girlfriend called off their engagement. One thing led to another and before long he was in organised crime, constantly living in fear.

Brad had everything a man could want: money, women, power and authority. Yet he didn't feel right inside.

When Brad accepted Jesus' forgiveness, the guilt and shame of the past left him. Brad became empowered to overcome and his life changed from drugs, crime and sleeping around to living a self-disciplined life, full of joy and great satisfaction. He described his new freedom and acceptance as "just awesome".

3. You have received God's nature and power

Two thousand years ago God sent his son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus has the same nature as his Father, so while he was on earth he showed us what God the Father is like (John 14:7-11).

After Jesus rose from the dead he appeared to his followers many times. He told them that he was returning to his Father in Heaven and would give them the Holy Spirit so that they could have God's nature and power (John 14:16).

God put his special mark of ownership on you by giving you the Holy Spirit that he had promised.
Ephesians 1:13



God gives us the gift of himself, his own Spirit, to empower us to be like him in nature.

The Holy Spirit is known as the Spirit of God.

*You do not live as your human nature tells you to; instead, you live as the Holy Spirit tells you to – if, in fact, **God’s Spirit** lives in you. Whoever does not have the **Spirit of Christ** does not belong to him.*

Romans 8:9 GNB

The verse above shows us that the Holy Spirit is also known as the Spirit of Christ. Christ in the Bible is a title given to Jesus, which means the Anointed One, who was sent by God. When you asked Jesus Christ to come into your life, you were asking the Spirit of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, to come into your human spirit.

The Bible says the Holy Spirit is your helper (John 16:7).

Here are **some** ways the Holy Spirit helps you:

🔗 **The Holy Spirit gives you the power and ability to respect Jesus and do what he sees is best for you.**

No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” and really mean it, unless the Holy Spirit is helping them.

1 Corinthians 12:3b TLB

🔗 **The Holy Spirit produces God’s nature in you, as you allow him to.**

When the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22 TLB

🔗 **The Holy Spirit is your teacher, counselor and guide.**

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into all truth.

John 16:13a

🔗 **The Holy Spirit strengthens you.**

Out of his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you the mighty inner strengthening of his Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 3:16 TLB

🔗 **The Holy Spirit gives you hope.**

Paul wrote in his letter to the Christians in Rome:

May God, the source of hope, fill you with all joy and peace by means of your faith in him, so that your hope will continue to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 GNB

🔗 **The Holy Spirit helps you pray.**

By our faith – the Holy Spirit helps us with our daily problems and in our praying.

Romans 8:26a TLB

You do not have to have the right words when you pray. God looks at your heart. This verse says the Holy Spirit will help you pray. So ask him!

Holy Spirit, please help me to pray.

🔗 **The Holy Spirit enables you to share Jesus’ love with others.**

When the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will receive power. You will be my witnesses.

Acts 1:8

4. You have received direct access

Through the history of various religions, man has used traditions to have us believe that the only way to make contact with God is through priests or ministers. However, the Bible says we can go directly to God in prayer because Jesus made it possible when he died on the cross.

*It is through Christ we **all** have the right to come to the Father.*

Ephesians 2:18

In Christ we can come before God with freedom and without fear.

Ephesians 3:12

Prayer is listening and talking to God. We know God will answer our prayers because the Bible says:

We are sure of this, that he (God) will listen to us whenever we ask him for anything in line with his will. And if we really know he is listening when we talk to him and make our requests, then we can be sure that he will answer us.

1 John 5:14-15

To know God's will in a situation you have to be quiet before him and listen to him. He may remind you of a Bible verse. You are praying what he wants every time you pray according to God's Word, the Bible. That is why the prayers in this book are based on the Bible.

The Bible shows us there are many aspects to prayer:

🔑 **Prayer is praising or appreciating God your creator for who he is and what he has done for you.**

When you praise and adore God by speaking or singing to him you are giving him the best you can give. He loves you and wants you to love him. Prayer is saying, "I love and appreciate you Jesus."

In the Bible we read how King David praised and appreciated God after he experienced God's power and presence:

Because Your loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise you.

Psalm 63:3 Amp

King David knew his God. He learnt to praise God in the good and bad times because he believed God was greater than his circumstances.

*I will praise the LORD at **all** times; his praise is always on my lips. My whole being praises the LORD.*

Psalm 34:1-2a

🔑 **Prayer is getting right with God.**

It is saying, "Forgive me."

If we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins... He will cleanse us from all the wrongs we have done.

1 John 1:9

🔗 **Prayer is asking God to meet your needs.**

Prayer is telling God that you depend on him. It is saying, “God I need you.”



PRAYER WILL MAKE A WAY

*Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for **everything** you need, always giving thanks.*

Philippians 4:6

🔗 **Prayer is asking God to meet the needs of others.**

Prayer is giving God permission to bring about his purposes in their lives. It is saying, “God fulfil your purpose in _____’s life.”

Pray for all people, asking God for what they need and being thankful to him. This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to know the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1,3

🔗 **Prayer is being thankful to God for what he has done for you and what he has promised to do.**

It is saying, “Thank you God for giving me _____.”

Pray continually, and give thanks whatever happens.

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

🔗 **Prayer is your way to understand God’s plan for you.**

Your heavenly Father has a plan and destiny for you. He loves you very much and wants you to come to him for direction, just as a child would come to a good earthly father for guidance.

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.

Psalm 16:11 NIV



In the Bible the relationship between God the Father and his children is likened to the way a shepherd looks after his sheep.

Jesus said:

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

John 10:27

God longs to speak to his children.

How will God speak to me when he is guiding me?

God can speak from inside you in many ways. He can speak to you through the Bible. He does this by causing a verse in the Bible to 'stand out' more than any other verse. He can speak through a strong impression or spontaneous thought. It is not your thought process, but a 'knowing' in your inner being. You know it is God speaking through the Holy Spirit, when you have his peace and the thought process will not go away. He can speak through a dream, a vision, circumstances, nature or something a pastor, mentor, spouse or friend says.

Use this checklist to help protect you from making wrong decisions when you are learning to hear God's voice.

- 🔓 Does what you think God is saying go against a principle in the Bible? God **never** goes against what he says in his Word - the Bible.
- 🔓 If you feel God is speaking from one verse in the Bible have you also read other verses on that subject to see how they relate to each other?
- 🔓 If it involves a major decision have you shared what you feel God is saying with someone who has studied the Bible? Ask them to show you the verses in the Bible that back up their advice.
- 🔓 Is the timing right? Sometimes God speaks to us about something that is for the future.



God shows His plan and purpose

An unmistakable inner thought filled Wilma's mind at the age of sixteen. God told her to do nurses' training, two years of bible college and then she would get married and go to Ethiopia as a missionary.

Bill had been a single missionary in Ethiopia for five years when God spoke to him through a strong impression while he was praying and said he would give him a wife when he returned to Australia on leave. On his way home, to save money, Bill stopped in Singapore and bought the engagement and wedding rings. He had just enough money left to buy a watch. The name of the watch was "Rebekah". God spoke to him again as he was reading the story of Rebekah in the Bible, "Just as I led Abraham's servant to find a wife for Isaac, I will lead you to your future wife" (Genesis chapter 24).

Upon arriving in Australia, Bill went to visit the bible college where he had trained. On the way, Bill heard an inner voice saying, "She is in the college". He prayed, "Lord, let it be the first girl I meet." Wilma was the first girl he met!

They were so sure of God's plan for their lives that the next time they met they were engaged. It has been a great marriage because Bill and Wilma allowed God to direct them in the purposes that he had for them.

God has promised to show you the right way when you:

*Trust the Lord completely; don't even trust yourself. In everything you do, put God first, and **he will direct you** and crown your efforts with success.*

Proverbs 3:5b-6 TLB

5. You have received spiritual armor

There are good spiritual forces and bad spiritual forces at war all the time. The devil, who is also called Satan, is the enemy that leads the evil spiritual forces. The Bible says the devil disguises himself as an “angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14). He makes sinful options look more appealing or attractive so that you choose them over what God would have you do.

God has provided spiritual armor to protect you from the devil's schemes and tricks.



As his child you are able to put on different pieces of spiritual armor just as you would if you were going into battle. These pieces of armor represent: Jesus' truth, righteousness (his goodness and holy nature), power, faith, salvation and his Word. You can read about the various parts of spiritual armor in the book of Ephesians 6:10-18.

Put on the full armor of God so that you can fight against the devil's evil tricks.
Ephesians 6:11

When you put on all the spiritual armor of God you are inviting Jesus into **every** area of your life. It is God's presence that protects you from the enemy.

Christ's divine presence within him preserves him against the evil - and the wicked one does not lay hold (get a grip) on him.
1 John 5:18 Amp

Following is a suggested prayer that you can pray **every day** to help you depend on Jesus and defend yourself. This is how you put on the armor of God.

Thank you Jesus that *your truth* frees me from sin and its consequences. Help me recognize the deception and lies of the evil one so I can replace them with your truth.

Thank you Jesus that others will see *your good and holy nature* through all I do and say today. Fill me with your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Thank you Jesus for directing my steps as I depend on *your power* to share your forgiveness and life with others.

Thank you Jesus for promising to care for me when I trust you. Replace my fears and doubts with *your faith* as I ask you to help me with the challenges I face today (be specific).

Thank you Jesus that *your salvation* is blessing me with your goodness in every area of my life – healing, providing, protecting and delivering me from sin.

Through your blood, Jesus, I will overcome today, for it is written in *your Word* that you triumphed over all the powers of darkness when you died on the cross.

Ephesians 6:10-18, John 8:32, Galatians 5:22, Acts 1:8, Mark 11:22-23, Acts 4:12, Revelation 12:11, Colossians 2:15.

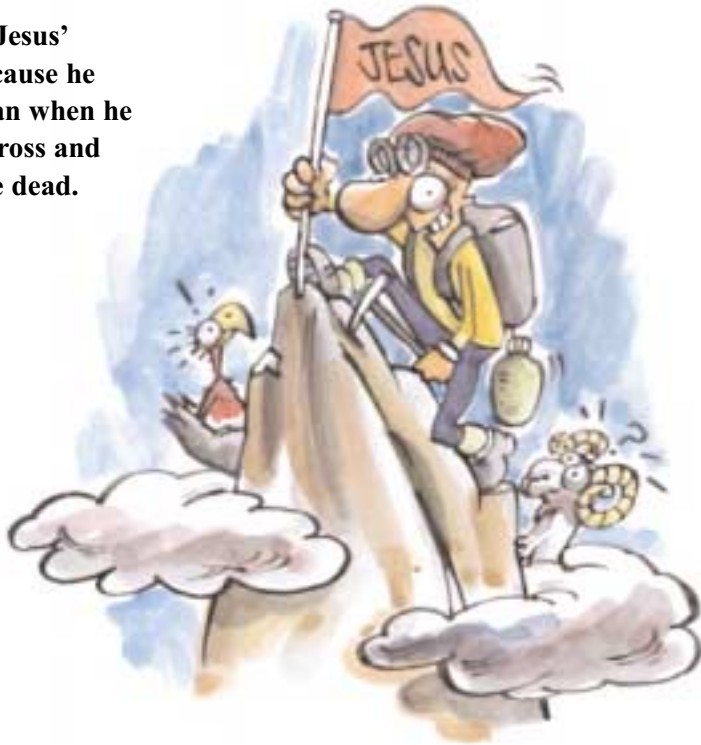
6. You have received spiritual authority

As God's child you not only have direct access to your heavenly Father, but you have been given the rights and privileges of being his child.

To as many as did receive and welcome him, he gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God.
John 1:12 Amp

You no longer need to feel intimidated or inadequate in a situation, for you have the right to use God's spiritual power and authority to stop or prevent the evil spiritual forces.

You can use Jesus' authority because he defeated Satan when he died on the cross and rose from the dead.



God stripped the spiritual rulers and powers of their authority. With the cross, he won the victory and showed the world that they were powerless.
Colossians 2:15

The Bible says, as well as protection, you have authority over the devil when every area of your life is given to God.

Give yourself completely to God. Stand against the devil, and the devil will run from you.
James 4:7

The Bible also says the thief, who is the devil, comes to rob, kill and destroy (John 10:10). Is the devil robbing you of your joy, peace, health, and money or destroying your relationships?



Jessica uses her spiritual authority

Jessica woke one day to the shock that her husband had left her. The following week her teenage daughter left home confused and rebellious. For six months her daughter did not contact Jessica because she feared her mother would disapprove of the way she was living. In despair, Jessica cried out to God for help. God showed her through the Bible that she had allowed the devil to rob her of her family and that he had already given her authority over the devil's tactics. Within a short time of praying, Jessica's daughter rang to say that she had received Jesus and asked if she could come home!

On the following page is a prayer to use your spiritual authority and stop the devil robbing you. Add or take away words that do not relate to your circumstances. Remember that prayer is simply talking to God, so say it in your own words if it is easier.

**I turn to you, Jesus, as my Savior and Lord.
Please forgive me for wrong attitudes, thoughts
and words.**

**In your name, Jesus, I stand against the devil and
refuse to allow him to rob me of my peace, joy,
health, money and family relationships.**

**Thank you Lord Jesus for fulfilling your purpose
in my life and the lives of my family and friends.**

7. You have received spiritual equipment

The devil has three main weapons he uses against us: sin, accusations and bad habits. God provides us with much more powerful weapons to overcome the devil's evil tactics. God's spiritual equipment to defeat the devil's weapons are: Jesus' name, blood and Word.



THE POWER OF HIS NAME, BLOOD AND WORD

God has given you powerful weapons to exercise your spiritual authority.

a. You can use Jesus' name

You destroy the devil's tactics by using the name of Jesus. As God's child you have been given authority to use Jesus' powerful name.

These verses in the Bible are speaking about Jesus:

*When he was living as a man, he humbled himself and was fully obedient to God, even when that caused his death – death on a cross. So God raised him to the highest place. **God made his name greater than every other name** so that every knee must bow to the name of Jesus.*

Philippians 2:8-10a

When you pray in the name of Jesus you are using the spiritual authority and power God has given you to make his will happen here on earth.

Here are three practical ways you can use Jesus' name.

➤ Use the name of Jesus to overcome.

When you talk to God and use Jesus' name you have the authority to stop every evil power that tries to attack you and release God's goodness in its place.

*With your help we pushed back our enemies. **In your name** we trampled those who came against us.*

Psalms 44:5



Office environment changes

Mei-Lee was becoming stressed by the constant strife and politics in her job. On her way to work each day she began to pray in Jesus' name that the evil powers would leave and that God's peace would come into her work place. Soon Mei-Lee noticed a significant change in her office environment.

Use the name of Jesus for healing.

In the Bible, Peter understood the power of Jesus' name when he said to the crippled man:

*Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. **In the name of Jesus** Christ of Nazareth, walk.*
Acts 3:6 NIV

Peter went on to say:

By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.
Acts 3:16 NIV

Jesus' presence always brings change. He said:

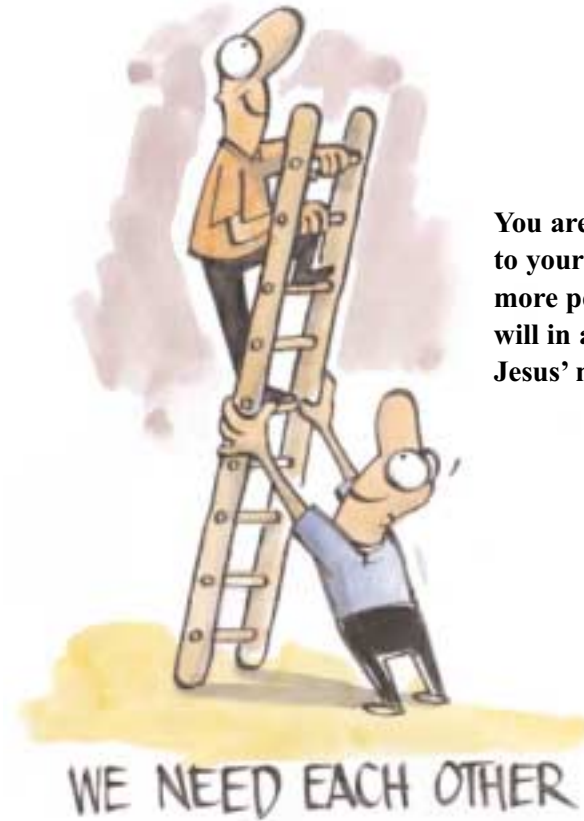
*I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about something and pray about it, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. This is true because if two or three people will come together **in my name**, I am there with them.*
Matthew 18:19-20



Young boy healed

Tania's little boy fell and split his tongue down the middle. The doctor was reluctant to stitch the tongue together but became concerned when the tongue continued to bleed for six hours. "What we need is a miracle!" the doctor said anxiously. Tania said, "Good, I believe in miracles."

Tania rang Kirsten and together they asked God to heal the boy's tongue in Jesus' name. The bleeding stopped immediately and before Tania's eyes the halves of her little boy's tongue joined completely together.



You are promised an answer to your prayers when two or more people agree on God's will in anything and pray in Jesus' name.

🔗 Use Jesus' name to meet your needs

*If you ask me for anything **in my name**, I will do it.*
John 14:14



Child's simple faith

Leanne was five years old when she heard her parents Peter and Sarah pray for a house. They finished their prayer by saying "in Jesus' name". Each time they prayed Leanne would add, "and thank you God, for a trailer home too". Not wanting their small daughter to be disappointed, her parents explained that getting a house was a very big thing and perhaps she should just ask God for a house.

Leanne did not give up. She continued to add her request each time her parents prayed. The same day Peter and Sarah found the house they wanted, a relative phoned and said they were going away with work for two years and asked Peter and Sarah to look after their large trailer home. The relatives knew nothing about Leanne's prayer request. God had answered her prayer and the family was able to stay in the trailer home until their new house became available.

b. You have Jesus' blood

You destroy the devil's tactics by reminding him that Jesus shed his blood on the cross to take the punishment for your sins.

Remember in the life-changing web presentation, we defined sin as anything that is not like God's holy nature. For example:

God is truth, therefore anything that is untruthful is sin.

God is just, therefore anything that is unjust is sin.

God is love, therefore anything that is unloving in word or action is sin.

To truly repent of our sin is to admit we have sinned, be sorry that we have done wrong and choose not to want to sin like that again.

If you are feeling guilty after you have repented for things you have done wrong in the past, then you have the right to tell the devil, "My sin is gone and I'm set free by the blood of Jesus" and he **will** back off.

*In Christ we are set free by the blood of his death, and **so we have forgiveness of sins.***
Ephesians 1:7

*The blood of Jesus, God's Son, cleanses us from **every sin.***
1 John 1:7

c. You have God's word

You destroy the devil's tactics by using God's Word, the Bible. The Bible says Jesus spent forty days in the desert. When Jesus was hungry the devil tempted him three times. Each time Jesus overcame the devil's temptations by quoting Bible verses (Luke 4:1-13).

You too can have victory over the devil by quoting from the Bible.

For whatever God says to us is full of living power.
Hebrews 4:12a TLB

For example, when the devil accuses you of being weak, speak this Bible verse out loud.

*God's Spirit, who is in **me**, is greater than the devil, who is in the world.*
1 John 4:4 personalized

When Satan is trying to make you feel bad about yourself, remind him of this verse:

*Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose **me** to be his very own, through what Christ would do for **me**; he decided then to make **me** holy in his eyes, without a single fault – I who stand before him covered with his love.*

Ephesians 1:4 TLB personalized

You have come to the end of this section where you have been shown some of the best spiritual secrets for God's children. You are loved and accepted by God and now have the goodness of his nature in you. He is there to guide you and has given you spiritual armor to protect you. When you have problems, you can use your spiritual authority through his name, his blood and his Word to take control of the situation.

The next section will fast-track your progress. We give you the most common things that stop you from experiencing the best God has for you.

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