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"Will God forgive me if I greatly sin AFTER
I have accepted him as my Savior?"

The answer is found over and over in the Bible...and the answer is a resounding YES! Here are some examples from some great men of the Bible:

David

The King of Israel and called in the Bible "a man after God's own heart" was also a adulterer who had his girlfriend Bathsheeba's husband killed. After he had tried to hide his sin for many years, David had a conversation with the prophet Nathan (whom God had sent to confront David about his sin):

2SA 12:13 David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."
Nathan said to David, "Now the LORD has put away your sin; you shall not die.

Why? Because he confessed it!

Peter was a close disciple of Jesus. Just before Jesus was convicted, Jesus told Peter that he would deny he even knew him three times. Peter of course DID deny he knew the Lord of the universe...Jesus.

MAT 26:74 Then he began to curse, and he (Peter) swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed.

MAT 26:75 Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Peter later was crucified upside down for his refusal to not quit preaching about Jesus. Did he sin? BIG TIME!!

Paul

Before he was converted on the road to Damascus, Saul (later to be renamed Paul by Jesus) was a persecutor of Christians. It is estimated that Paul had a hand in killing over 3,000 people for their belief in Christ BEFORE he himself became a Christian.

ACT 9:1 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest .

Paul later became the greatest apostle for Jesus. Paul also fought a terrible battle with sin:

Jesus himself told the parable (story) of the Prodigal son. In the story, the son who wanted everything and then went and partied all his money away represents us. God is represented by the father who; though he knows his son will fall deeply in sin, gives him his freedom of choice to do it and yet waits patiently for him to return. (sound familiar)

LUK 15:11 Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons.

LUK 15:12 The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them.

LUK 15:13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

LUK 15:14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.

LUK 15:15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.

LUK 15:16 He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

LUK 15:17 But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hi s have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!

LUK 15:18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;

LUK 15:19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hi s."

LUK 15:20 So he set off and went to his father. **But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.**

LUK 15:21 Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

LUK 15:22 But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

LUK 15:23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;

LUK 15:24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

LUK 15:25 "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.

LUK 15:26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.

LUK 15:27 He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.'

LUK 15:28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

LUK 15:29 But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet

you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.

LUK 15:30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!

LUK 15:31 Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.

LUK 15:32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because **this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.**'"

The Bible has much to say about sin being forgiven:

MAT 12:31 Therefore I tell you, people will be forgiven **for every sin** and blasphemy...

Jesus tells us what happens in Heaven when a sinner repents:

LUK 15:7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

...And he tells us what we are to do when we forgive. Since God is a greater forgiver than us, this gives us an idea how great God's forgiveness is.

LUK 17:3 Be on your guard! If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive.

LUK 17:4 And if the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times and says, 'I repent,' you must forgive."

Once you have committed your life into God's care you are saved FOREVER! Because you are saved forever, Satan's desire is to keep you from knowing God and keep you from telling other people about him. Take heart, you are not the only one involved in this struggle:

1PE 5:8 Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.

1PE 5:9 Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

JOH 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that

everyone who believes in him may not perish **but may have eternal life.**

JOH 3:17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

JOH 3:18 **Those who believe in him are not condemned;** but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

JOH 5:24 Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, **and does not come under judgment,** but has passed from death to life.

JOH 6:40 This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

JOH 1:12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,

You will feel guilty after sinning however because that is the Holy Spirit convicting you of your sin (the Bible calls this "knowing his voice"). It also says that no one (Satan

included) can take you out of God's hand. Because you feel guilty is one way that you can know that you truly are a Child of God's.

JOH 10:27 My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.

JOH 10:28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.

JOH 10:29 What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.

Do you have worth to Jesus? In the above passage Jesus is talking about sinners and he says: "**What my Father has given me is greater than all else** (he considers us greater than anything in the universe-and he should know, he created it) , and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.

The fact of the matter is we have all sinned, do sin, continue to sin and will sin until we go to heaven. We cannot work our way to heaven or have good enough deeds or quit sinning enough to justify our going to heaven. It is only because of what Jesus did on the cross do we have any hope of heaven.

ROM 3:23 **since all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God;

ROM 4:5 But to one who without works (good deeds) trusts him (JESUS) who justifies the ungodly (sinners),

such faith is reckoned as **righteousness**. (the word means..as if you had NEVER sinned)

ROM 5:1 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, (believing in Jesus) we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (because of Christ not us)

ROM 5:12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all **because all have sinned--**

ROM 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors (over sin, this life and physical death) through him who loved us. (Jesus)

The great disciple Paul said:

ROM 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

ROM 8:39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Even though you may continue some of your old sinful habits, once you are a Christian that settles your eternal situation. The Corinthians in the Bible were believers who lived in a city where every known sin and pleasure was considered OK. They continuously kept slipping back into their old sin habits and some were afraid that because they were sinning like they used to they would lose their salvation. Paul wrote and told them this:

1CO 6:9 Do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! Fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, sodomites,

1CO 6:10 thieves, the greedy, drunkards, revilers, robbers--none of these will inherit the kingdom of God.

The above should cover just about everyone who reads this.

1CO 6:11 **And this is what some of you used to be.** But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

When you become a Christian you are washed, you are sanctified, you are justified (*the word justified can be thought of as "just as if I'd never sinned"*) in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2CO 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him *we might become the righteousness of God.*

God chose you to be his before you were born...even though he knew the sin you were to commit, are committing and will commit...

EPH 1:4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.

EPH 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us

EPH 2:5 **even when we were dead through our trespasses** (sins), made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved--

EPH 2:6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

EPH 2:7 so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

EPH 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and **this is not your own doing**; it is the gift of God--

EPH 2:9 not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

Yes, you will sin, but the one thing that is a pattern in all of God's Bible is that sin, confessed by a Christian, is totally forgiven and thrown as far as the east is to the west...never to be remembered again by God. And that is a promise!

Psalm 103:12 as far as the east is from the west,so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

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