

# WHEN YOUR PAST CONDEMNS YOU

*“Then I heard a loud voice in the heavens say: ‘Now have come the salvation, and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame Him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell on them! But woe to the earth and sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He and is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.’ ” **Revelation 12:10-12***

And his time is short! **Revelation 19-20**

*“Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring.” **Revelation 12:17*** Those who “obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus” are the church.

The word of the Lord is telling us that there is an accuser of the brethren. He wants to accuse us day and night before the throne of God. He is always trying to find fault with God's people. He is always trying to belittle and condemn us. He is critical and negative because we are God's creation.

We are the highest of God's creation. Before the fall of man there was no negative nonsense entering into his life. However, after Adam and Eve went against God, they stepped into a place of condemnation. They stepped into a place of guilt. Criticalness and negativity entered into the spirit realm in their lives.

Have you ever wondered why there is such negativity around? It is because of the accuser of the brethren. He is the accuser, and he tries to accuse through people as well.

Have you found that you have had a critical or negative spirit? Were you judging people and situations? Prejudice is pre-judging a situation (and the people) before you have all the facts. You think you already know what it is about.

When people prejudge, they miss God. The Lord is not always in the big hullabaloo. He was not in the big earthquake and He was not in the wind

when He appeared to Elijah. What was He in? He was in the still, small voice.

Elijah had gotten himself into thinking negatively, and a depressive spirit was working on him. He kept saying that he was the only one left in Israel and that he was not bound to the false gods. Everything was negative. "God is not good, and to hell with life."

Have you ever been in that spot? What is it? It is the influence of the accuser of the brethren. He is working. Criticalness catches up and comes upon you.

When you associate with negative or critical people, the next thing you know you are negative, critical, and finding fault. When someone is critical of you, it is easy to be critical back. The accuser of the brethren works in that. The thief wants to steal, kill, and destroy, but we will overcome him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony.

What did the blood of Jesus do for us? It took away all our sins. It took away our separation from God. Accusations will separate two friends. Proverbs says, "*the whisperer separates chief friends.*"

What does the whisperer do? Make accusations, saying divisive comments and twisting the truth so we perceive people and situations in a different light than we should. You can be very excited about something wonderful when someone comes along and makes a stupid comment. All of a sudden what you were happy about doesn't seem special anymore.

Perhaps somebody made a negative comment right after you had your hair fixed. You felt really good about it until someone said something. Then you didn't feel good anymore. That is how it works. If it is a good thing, why are we allowing someone else's opinion to make it not good? This happens all the time.

The Lord spoke to me one day as I was driving to church. He said, "Son, I am not interested in your opinions. I am not interested in your opinions about anything." I thought, *That's good.* He explained, "I'm not interested in anybody's opinions about anything because that is all they are – opinions." Then he said, "Continue to teach My word and My truth to My people." God's truth is what sets people free, not opinions. The word of God sets people free. The blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, overcomes this kind of condemnation.

Sin separates us from God. Guilt of the sin separates us from God and from one another. When Adam and Eve became aware that they were out of the will of God, the first thing they did was hide. They saw their nakedness. They saw their condition.

People justify, rationalize and try to cover up. When Adam and Eve hid from God, there was a break in their relationship with Him. They had never hidden from Him before because they loved to be in His presence. Then guilt separated them. The blood of Jesus removes all of the guilt, all the separation, all the condemnation. The kind of thing that says, "Why did I do it? I shouldn't have done it. If I were really a good Christian, I would not have done that."

Sin happens, but the blood of Jesus breaks the power of the condemnation and guilt (and everything that separates us from God). When a person is faithful to acknowledge his sins to God, He is faithful and just to forgive and to cleanse from all unrighteousness. The Lord will take it away like it never happened. *1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9*

In Jesus that is how we overcome these accusations. The blood of Jesus takes the accusations away. When the devil comes to God, Jesus is like an attorney or mediator for us before the throne. *1<sup>st</sup> John 2* The devil is the accuser of the brethren. Jesus is our defense attorney. When the devil makes an accusation, Jesus says, "No! The blood was given for them, and they have acknowledged this unto God, and they are forgiven." They are justified (declared not guilty) before the Lord. The Lord, the judge, says, "Not guilty."

No matter with what accusations the devil comes, and no matter what comments come through people, if we have acknowledged our sin to God, then it has no power over us. We are under the blood of Jesus. We are forgiven and have no guilt!

On Passover, as shown in the Old Testament, the Israelites put the blood of the lamb over their doorframes. When the angel passed over, he saw the blood and did not visit those houses with death. They were passed over. When we are under the blood of Jesus, the thief has to pass over. He can't harm us. He can't abuse us. He can't confuse us, and he can't use us. We belong to the Lord. We are under the blood of Jesus.

Have you ever gone out into the fields where the bugs thrive? Did they bite you? Did you spray on some bug repellent? Did the bugs come around as much? Under the blood of Jesus no demonic activity can have any power

over your life, mind, body, finances, or relationships because you are under the protection of God. You are under the blessing of God. We overcome through the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. What is the word of our testimony? "I am forgiven! Thank you, Jesus!"

You are forgiven; you are loved, that is your testimony. No matter what you have done; no matter what you have been involved in, God loves you. You are forgiven when you ask the Lord. *1<sup>st</sup> John. 1:9*

*James 1* shows something about the heart of the Lord: While we were still enemies of God, the blood of Jesus was given for us. When the accuser of the brethren made accusation against us, it was because we were sinners, having been separated from God. We were of the line of Adam, and we were born into sin. There was nothing we could do that was pleasing to God. "*There is none that doeth good.*" The Lord says, "*no, not one.*" Nobody did any good. We were all under accusation. We were all under condemnation. We were all under guilt before the Lord.

The Lord knew this and in His great love He came for us. He gave Himself for us. He gave His blood and His life at that cross so that we could have life with Him, and there would be no more condemnation or guilt, and nothing separating us from His great love. This is the heart of God, and it came while we were His enemies, while we were out there – separated from God.

Note the difference between God's attitude and the devil's attitude. The devil wants us separated from God. He wants us under guilt and condemnation. He never wants us to put any faith in God or see anything good happen in our lives.

The devil always wants us to feel like we are falling short, we are never good or worthy enough, we are never able to measure up, we are never able to do anything right. We will never amount to anything. That is what the accuser of the brethren is spewing out before the throne of God about us. That is what he is trying to get us to believe. If you believe it, you will become that way. God said, "No! These are my children whom I love, and I am not going to leave them in the pit."

We find the heart of God in *James 1:5*: "*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.*" The Lord is not looking for fault in us. Some people have the misconstrued idea (that the devil put into their thoughts or it came from

other ignorant people) that God is a judge concerned about declaring us guilty because He wants us guilty. That is the lie.

Guilty is the verdict the devil received, and he will never come back to God because he doesn't want to come back. If a loving and a merciful God ever wanted to show mercy, he would show it to everybody. It is people who don't want to come back. The Lord's heart is mercy day in and day out, fresh and new every morning. He gives everybody an opportunity to be blessed and to have the good life that He promised and supplied through Jesus Christ.

The Lord does not find fault. He is not looking for fault. He knows how we are and He loves us in spite of it. He forgives us. You see, the blood is about forgiveness. Don't ever think Jesus didn't have to give His blood. It was what saved us. It was the only way that we could come to the Lord. It is the only way we could be forgiven and declared not guilty. It is the only way that we could be worthy before the Lord. Our testimony is our confession of faith, faith in what God has done for us in His love in giving the blood for us.

*“If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. I wait on the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in His word do I hope.” Psalm 130:3-5*

The word of God tells us what Jesus has done for us. The word of God tells us who we are now because of the blood of Jesus. It is a good thing to be loved and forgiven. It is a good thing to know that the Lord is reaching out to us. If we are acting outside of the will of God, we have an Advocate who would help us if we were to ask God's forgiveness, and he would change that behavior. He would help us to change and to do what is right in His sight. He does not find fault.

Many people feel they cannot approach God because they should know more by now, but the Lord is not assuming anything about us. Many people are harder on themselves than the Lord is. The more you try to think thoughts that you are not doing well, the worse it will get. Have you tried to be a Christian? It does not work. If I know I am a Christian, everything will work a lot better. Either I am or am not a Christian, and if I am not, then I need to become one. I need to ask Jesus into my life. I need to accept that the blood of Jesus washed me and cleansed me and made me one of His.

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17* I understand that the new me in

Jesus has never done anything against God. That is important to understand. I believe God, I love God, and I delight in the commandments of God. My mind needs to be renewed by the word of God, and my body needs to be brought under control to my new spirit. When I receive Jesus into my heart to be my Lord and Savior, my spirit which was dead to God became alive to Him. Then the Lord helps me, and He comes to live within me.

When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, He comes to live in your new spirit. It is a new spirit alive to God (born again). You are a new creation, and the new creation is washed. It is cleansed by the word of God and by the blood of Jesus. *1<sup>st</sup> John* talks about the water and the blood. Water often represents the word of God and the blood is the blood of Jesus. Put the two together and they are what cleans you and wash you. They empower you to live for God. The old is gone and the new has come. All of this is from God who reconciled you to himself through Christ and gave you the ministry of reconciliation.

What the Lord did with us (He did not find fault with us) is the ministry of reconciliation. If you have something against somebody, you will not want to reconcile, will you? Why not? Because you have a wrong heart towards that person. You are not looking for the good things. You are looking for the negative, looking to find fault. If you want to find fault, you will find it, but if you want to look for good things, you will find them.

A minister of reconciliation looks for good things and looks through the eyes of Jesus. You cannot look through your own eyes because your eyes don't see what Jesus sees. Your heart and your mind are not in the right spot. You are still holding resentment. If you are holding onto negative, then you do not see clearly.

Jesus said, "*Judge not lest you be judged. Take the log out of your own eyes so that you can see clearly to get the speck out of your brothers and sisters.*" The problem with many people (when they look at others) is that they are seeing their own log. They think, *Oh man, you have a problem, brother.* It is what we call projection. They are projecting what is going on in themselves to somebody else. The reason you see it so well is because you are full of it.

The Lord is removing it. He is whittling it away. He wants to get rid of it. You see, to whom much has been forgiven, the same loves much.

I know how much I have been forgiven. I know how awful it is to not be forgiven and to be under guilt, condemnation and the day-in-day-out torment

that goes with it. I am thankful that I am not separated from God and from people anymore because of Jesus' forgiveness.

If you have been in a relationship where you felt guilty and did not go near someone, how glorious it is when the guilt is removed and the reconciliation happens. God has called us to be ministers of reconciliation, but I cannot do that until I first realize how much the Lord has forgiven me, loves me, and cares about me. The person who shows mercy will be given more mercy.

We are called to this ministry of reconciliation where God has reconciled the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. He has committed the message of reconciliation to us – because of the blood of Jesus, God is not holding people guilty. *2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5*

The disciples, James and John, were with Jesus in Samaria when the people did not receive Him – not because of who He was or because of his message, but because of prejudice. The Jews and the Samaritans had nothing to do with each other. They were bitter enemies. As soon as the Samaritans knew that you were a Jew, they would have nothing to do with you.

Many people are like that. Prejudice takes on many forms. It is amazing how it divides, condemns, judges, and belittles people while hindering the great blessing of a relationship. That is what life is all about – relationship. First, God's relationship with us; second, our relationship with Him; and third, our relationship with one another.

If you draw a line representing His love coming down to you and your love going up in response to Him, with a line across representing your response to others, what do you have? A simple cross. You cannot show mercy and forgiveness until you realize how much God has loved and forgiven you. He initiated a relationship with you while you were His enemy by dying on the cross for you.

Man's way is: only if people treat you nicely, then you will be nice to them. This is not God's way.

*“We are, therefore, Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf be reconciled to God.”* The first step is becoming not guilty. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. That means we have no guilt, no condemnation, no unworthiness, and no separation anymore. We are together forever. It comes as soon as we acknowledge our sin to God.

Acknowledging your sin is the key to the whole thing, but many people leave that part out. It is the blood of Jesus which forgives the sins of the world, and Jesus came to save the world, but I must accept and receive that love if I am to be saved.

The Old Testament blood sacrifices were offered at various times for the forgiveness of sins. The New Testament reveals Jesus as the Lamb of God, so no more sacrifices are to be offered. He was the once-and-for-all sacrifice to take away all the sins of the world. I must now accept God's provision. People need to hear that.

It is called repentance and belief. Repentance means you must give up your old life and turn to God. Pride will make you rationalize and justify yourself. It will make you think you don't need God's provision and you are always right.

Are you a legend in your own mind? Apart from Christ you always think about yourself, always try to cover yourself, always try to promote yourself. You try to do something to make yourself right.

An Indian proverb tells of two rams that locked horns, and they died that way. All that remained were their locked horns. The proverb represents how it works when you think you are right and the other person is wrong (and never the two shall meet). It is what keeps people away from the blessing of God. They are always under condemnation at that point.

When you disobey God, you are under condemnation. When you feel that condemnation, it is the Holy Spirit showing you are out of line. If you should tell the devil to get away, he is not going because you are not submitted to God.

*“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7* If you are living outside of the will of God today as a Christian, you need to get back under the blood. What does that mean? The accuser of the brethren can do anything he wants to you because you are outside of God's protection and blessing.

That is why you feel bad. If your heart does not condemn you, there is something wrong. You might not be a Christian. If you are a Christian, your heart will condemn you because the Spirit of God is in you. If you are doing something that is not right, then you will feel guilt. It is called Holy

Spirit guilt. What is it intended to do? Turn you back to the cross. God will help you to go back to the cross.

The law of God will drive you back to the cross when you are disobedient. That is why people have to hear what God's laws are. He says what is blessed, and He says what is cursed. This is very important. Nowadays people do not like hearing laws.

It is time to be transparent about what is going on in our lives and realizing what is right and blessed, and what is wrong and cursed. Ask God's forgiveness for it and don't entertain it anymore. Renounce it and get rid of it. When you do that you are submitting yourself to God under the blood of Jesus. **James 4:7** When you acknowledge your sin to God, He is faithful and just to forgive you and to cleanse you. Then resist the devil, and he will flee from you in terror because you are covered in the blood of Jesus.

No accusation can come against you anymore because you are forgiven. You overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of your testimony. *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."* **Romans 8:1**

At that point there is no accusation that can have any power because you are forgiven. Then sow forgiveness to people. Be a minister of reconciliation. There will come a point where you will quit finding fault. You have to discipline your thinking to be like the mind of Christ because Christ is not finding fault with you. He died for you in order to save you. God's heart of love is what transforms you to help you be that way with others.

*"...because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death."* **Romans 8:2** It held you, you were a slave to it, and you couldn't do anything differently. You can't tell unbelievers to quit sinning because they can't. They don't have the ability. Why not? They are held under condemnation, under guilt, and they do not have power to change.

The blood of Jesus is the power of God to provide forgiveness. All you have to do is accept it. There is nothing else you can do; just accept the gift that God has given, for He has done it for you. When people are not right with God, they suddenly get religious. They try to do all kinds of religious things to make themselves feel like they are alright. This is called "works," and you cannot do any works to make you right. Only the blood of Jesus makes you right with God, and only the blood of Jesus will enable you to change.

It takes away condemnation and guilt. It allows your faith to rise up. It is God's faith that He has put in you, but it cannot rise up if you are under condemnation and guilt. It cannot rise if you think you are unworthy. It cannot rise if you think that you are out of fellowship with God. It cannot rise if you are in strife with people.

*“If when you stand praying, you remember you have something against somebody, forgive.”* Get it straightened out so that your faith can rise, so your prayer can be blessed. If you are holding something against a brother or sister, then you are not putting the blood of Jesus over them, and you don't have the blood of Jesus over yourself as a result. *“If you don't forgive others, your Father in Heaven will not forgive you.”* What a very clear statement from Jesus.

The accuser of the brethren knows that, so he tries to get people outside of the blessing of God by getting them into strife with each other, getting them into unforgiveness, bitterness, anger or hostility. *“Be angry, and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil [an opportunity].”* In the Greek it means, “don't give a devil a home.” ***Ephesians 4:26-27***

The devil tries to open a door and come in with cursing. Yet we really curse ourselves when we are not accepting the blood of Jesus and all that God has done for us. *“To whom much has forgiven the same loves much.”*

If you are not accepting the forgiveness of God and not realizing all that He has done for you, you will hold something against somebody else.

What should you think about all day long? The blood of Jesus and how much God has loved you, how much God has forgiven you, and how you want to love and forgive others. You want to see good things. You don't want to remember negative. You want to think on the good, true, just, and beautiful things, *“Things of virtue, things worthy of praise.”* ***Philippians 4:8***

The law was weakened by the sinful nature so that you could not keep the law of God. ***Romans 8:3*** It isn't because the law is bad. People try to make the law out to be bad. The law of God is holy, just, and eternal. It was given out of God's love to show people what is blessed and what is cursed and so they could have boundaries in their lives and know where the place of safety is.

Children without boundaries don't know what is right or wrong. God said to put boundaries on the children so they would know. There is security and stability and blessing in that.

The law could not do that because of our sinful nature, meaning man couldn't do what God wanted him to do, and man did not really want to either. God did it by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man, to be a sin offering. He condemned sin in sinful man in order that the righteous requirements of the law would be fully met in us who do not live according to the sinful nature, but according the Spirit of God. **Romans 8:4**

You will note here that God condemns sin and sinful man. He showed everything for what it really was, for "*there is none that doeth good, no not one.*" There are no sacrifices or righteous acts, and Jesus condemns the whole thing. He took it on Himself and died for us, giving His blood so that God might receive that sacrifice for us. Jesus was perfect in every respect. We were the guilty ones.

As tempted as we are, consider how He went through everything we go through, and yet He did not give into anything that would bring separation from God. He gave us His right standing with the Father. Now there are no more excuses. Let your yes be yes. Let your no be no. Receive and accept the fact that God loves you, He has a good plan, and the blood of Jesus made it happen. All you have to do is accept that. Then all the guilt and condemnation of the past is gone. Jesus took away all of the regrets from the past. He turned what was intended for evil around to good.

*"For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son [The whole goal of the Christian walk is to become like Jesus in thought, word, and deed], that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified [declared not guilty]; those He justified, He also glorified."*  
**Romans 8:29-30**

We are not the poor, miserable, wretched sinners that we used to be. We are sons and daughters of the most high God. We have been given a whole new life and a whole new beginning. "*What then shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?*" No accuser of the brethren has anything on us anymore. Nobody outside of the will of God has anything on us. God's children are not condemning us. They are not going to be in your face if you are out of line with God. They will come in a spirit of gentleness because they know that it could just as easily have been them – and maybe it was just last week. You are in it this week, and they may have

been in it last week – and who knows what tomorrow holds? We are not expecting to sin. People who expect to sin will sin, but people who look to do what is right and righteous before God will do what is right.

If you keep looking down, you will walk into a tree. It is like the expression “The shepherd who follows sheep steps in stuff.” Go for what God has given you. You are forgiven. You are blessed. You are loved. He did not spare His own son, but gave Him up for us. How will He not also along with Him graciously give us all things?

The Father wants to give us all things. *“Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?”* This is the unworthiness nonsense. *“It is God who justifies and declares not guilty. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus who died more than that who was raised to life is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.”* Jesus speaks on our behalf before the Father.

*“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Neither height nor depth nor anything else in all of creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Nothing can take you out of the hand of God. Nobody can take you out of the hand of God. No devil or circumstance of life can take you out of the hand of God as long as you stay under the blood of Jesus.

You will start to see yourself as a minister of reconciliation because it is what God destined you for. Because I am forgiven and loved, now I can forgive and love. I have peace with God. Now I can give peace to somebody else and make somebody else's life happy.

The Lord never slumbers or sleeps. You will be a better minister of reconciliation if you are not overtired because somehow weakness comes over you when you are tired. If the Lord never slumbers or sleeps, what is He doing? He is thinking up good things to do to bless His people - all day and all night. Let us cultivate that kind of heart and attitude. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you something good to do for somebody else.

All that negative thinking is accuser-of-the-brethren thinking. That is why you don't want to lie either, for the devil is a liar and the father of all liars. God is the Spirit of truth, and He wants us to speak the truth. Your idea of the truth might not always be the whole truth so it is very important that it be based on the facts as God sees them. How are you going to find out? Through the word of God. It will show you.

There is absolutely no excuse for a Christian to have unforgiveness. What about the unpardonable sin? God will determine that, not you. If you have something in your heart right now that is causing some guilt, ask God to forgive you and take it out of there. Don't harden your heart. That is how the devil works. He doesn't want people to forgive and love. He doesn't want us encouraging each other in the things of God or remembering what someone did to us that hurt us.

Have you been minding your own business when an ugly thought crossed your mind? Where did it come from? - the accuser of the brethren. He is out there trying to stir you up and get you upset. He can bring back an event that happened 10 or 20 years ago just as fresh as the day it happened. Work it the other way and let God bring back the good things just as fresh as the moment they happened.

Let us go all the way back to the cross. When you find yourself thinking about what Jesus did for you at the cross, and the blood of Jesus that was given, all the other thoughts the accuser keeps bombarding you with (which are intended to demolish your life) will fade away. You have to deal with it. Say, "The blood of Jesus covers you and in Jesus' name, get out of here now! I am loved, I am forgiven. I will love, and I will forgive, and I will do good things for them."

The next step toward forgiveness is doing good things for that person. If you say you can forgive, but you cannot forget, then you have not forgiven. If you went to God and asked Him about a matter He had forgiven, He would say, "I don't know what you're talking about." After you have asked for forgiveness, that which you asked forgiveness for is gone, like it never ever happened – cleansed, off the record, not a trace of it. The Lord will not be bringing up the past. Anything that brings up the past in a negative light is not of God.

If you are still holding anything against anybody, or if you have guilt about things you should have done, could have done, would have done, and any "oh no" feelings, ask the Lord to remove them.

Don't try to excuse, justify, and rationalize sin. Just move on. If you have found that you have been critical and negative about people and situations, let that go. It is what ruins relationships. Don't bring up the past or negative events, or constantly speak negatively. It may even be about what others are doing. When you talk about others and all the negative events that are going on with them, it doesn't help. Besides, it is really none of your business.

Be positive with people and encourage them. God will bless the people you encourage. If you love people, then you get excited when good things happen to them. Jealousy and envy steals from the blessing. It is a detractor. Be happy for somebody when they get blessed. Quit thinking about yourself. The accuser of the brethren is always trying to get you to think about yourself, e.g. "Are you worthy or are you unworthy?"

When you try to please people, you will find that one day they like one thing and the next day they like something different. How difficult.

Many people grow up wanting to please their parents. Mom and Dad may be so screwed up they don't know which end is up. Thank God for mercy. There are many new mothers who are concerned that they will do something wrong with their child. The child doesn't know what is right or wrong; they are new at this too. But you can grow together, you can move ahead together. With God's grace and mercy, we will see the good blessings come forward.

We have to have God's heart. The Lord desires that no one perish. He doesn't want anyone to perish.

*Lord, help us to have your heart and your mind, especially your mind.*

We have His Spirit and we need His mind. The mind is where the intellect, emotions, and will (to make choices) are. That is why we need His mind. His Spirit is able to flow through your mind and come out in your body through your actions and words. You don't want to let your mind get in the way.

Forget the things of the past once you have asked the Lord's forgiveness. Then move on. Forgive others and move on. You don't live in the past anymore. Don't let your past hurt your future. You are forgiven. Tell the world how the Lord loves you and me. They need to know the Lord has an incredible future for all of us.