

“Forgiven...and Forgotten”

Several days ago as I went through one of my kitchen drawers looking for something, I ran across a folded up letter our oldest granddaughter had written Vicki and me decades ago! In the letter she profusely apologized for what she had done, how bad she felt, having let so many people down, and how she was determined to become a better person, and not repeat her mistakes again.

It was really a sweet letter, and I could tell she really meant what she had written, but for the life of me, I could NOT remember what her offense was - I had completely forgotten what she had done! As I pondered her letter, I had an epiphany! Psalm 103:12 says: *“...as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”* What I was feeling is exactly how God feels when we confess and repent of our sins - He forgets them!

I was reminded recently how important it is to know what the word of God says, and the need to APPLY it. I had fallen into an area of sin that I knew was absolutely wrong, and for weeks I rationalized my sin with the Lord about how I wasn't hurting anybody by what I was doing until... One day as I was walking the dog and explaining once again to God my rationale, when I had a divine epiphany. I said “Lord, it's YOU I have been hurting because you're a jealous God - please forgive me!”

I was broken, embarrassed and ashamed of myself, but when God revealed my sin to me, and I confessed it, I knew He had forgiven me, but the enemy kept reminding me of my sin - hitting the “replay” button over and over, until the Holy Spirit reminded what 1 John 1:9 says: *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* NKJV

I thanked the Lord for His gracious forgiveness, then I asked Him with confidence to cleanse my mind of all those unrighteous thoughts and images that lingered - and He did! He forgives us when we confess and repent, then immediately forgets our sin, and He cleanses us so we can forgive ourselves and not be haunted by unrighteous thoughts! If you have confessed and repented, but those thoughts still haunt you, ask Him to cleanse you - ask and you WILL receive! Hallelujah!