

**Shayla:** Must I feel the guilt of my sins before I come to Christ? How can I do this?

**Meforshim:**

The Holy Spirit's purpose is to convict us of three things: (1) about sin, (2) about righteousness, (3) and about judgment.<sup>1</sup> Remorse for our sin, a conviction that we need to be saved and have a right relationship with God and a healthy fear of the Judgment are indicators that a person is actually listening to the Holy Spirit's voice.

We must acknowledge that we are sinners who are worthy of death and that we are totally incapable of doing anything about it on our own.<sup>2</sup> The fact that our sin caused God immeasurable pain and instigated the death of His only begotten Son should fill our hearts with sorrow and with a need to repent.<sup>3</sup>

The ability to fully come to grips with our sinfulness and correctly feel remorse is a gift of the spirit of grace and prayer.<sup>4</sup> Though it may not feel good, it is good. Godly grief produces repentance that leads to eternal life and spiritual health. Worldly grief, the kind that is only sorry it got caught, will do nothing but produce death.<sup>5</sup>

- James 4:7-10 HCSB Therefore, submit to God. But resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, double-minded people! 9 Be miserable and mourn and weep. Your laughter must change to mourning and your joy to sorrow. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.

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<sup>1</sup> John 16:8-11

<sup>2</sup> Romans 7:13-18

<sup>3</sup> Acts 2:36-38

<sup>4</sup> Zechariah 12:10

<sup>5</sup> 2 Corinthians 7:9-10