



**PENITENCE: "O LORD, HEAR; O LORD, FORGIVE"**

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*Have you ever felt the hand of God gently reminding you of the correct way to go?  
How does it feel to be loved like this?*

*Dig In*

**God will give me hope in the midst of sin-caused heartache if I humbly appeal to him, admitting I am the cause of my own grief, and categorically confessing my rebellion, having been pressed to do so by the simple reading of his Word.**

- When it comes to dealing with the devastation of sin, "Too often we're looking for a cause outside of ourselves so that we can look for a solution outside of God." Why are we so unwilling to see ourselves as creating our problems because of our sin? What excuses have you given for sinning? Why don't our excuses take away the guilt of our sin?
- Daniel is reading the scriptures and becomes convinced that he needs to confess his sin (vs. 3). He prays and admits three things that show the lack of faithfulness in God's people. They were acting wickedly, turning aside from God's commandments, and not listening to the people God sent to speak to them (vs. 5-6). Can you identify with these sins? How are all our sins essentially related to these categories?
- Why does Daniel say the shame of sin belongs to us (vss. 7-9)? What does Daniel mean when he prays that mercy and forgiveness belong to God (vs. 9). What changes when we connect God's mercy and forgiveness to our sin?
- Do you have any trouble believing God hears your prayers when you're guilty of sin? Why do you doubt? How can you be encouraged by the message Gabriel brings Daniel? (vs. 23)
- Why didn't Daniel's sin negate God's great love for him? Can we expect that God would treat us the same way, or was Daniel in a unique case? What does Romans 5:8 help us understand about how God responds to sinners?
- Why would God respond with a message of love when we have obviously been living sinfully? Does this change how you need to respond to someone who has sinned against you and asked for your forgiveness?

*Break Out: Given that God has shown a path to put an end to sin and atone for iniquity, is there any sin you need to confess to, categorically and without excuses so that you God can show you his mercy and forgiveness now?*