

Forsaken but Accepted

Jesus openly expressed His anguish in the garden of Gethsemane prior to His trial.

*...He was beginning to feel deep anguish.³⁸ Then He said to them, “**My anguish is so great that I feel as if I’m dying. Wait here, and stay awake with Me.**” **Matt 26:37-38** (gw)*

Anguish: Agonizing physical or mental pain. Grief, torment, misery, acute suffering, distress.

Jesus felt the distress and heaviness of what He was about to experience, an unfair trial that would lead to His death at a Roman crucifixion.

***Matthew 27:26-50** (gnb)*

Jesus reaching the point of exhaustion, cries out
“*...My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?*”
Or abandon me. **Matthew 27:46** (nkjv)

GK: Forsake: “*abandon, leave in straits (a ship under anchor out at sea), or helpless,*”

Jesus’ cry of anguish reveals the gut-wrenching moment He realised His father abandoned Him.

He could no longer sense nor feel His Fathers presence. Jesus was experiencing the agony of separation from His Father.

Big IDEA: Jesus was forsaken by God so we can be accepted by God.

Jesus felt this abandonment and became our **substitute** - taking our sin and the punishment of that sin upon Himself so, we can be...

Reinstated to God

For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:19

Recreated by God

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

2 Corinthians 5:17

God is now **for us** and not **against** us. The Bible uses the word **righteousness** to reinforce this.

This righteousness or being in a **right standing relationship with God** is only made possible because of what Jesus accomplished for us on the cross.

Isaiah 53:6 (gnb) All of us were like sheep that were lost, each of us going his own way. But the Lord made the punishment fall on Him, the punishment all of us deserved.

Romans 6:6-7 (erv) *We know that our old life was put to death on the cross with Christ. This happened so that our sinful selves would have no power over us. Then we would not be slaves to sin.* ⁷ *Anyone who has died is made free from sin's control.*

No one can gain righteousness by personal achievement or personal effort. (see **Romans 10:2-3**)

Our **right standing** with God, solely depends on God's mercy as revealed by the death of Jesus who took our unrighteous behaviour upon Himself - in becoming our substitute.

(see also **Romans 4:25; 5:1-2; 5:8-11**)

Romans 1:16-17 (niv) *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes... ¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed - a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

We are in a right relationship with God, because of our complete faith in what Jesus accomplished.

Benefits of righteousness for the believer.

1. Righteousness gives the believer confidence before God.

Righteousness removes fear, shame, and condemnation. We can approach confidently.

2. Righteousness gives the believer confidence before Satan.

The devil is the accuser of the brethren (believers) (*see Revelation 12:10*)

Knowing our right standing with God, through the righteousness of Christ, gives the believer confidence and courage to reject the devil's lies and accusations. (*James 4:7*)

3. Righteousness gives the believer confidence before man.

When the believer knows their standing in God through Christ's righteousness, they are not shaken and are able to deflect accusations and criticisms.

The anguish cry of Jesus "...*My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?*" reveals the willingness of Jesus to endure the sufferings on the cross so that we may be made right with God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.