

FROM THE HOLY FATHER

“It is not the sinner who returns to God to beg His forgiveness, but God Himself who runs after the sinner and makes him return to Him.”

Pope Benedict XVI quoting Saint John Vianney, Letter Proclaiming a Year for Priests

“Even when we have to struggle continually with the same failings, ... It is important to keep pressing forward, without scrupulosity, in the grateful awareness that God forgives us ever anew— yet also without the indifference that might lead us to abandon altogether the struggle for holiness and self-improvement.

Moreover, by letting myself be forgiven, I learn to forgive others.

In recognizing my own weakness, I grow more tolerant and understanding of the failings of my neighbour.”

Pope Benedict XVI, Letter to Seminarians



UNDERSTANDING SIN AND SINFULNESS

“What I do, I do not understand. For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate. ... The willing is ready at hand, but doing the good is not. For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want. ... So, then, I discover the principle that when I want to do right, evil is at hand. ... Miserable one that I am! Who will deliver me from this mortal body?”

Romans 7:15-24

SIN

The *fruit* of sinfulness.

Commission.

Omission.

Example #1

Obsessive materialism

Example #2

Promiscuity

SINFULNESS

This is the *source* of the action of sin.

Sinfulness is connected to attitudes.

Lies or vows that we can't break.

Example #1

“I don't have what it takes to be a man”

Example #2

“I'm abandoned”

PAIN

Wounds may pierce the heart.

This pain is the *root* of sinfulness.

Example #1

Feeling as if your father rejected you

Example #2

Your parents divorced at an early age



Ask God to reveal your patterns of sin.

Ask God to reveal the attitudes, thoughts, or lies feeding those patterns.

Ask God to reveal the root of the attitudes.

Be patient ... this may bring you back to a pain-filled memory.

Ask God to show you where he was in the memory.

Ask God to reveal the lies you believed.

Ask God to reveal the promises you made because of the lies.

Ask God to reveal the truth.

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