

Because we inherited our sin nature from him, we can't help but sin. I don't even have to know you to know that you are a sinner, because the Bible tells me so. "...all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) "...there is none righteous, not not one." (Romans 3:10) You might be wondering, "If we are all sinners, what's the big deal? God knows we are sinners and we can't do anything about it; so, why would He hold that against us? The big deal is this. When you die, which you will eventually do, you are headed to one of two places: Heaven with God or Hell with Satan. If God sees your sin, He won't let you into Heaven, and Heaven is where you want to be. So, how do you take care of your sin? Well, you can't. **BUT God can.**

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

"By grace" means that God offers to forgive your sins, even though you do not deserve it. **"Saved through faith"** means that you receive God's forgiveness by accepting the fact that what Jesus did on the cross He did for you. **"Not of works,"** means there is nothing that you can do to earn salvation. **Christ has done everything that is necessary for you to be saved.**

God has provided a substitute.

In baseball lingo it is called a pinch hitter.

In a baseball game, when a pinch hitter is brought in to play, the hitter that he replaces is out of the game.

But, in the game of life, that is not the way it works.

If I knew you well enough, I could ask a question that you would have to say "yes" to; and you would have your first strike, and you would be out. By now, you are probably wondering what I am talking about. This is the point. If you said yes to any of the questions above, you have broken God's rules. That makes you a sinner. In baseball you get three strikes, but in life you get one strike. You might be asking, "Why is that?" We are responsible to a God Who is perfect and He does not accept anything less than perfection from us. The Bible tells us that even if we commit only one sin, we are a sinner. "...*whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*" (James 2:10) The fact is, because we are descendants of Adam, we are born sinners.

In fact, what happens when you accept what Jesus did, Jesus' blood washes away your sin and God sees you as a person who has no sin.

When Jesus steps in to substitute for you, it's as if He hits a home run, then, lets you run the bases and cross home plate to add a score to your record.

The Bible tells us that when Jesus died on the cross, He died for us. He was our substitute. God punished Jesus for our sins. Jesus "...*bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness...*" (I Peter 2:24)

Now, that you know that you have already struck out, are you ready to turn to Jesus Christ and let Him serve as your Pinch Hitter, to pay for your sins?

Are you ready to give up on running your own life and let Him run it for you?

If so, tell God that you know that you

If you say yes, that's your first strike, and you are out. But, you said "No." Who are you trying to kid? We'll call that one a foul ball. The next pitch. "Have you ever used God's name casually, as a swear word, or in the expression "Oh, my god?" (OMG) and you are out. If you say yes, that's your first strike, and you are out. But, you said "No." Another foul ball. The final pitch. "Have you ever said anything that was not true?" (Check your answers to the questions above.) Are you beginning to see a pattern here?

are a sinner and in need of the forgiveness that Jesus offers.

Tell Him that you are willing to let Christ direct your life from here on out.

Tell Him that you are willing to step aside and let Jesus serve as your Pinch Hitter. AND, thank Him for saving you.



In Major League baseball you get three strikes and you're out. Whether you swing and miss the ball or only watch a ball cross the plate in the strike zone, when the umpire calls your third strike, your turn at bat is ended. Three chances at hitting the ball is not many, but those are the rules of the game. But, for a moment, let's switch to a different game. The game of life. In life, every sin you commit is a strike. You sin every time you break one of God's rules. Pitch number one, "Have you ever said anything that was not true?" If you say yes, that's your first strike, and you are out. But, you said "No." Ready for the next pitch. "Have you ever taken anything that did not belong to you?"

One Strike



and you're out!