

Isaiah 59 — Sin, Silence, and the Saving Arm of God

God Is Ready to Save; We Must Return (Isaiah 59:1–2)

*“Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened,
That it cannot save;
Nor His ear heavy,
That it cannot hear.
But your iniquities have separated you from your God;
And your sins have hidden His face from you,
So that He will not hear.”* (Isaiah 59:1–2, NKJV)

God’s sovereign side: He remains able to save and ready to hear.

Our responsive side: Sin erects a barrier that must be confessed and forsaken.

Personal application: If prayer feels unheard, begin with repentance, not resentment. Ask the Spirit to search for tolerated sin, then turn from it and come back to the Father.

A Culture Unraveled by Sin (Isaiah 59:4–8)

*“No one calls for justice,
Nor does any plead for truth.
They trust in empty words and speak lies;
They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity.
They hatch viper’s eggs and weave the spider’s web...
Their webs will not become garments...
Their works are works of iniquity,
And the act of violence is in their hands.
Their feet run to evil...
The way of peace they have not known...
They have made themselves crooked paths;
Whoever takes that way shall not know peace.”* (Isaiah 59:4–8, NKJV)

When truth falls, violence rises; when lies multiply, peace disappears. God names the poison and its fruit.

Personal application: Reject cynical speech, half-truths, and expedient shortcuts. Seek truth, do justice, and pursue peace in your home, church, and city.

Honest Confession and Deep Lament (Isaiah 59:9–15a)

*“Therefore justice is far from us...
We look for light, but there is darkness!...
We grope for the wall like the blind...
We all growl like bears, and moan sadly like doves...
For our transgressions are multiplied before You,
And our sins testify against us...”*

*In transgressing and lying against the LORD,
And departing from our God...
Justice is turned back,
And righteousness stands afar off;
For truth is fallen in the street,
And equity cannot enter.
So truth fails,
And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.” (Isaiah 59:9–15a, NKJV)*

This is not self-pity; it is corporate confession. God’s people stop excusing and start agreeing with God about their sin.

Personal application: Make space for shared confession—at home, in prayer groups, and in congregational worship. Name the darkness; ask God for merciful light.

When No One Stands in the Gap, God Does (Isaiah 59:15b–17)

*“Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no justice.
He saw that there was no man,
And wondered that there was no intercessor;
Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him;
And His own righteousness, it sustained Him.
For He put on righteousness as a breastplate,
And a helmet of salvation on His head;
He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing,
And was clad with zeal as a cloak.” (Isaiah 59:15b–17, NKJV)*

God’s sovereign side: He personally intervenes—arming Himself with righteousness and salvation.

Our responsive side: Answer the call to intercede; where human advocates fail, God still moves—but He also invites us to stand and pray.

Personal application: Let this awaken intercessors. Put on God’s armor (see Ephesians 6) and plead for mercy over your family, Bible study group, and nation.

5) Judgment and Deliverance; The Spirit Raises a Standard (Isaiah 59:18–19)

*“According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay...
So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west,
And His glory from the rising of the sun;
When the enemy comes in like a flood,
The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.” (Isaiah 59:18–19, NKJV)*

God opposes evil and defends His people. When opposition swells, the Spirit does not retreat—He raises a banner of victory.

Personal application: In seasons that feel like a flood, pray for the Spirit’s standard to be raised in your home and congregation. Stand firm; God is not overwhelmed.

The Redeemer and an Everlasting Covenant (Isaiah 59:20–21)

*“The Redeemer will come to Zion,
And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob,”
Says the LORD.
“As for Me,” says the LORD, “this is My covenant with them:
My Spirit who is upon you,
And My words which I have put in your mouth,
Shall not depart from your mouth,
Nor from the mouth of your descendants,
Nor from the mouth of your descendants’ descendants,” says the LORD,
“from this time and forevermore.” (Isaiah 59:20–21, NKJV)*

God’s sovereign side: He sends the Redeemer and establishes a forever-covenant of Spirit and Word.

Our responsive side: “Turn from transgression.” The Redeemer’s promise is received by repentant faith.

Personal application: Ask the Lord to anchor your life—and your family’s life—in the Spirit and the Word. Pray this promise across generations.

Salvation Invitation

The Redeemer has come—Jesus Christ—who died for our sins and rose again. God is ready to save; we must return. If you are ready to respond:

“Lord Jesus, I turn from my sin. I believe You died for me and rose again. Please forgive me, reconcile me to the Father, and give me Your Spirit. I receive Your mercy and choose to follow You. Amen.”

“Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13, NKJV)

Challenge for Believers

1. Close the gap (Isaiah 59:1–2): Keep short accounts with God. Confess quickly; return fully.
2. Practice truth and justice (Isaiah 59:4–8): Refuse crooked paths. Speak truth in love; pursue peace.
3. Recover corporate confession (Isaiah 59:9–15a): Lead or join a time of honest, Scripture-shaped repentance.
4. Intercede with courage (Isaiah 59:16–17): Put on God’s armor and pray for revival in your sphere.
5. Stand when floods rise (Isaiah 59:18–19): Ask the Spirit to raise a standard; do not yield to fear.
6. Live the covenant (Isaiah 59:20–21): Build rhythms that keep Scripture on your lips and the Spirit’s leading in your steps—model it for your children and your children’s children.