

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Hey! You Want To Buy An Indulgence?

Know This...

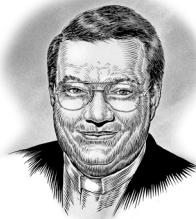
Jesus' agonizing death and glorious resurrection opened heaven, made our eternal salvation possible, and built up an infinite treasury of merit offered to our Father in heaven. The Church is the custodian and dispenser of this treasury. Indulgences tap into it. If we want to rid ourselves of the guilt and punishment of sin, we must accept the grace available to us from the finished work of Christ. Proper reception of indulgences is critical to our growth in holiness and passage through purgatory.



John: You cannot buy an indulgence, get out of hell with an indulgence, or gain an indulgence for future sins.

James: A baptized person can gain one, but he must be in a state of grace at the completion of the prescribed works and have the intention of acquiring the indulgence.

John: To understand indulgences we must understand the difference between forgiveness of sin and reparation for sin.



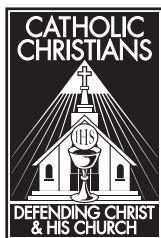
James: When we confess our sins, the guilt and eternal punishment of sin are forgiven; but the temporal punishment still remains. Temporal reparation is needed in this life or in purgatory.

John: Indulgences offer reparation. God's Church dispenses partial and plenary indulgences from the treasury of merit.

James: A partial indulgence removes part of the temporal punishment left by sin. A plenary indulgence removes all of it.

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Jesus first gave Peter and then the rest of the Apostles the authority to bind and loose. "Jesus said to Peter, 'I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. And whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'" *Mt. 16:19* "Jesus said to the Apostles, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'" *Mt. 18:18* This binding and loosing is tied to sin and to the dispensing of indulgences from the treasury of merit.

"Indulgences are the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven. The faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains the indulgence under prescribed conditions for either himself or the departed. Indulgences are granted through the ministry of the Church which, as the dispenser of the grace of redemption, distributes the treasury of the merits of Christ and the saints." *Compendium CCC 312* "Through indulgences the faithful can obtain the remission of temporal punishment resulting from sin for themselves and also for the souls in Purgatory." *CCC 1498* "For he is purged as if by certain works of the whole people, and is washed in the tears of the multitude; by the prayers and tears of the multitude he is redeemed from sin, and is cleansed in the inner man. For Christ granted to His Church that one should be redeemed through all, just as His Church was found worthy of the coming of the Lord Jesus so that all might be redeemed through one." *St. Ambrose on penance*



Our good works and suffering can aid others. "Now I rejoice in my suffering for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the affliction of Christ on behalf of His Body, which is the Church." *Col 1:21-24* If we are sorry for our sins, God will forgive us our guilt; but we will be punished for sinning. "David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' And Nathan said to him, 'The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child that is born to you shall die.'" *2 Sam 12:13-14*

Father of mercy and love, forgive my sins and give me the grace to avoid future sin. I do not ask this merely because I fear hell. I ask because I love You and hate offending You. As a member of Your Son's Body, I offer the merit of my good works for other members here on earth and in purgatory. Remove the distractions in my life that keep me from receiving Jesus with joy and hope. Deepen His life within me that I may serve those in need. I ask this through the merits of Jesus who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

