

Dear Thomas,

Thanks so much for giving me the opportunity to consider your article on restoring intimacy with God after we've fallen into sin. You've done a great job of pulling out some principles that can restore our relationship with God when we've fallen away.

This is excellent teaching, but at this point it doesn't fit the style and approach we use in our magazine. Would you be willing to keep working with it? Here's what we'd like you to do:

1. We want our writers to show that they have lived out the principles they're teaching about. This not only establishes credibility, it provides a living model of the biblical principles in today's world.

For each of the points under "Intimacy Restored," please show us how you have experienced this step. You could use illustrations from different times in your life for different steps, or all the illustrations could be from a single instance. But we need to see that you've been through this process.

If you don't have an experience to relate for all of the points, you use could an illustration from someone else's life for a few of them, but we definitely need to see more of you in the article. Otherwise, it stays at a theoretical level.

2. I'd like to get a better idea of the kinds of sins you're talking about early in the article. Since you're leaning so heavily on David's story, the reader could think the article only applied to "heavy duty" sins like adultery. Please make it clear that other kinds of deliberate sin can break our fellowship with God.
3. Under "Intimacy Avoided," could you give us a one-sentence example under each point? E.g., an example of "re-definition" might be someone who claims God wants them to divorce their spouse because He wants them to be happy; or someone who convinces himself that the Scripture condemning homosexuality really means something else.

To sum it up, we need to see these principles at work in the lives of everyday, modern people. We need you to *show* us, not just tell us, that "we, too, can rediscover the joy of our salvation!"

Thanks so much for your work on this, Thomas. This is a potentially life-changing article, and we want to make sure it communicates as clearly as possible. Would you be able to complete another draft by May 15?

Be sure to call or e-mail me if you want to dialogue about any of this.

By His grace,

Susan Nikaido