

What is the sin of presumption? The CCC **2092** says, " There are two kinds of *presumption*. Either man presumes upon his own capacities, (hoping to be able to save himself without help from on high), or he presumes upon God's almighty power or his mercy (hoping to obtain his forgiveness without conversion or repentance and glory without merit). Another form of presumption is the belief that one has already obtained salvation without doing anything to deserve or merit it; as in believing the "once saved - always saved" heresy. This also includes the belief that simply saying a prayer and believing in Jesus automatically qualifies one for heaven.

To decide to sin is to offend God. To decide to sin because one knows that he can be forgiven or is forgiven is to sin twice. It is to use God, reducing him to a utility at the service of our whim. It is to mock his passion and death.

First of all, why is presumption a sin? Presumption is a sin, because an individual pridefully views himself as better and holier than he really is. Secondly, presumption is a sin, because the person pridefully and arrogantly elevates himself to the position of God, by judging himself eternally saved instead of acquiescing in humility to the judgment of God. By doing this one places himself or herself equal to God. This is very similar to what Lucifer himself did by attempting to make himself equal to God. For only God can condemn or reward a person as eternally saved. This is proven in the following verses:

1. 1 Corinthians 4:3-4:5 "I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. **Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes.** He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God."
2. 1 Samuel 25:28 "Please forgive your servant's **presumption.**"
 - a. If presumption is not a sin, then why is he asking for forgiveness?
3. Numbers 14:41-45 "But Moses said, "Why are you disobeying the LORD's command? This will not succeed! Do not go up, because the LORD is not with you. You will be defeated by your enemies, for the Amalekites and the Canaanites will face you there. Because you have turned away from the LORD, he will not be with you and you will fall by the sword." Nevertheless, in their presumption they went up toward the highest point in the hill country, though neither Moses nor the ark of the LORD's covenant moved from the camp. Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down and attacked them and beat them down all the way to Hormah."
 - a. In this story, the Israelites presumed God would help them and make them victorious in battle. They presumed wrong and were punished by being badly beaten and defeated.