

What is God's Forgiveness Like?
Series on forgiveness (2)
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Introduction: What does the word "forgiveness" mean to you?

- A. Those who truly find it will express the same relief that David did. **(Psa 51:8-12)**
 - 1. All sin is first against God. Our desperate need of this relationship should drive us to Him. **(Isa 59:1-2; Psa 51:4)**
 - 2. Have you become so hardened that these things do not move you?
- B. As Christians we must continue to see how precious forgiveness is.
 - 1. Have you lost your motivation in the service of the Lord? If so, do you remember the joy of *your* forgiveness? **(2 Pt 1:9)**
 - 2. It is the humbling but joyful experience of forgiveness that keeps us strong.

I. Forgiveness is based on the character of God. (Ex 34:6-7)

- A. What makes God attractive to us? **(Psa 36:7, 40:10-11)**
 - 1. God's love will provide forgiveness! I am drawn to one who cares for me.
 - 2. David knew this and poured out his heart to God. **(Psa 51:1)**
- B. God's righteousness makes us certain of our forgiveness.
 - 1. His righteousness tells us that we cannot escape the guilt of our sin. **(Rom 11:22)**
 - 2. Those who play games with sin thinking they "can be forgiven" will pay a heavy price. **(Rom 6:1)**
 - 3. On the other hand God's righteousness tells me He will always keep His word.
- C. Are you aware of the extraordinary lengths God has taken to provide you forgiveness? **(Jn 3:16; Mt 26:39)**

"If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. But since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent us a Savior." - Author Unknown

II. Satan's defeat comes through our forgiveness

- A. Satan did not anticipate that God would forgive men!
 - 1. In his role of accuser it appeared that he had won. **(Zech 3:1-3)**
 - 2. Without forgiveness we are in the hands of Satan. It that what you want?
 - 3. Look at the victory God gives us over Satan! **(Zech 3:4-5)**
- B. Do you realize the great victory God has given us through the cross? **(1 Jn 3:8)**
 - 1. Our goal is simple, stay under God's protection and away from Satan.
 - 2. We must be humbled to see our great needs here.
- C. Satan's goal is to cheapen forgiveness so that you do not find it.
 - 1. It is so sad to see the distant stares of the unforgiven. **(2 Cor 4:3-4)**
 - 2. Satan has convinced many to wait because forgiveness is always there. He has lied about this too.

"Those who would avoid the despair of their sinfulness by staying far from God find they have also missed the forgiving grace of God." -- Charles E. Wolfe

III. What is God's forgiveness like?

A. He blots out our sins! (**Acts 3:19; Isa 43:25**)

1. God hates sin, but He loves us.
2. If I can live and die in this forgiveness then all is well.

B. God does not remember our sins any more. (**Heb 8:12**)

1. He is described as casting them into the sea. (**Mic 7:18-19**)

"When God buries our sins in the deepest sea, He posts a sign which reads: No Fishing!"

2. When God forgives our sin is long gone! Do you believe this?

"Everyone has an irrevocable past. What is done is done. It can never be changed or recalled. Lord Byron, the English poet, once wrote, "No hand can make the clock strike for me the hours that are past."" - Author Unknown

C. God receives us back to a full fellowship. (**Lk 15:20-24**)

1. There is no grudge holding with God.
2. Our biggest problem is in believing this.

IV. How can I receive God's forgiveness?

A. See you sin for what it is. (**Rom 3:23; Rom 1:18**)

1. It is time to quit making excuses and acknowledge where you are.
2. Satan tries to get you to see sin as righteousness. If you do this you will never change. (**Isa 5:20-21; Prov 16:2-7**)
3. It may be painful to wake up and see, but consider the blessing that follow!

B. Meet the conditions of forgiveness.

1. Do not equate the Bible teaching on faith and works with the false conclusion "there is nothing we must do for salvation." God gives an answer to the question "what must I do to be saved."
2. Consider the conditions for one who has never known the Lord.
 - a. Trust in God. (**Jn 8:24**)
 - b. Repentance of sins. (**Acts 3:19**)
 - c. Confession of Jesus. (**Rom 10:9-10**)
 - d. Baptism in water. (**Acts 2:38**)
3. The Christian has conditions for his sins.
 - a. Repent of his sin and pray to God. (**Acts 8:22**)
 - b. Make this confession a way of life! (**1 Jn 1:7-9**)

Conclusion: Do you know the joy and power of God's forgiveness?

A. The answer will be evident to all because your actions will show it. (**Psa 51:12-13**)

1. Attendance for Bible study will not be a problem. This person cannot have enough!
2. Others will be influence because of the words and the zeal of the forgiven.

B. Do you now know the joy of forgiveness?

1. If not, who has changed, you or God?
2. A hardened heart can be restored. Please do not wait until it is too late.