

the **POWER** of  
**FORGIVENESS**



- **“How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute sin” (Psalm 32:1-2).**

though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be like snow;  
though they are red like crimson,  
they shall become like wool.

Isaiah 1:18


- **“He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea” (Micah 7:19).**

- **“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).**



# Skeptical?

- Yet we can very guarded against various aspects of forgiveness.
- Some people think they don't need it.



"Jesus died  
for somebody's sins  
but not mine."

- **Others refuse to seek it. They just cannot believe that God would forgive them. Some are so used to wallowing in guilt and self-pity that they cannot imagine an identity that has been removed from, “I am such a failure”.**



- **Others view forgiveness as some sort of weakness, or excuse making that will only lead to other failures.**

- **“If I am not hard on myself, I will never get anything done”.**
- **“If I forgive myself, I will just do it again”.**
- **“My problem is not that I am too hard on myself, I am not critical enough”.**

- **The same tendency happens when God tells us to forgive others (Matthew 6:12, 14-15; 18:35). We start thinking, “Wait a minute, if I forgive them, they are only going to abuse my kindness and end up hurting me again”.**

- **Actually at times we don't trust that others can handle forgiveness or that we can handle it.**

# Ac·count·a·bil·i·ty

[uh-koun-tuh-bil-i-tee]

-noun

1. the state of being accountable , liable, or answerable.

- Obviously people can abuse anything, including God's mercy and grace (Jude 4). If we are fearful that accepting forgiveness will *always* lead to a casual attitude towards evil we are mistaken. God knew what He was doing when He exhorted us to seek it and give it.

**When I kept silent about my sin, my body  
wasted away Through my groaning all day  
long.**

**— Psalm 32:3 (NASB®)**



- **David did have a guilty conscience (God's hand was heavy upon him). *Yet guilt by itself did not motivate him*, rather he remained stuck, unmotivated and depressed. It was forgiveness that really helped him get back on track.**

- **Guilt is valuable (Psalm 51:3), for it is impossible to move towards God if you don't feel any need for His help.**

- ***Yet guilt all by itself*, without any hope of forgiveness often moves people to overeat, overspend, and remain discouraged and stuck.**

# When I Blow It

- **Peter blew it and becomes one of Jesus' most faithful followers (Matthew 26:69-75). On the very same night Judas blew it and subsequently goes out and takes his own life (Matthew 27:5).**

- **Both men obviously felt guilty (26:75; 27:4 “I have betrayed innocent blood”). So why does one man come back to God and one man seals his fate when he is not right with God?**

- **One of the biggest threats to willpower is the cycle of indulgence, regret, and greater indulgence.**

- **On a spiritual level the devil often seeks to convince us that one sin, one spiritual setback means that we are past saving and completely hopeless and unsuited to live the Christian life. So seeing that you have already sinned, why not just sin some more?**



- **So be careful, because when we yield to sin and we feel guilty a common mistake is to sin even more to cover our feelings of guilt, instead of instantly going to God for forgiveness and feeling better right away (1 John 1:9).**

**And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!”**

**— Acts 2:40 (NASB®)**

# The Future You

- They will have more energy.
- They will have more willpower.
- They will have more time.
- They will do what we have not done.
- Or so we think....

- **Do not misunderstand them.**
- **They are not some separate entity.**
- **They will have all the same feelings, time pressures, etc....that we currently have.**

- Sometimes we mistreat them, *burdening them with the consequences of our present selves' decisions.*

- **So seek and embrace God's forgiveness. Your future self (you) will thank you one day.**
- **Avoid burdening the future you will years and years of guilt or bitterness because you were not willing to forgive or be forgiven.**

# **Labeling/Defining Yourself**



- **“I’m obsessive compulsive”**
- **“I am not smart”**
- **“I’m not a happy person”**
- **“I have an addictive personality”**
- **“I am not a people person”**

**I am or I was?**

**even though I was formerly a blasphemer  
and a persecutor and a violent aggressor.  
Yet I was shown mercy because I acted  
ignorantly in unbelief;**

**— 1 Timothy 1:13 (NASB®)**

# What God Calls You

- **“Saints”**
- **“Beloved”**
- **“Holy”**
- **“His own possession”**
- **“Priests”**
- **“His inheritance”**
- **“Wise”**

- **We are born to be tempted.**
- **We are born to resist.**
- **It is *just as human* to feel stressed, scared, or out of control as it is to find the strength to remain calm and in charge of our choices.**

# In the Process

- **As Christians we are in the process of becoming holy (1 Peter 1:14) as God is holy.**
- **In the process of becoming pure in spirit and flesh (2 Corinthians 7:1).**

- **We are in the process of becoming blameless (Philippians 2:15).**
- **Every day, is another exciting day on an amazing journey towards our true identity as a child of God.**

A black and white photograph with a shallow depth of field. In the foreground, the word "FORGIVE" is spelled out in large, dark, serif capital letters on a sandy beach. A metal chain is draped over the letters "VE" and extends across the sand to the right. In the upper left, a hand holds a metal fork, with the tines pointing towards the word. The background is a blurred beach scene with trees and a bright sky.

FORGIVE



For as high as the heavens are above  
the earth, so great is His love for those  
who fear him. *Psalm 103:11*



- ***He gives us two things we cannot measure—the distance of heaven from earth and the tail-chasing distance of east from west...—to convey the idea of a mercy that is beyond our experience in other human relationships***

- ***But if God's love is so big—and He is so earnest to communicate how big it is—How can I insult Him so? Do I think so highly of myself as to imagine that I'm the only person on earth that the gospel isn't going to work for?***



By the **grace** of GOD  
I AM WHAT I AM,  
*and his **grace** toward me*  
**WAS NOT IN VAIN.**

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1 CORINTHIANS 15:10a ESV

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- **The story or plot line of my life is no longer  
“my problem”**

- **Rather....**
- **How God helped me overcome my problem.**
- **What I am becoming with His help.**



Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners - of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:15-16

