

## The Joy of Forgiveness – Pt. 1 God is Able to Forgive

In this message, I want to share with you about **The joy that comes into our lives as a result of receiving God's forgiveness.**

- One of the major contributing **factors** to *many of life's problems and anxieties* is **guilt and shame** from *not dealing with them properly.*
- **Freedom from guilt and condemnation** will produce an overwhelming **sense of joy in your life.**

**Forgiveness brings true joy. ONLY when we ask God to forgive our sins will he give us real happiness and relief from guilt.**

### Psalm 32:1-7 – Theme: The Joy of Forgiveness (David)

1 Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

2 Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. 3 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

6 Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. 7 You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

### God wants to forgive sinners!

- He forgives *transgression, covers sin,* and **doesn't count our sins against us.**
- By **confessing his sin,** *David stopped trying to hide his guilt.*
- If we think *we can hide from God,* we will experience **NO relief.**
- **When David had been forgiven,** *God became his hiding place* from *guilt and shame.*

If you struggle with remorse from past sins, ask God to surround your heart and mind with his love and to protect you from negative and destructive thoughts.

- God **will** surround you with songs of victory.

On the other hand, ***a person whose sin is covered and forgiven by God*** experiences a great joy and blessedness from the Father.

**David's prayer was for God to have mercy upon him. He said...**

**Psalm 51:8-12** - 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

- **David's plea for mercy, forgiveness, and cleansing.**
- **God wants our hearts to be right with him.**
  
- **Walking in joy is one of the most essential ingredients that we desire in life.**
- **The single most ingredient in maintaining your spiritual joy is receiving God's forgiveness for your sins.**
- **The kind of joy as described in Psalm 16:11 can only be ours when we received God's forgiveness into our lives.**

**Psalm 16:11** - You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

**The joys and benefits of a life lived in companionship with God.**

- **Forgiveness provides freedom from guilt,**
- **Enables a person to walk in right relationship with God and man,**
- **And is the means for restoring a relationship that has been clouded by sin.**

**\*\*\*God's Ability to Forgive Our Sin**

To really understand how to receive God's forgiveness it is important for us to have a firm understanding of God's ability to do so.

**Romans 10:17** - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

If we understand His ability to forgive us, then we can receive it through faith as faith comes through hearing and hearing through God's Word.

Celebration of God's deliverance - Psalm 30:5 *For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.*

- **Like a shot**, the discomfort of God's anger lasts only a moment, but the good effects go on for a long time.
- **Let God's anger be** a sharp pain that warns you to turn from sin.

We need to have an understanding that **God really delights in forgiving us of our sins** and has great mercy towards us.

**Romans 8:1-2 - Life Through the Spirit** - 8 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

- He has **declared us not guilty** and **has offered us freedom from sin** and **supernatural power** to do his will.
- This life-giving Spirit is **the Holy Spirit**.
- ***He gives us the power*** we need to live the Christian life.
- **God's ability to forgive our sins comes through the blood sacrifice of His Son Jesus**.
- **When Jesus went to the cross, His blood was shed for our sins**.

When **John the Baptist saw Jesus** coming to be baptized, he said to the crowd, ***"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."***

**1 Peter 1:18-19** - 18 You were rescued from the useless way of life you learned from your ancestors. But you know you were not rescued by such things as silver or gold that don't last forever. 19 You were rescued by the precious blood of Christ, that spotless and innocent lamb.

- God redeemed us from the tyranny of sin – **NOT** with money – but the blood of Jesus!
- ***We cannot escape from sin on our own; only the life of God's son can free us!***

**Jesus came as a High Priest entering the Most Holy Place once and for all.**

**Hebrews 9:11-15 - The Blood of Christ**

11 But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. 12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. 14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

**Even though you know Christ, you may believe that *you must work hard to be good enough for God* to love and accept you.**

- ***But rules and rituals have never cleansed people's hearts...***
- Through his own death, **Christ freed us forever** from the slavery of sin!!!
- **NO sins or shortcomings on our part** will stifle **his complete and total forgiveness.**
- **Sinful deeds** are more than just wrong actions; **ironically**, they can also be our attempts to reach God by trying to be good enough!

**Hebrews 2:14-18** - 14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. 16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. 17 For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

- **We now have Jesus as our High Priest.**
- **He bridges the gap between us and our Holy Father.**
- ***We are released from sin's domination and controlling power when we commit ourselves fully to Christ, trusting completely in what he has done for us.***
- ***Knowing that Jesus suffered pain and faced temptation helps us face our trials.***

Now that ***we understand God's ability to forgive our sins through the shed blood of Jesus Christ***, all we have do is simply **receive His forgiveness.**

As we do our hearts and souls will be filled with **an overwhelming presence of His joy.**  
And we will know **The joy that comes through forgiveness.**

### \*\*\*Receiving His Forgiveness

As we purpose to walk in Him and have fellowship with one another, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.

Jesus is our High Priest - Hebrews 2:14-18

14 We are people of flesh and blood. This is why Jesus became one of us. He died to destroy the devil, who had power over death.

15 But he also died to rescue all of us who live each day in fear of dying.

16 Jesus clearly did not come to help angels, but he did come to help Abraham's descendants.

17 He had to be one of us, so he could serve God as our merciful and faithful high priest and sacrifice himself for the forgiveness of our sins.

18 And now that Jesus has suffered and was tempted, he can help anyone else who is tempted.

- He has declared us not guilty and has offered us freedom from sin
- and supernatural power to do his will.
- This life-giving Spirit is the Holy Spirit.

My prayer is that we would all continually walk in the forgiveness that Jesus has gained for us....

- And know the joy of the Lord that comes as a result.
- And that we would be continually released from any guilt and shame that came about because of the sin we formerly walked in.

Receiving His Forgiveness involves: Walking in the light, having fellowship with the brethren, Understanding we are all sinners, Confessing our sins to Him continually

**Walk in the light instead of darkness – War Is Over – Isaiah 9:2 Those who walked in the dark have seen a bright light. And it shines upon everyone who lives in the land of darkest shadows.**

Many of us can remember that moment of turning from darkness to the light. In our sinfulness the darkness was normal, and we accepted it as a part of our lives.

However, because our hearts were ready—the light wasn't a piercing pain in our spiritual eyes—rather it was a warm and welcoming light of hope.

**Walking in the Light - To walk in the light is to have a daily commitment to living out a righteous life.**

- Those who are ***compelled to walk in the light*** resist fellowship with the darkness
- Of the devil, the world, or the flesh.
- **Walking** in the light renews and refreshes us within –
- So that we are empowered to be a refreshment to those around us.

**Having fellowship with the brethren – Unity in the body - Ephesians 4:3 Try your best to let God's Spirit keep your hearts united. Do this by living at peace.**

- **To build unity** is one of the Holy Spirit's important roles.
- He leads, but ***we must be willing to be led*** and ***to do our part*** to keep the peace.
- **We do that by focusing on God, NOT on ourselves.**

**Understanding we are all sinners - Romans 3:23-24 - All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. 24 But God treats us much better than we deserve, and because of Christ Jesus, he freely accepts us and sets us free from our sins.**

- **All sin** makes us sinners, and all ***sin cuts us off from God***.
- **Sin Separates**, but they all can be forgiven if we repent and turn to Jesus.

**Confessing our sins to Him continually - 1 John 1:9 But if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.**

- Confession ***frees us to enjoy*** fellowship with Christ.
- It should ***ease our conscience, take away our shame, and lighten our burden of guilt***

**Forgiveness brings true joy.**

- **ONLY** when we ask God to forgive our sins will he give us real happiness and relief from guilt.

**CLOSE:**

**If you struggle with remorse from past sins, ask God to surround your heart and mind with his love and to protect you from negative and destructive thoughts.**

**The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin....**