

When Forgiveness Isn't Enough



# Forgiveness IS Enough

- We often find ourselves as children cowering feeling guilt, needing to reach a level of spiritual maturity that allows us to know forgiveness
- Need reassuring feedback to believe and feel it
  - Matt. 9:2, 6 - “Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you... 6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” -- then He said to the paralytic, Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”

# Forgiveness IS Enough

- Must be acquired by faith by knowing God's will and believing His promises
  - Rom. 4:4-8 - "Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. 5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, 6 just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: 7 Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin."

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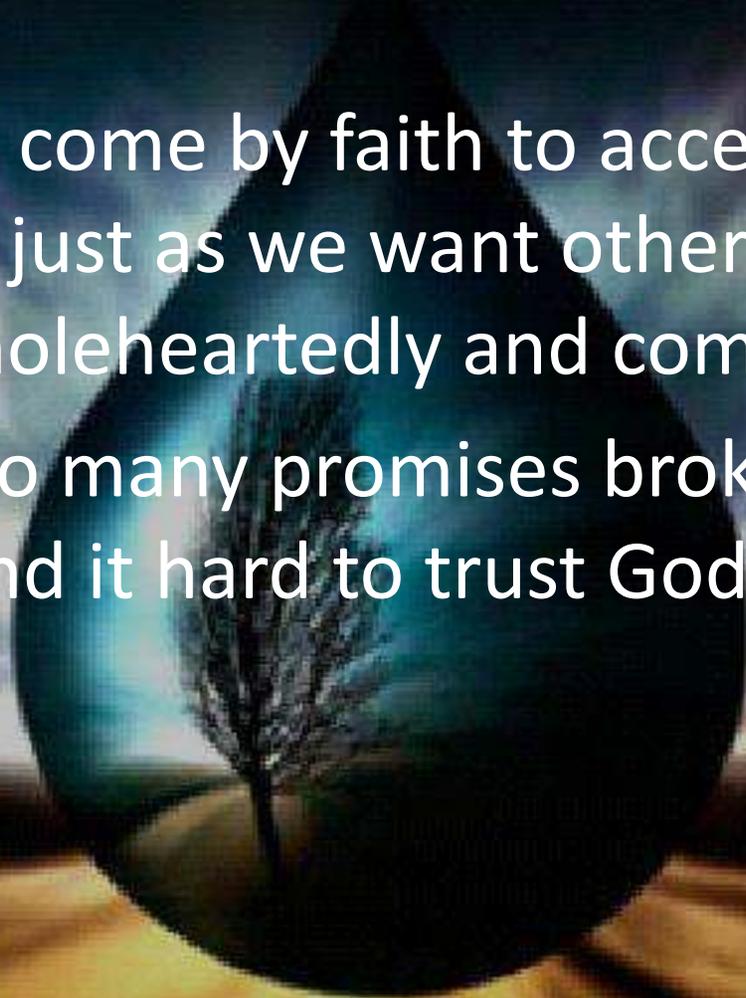
- Even people who are good in our estimation do not merit forgiveness; no one does. We need to understand and believe in grace, make it personal, own it
- It will never be earned, but is given freely when we do our utmost to follow God's will.

# Forgiveness IS Enough

- We need to know in our hearts that God loves each of us so much that He sent His Son to die, even knowing ahead of time the sins we would commit, and knowing that most would reject His grace
  - 1John 4:9-10 - “In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

# Forgiveness IS Enough

- We need to come by faith to accept God's forgiveness just as we want others to accept it by faith; wholeheartedly and completely.
- Some had so many promises broken by others that they find it hard to trust God's promises.



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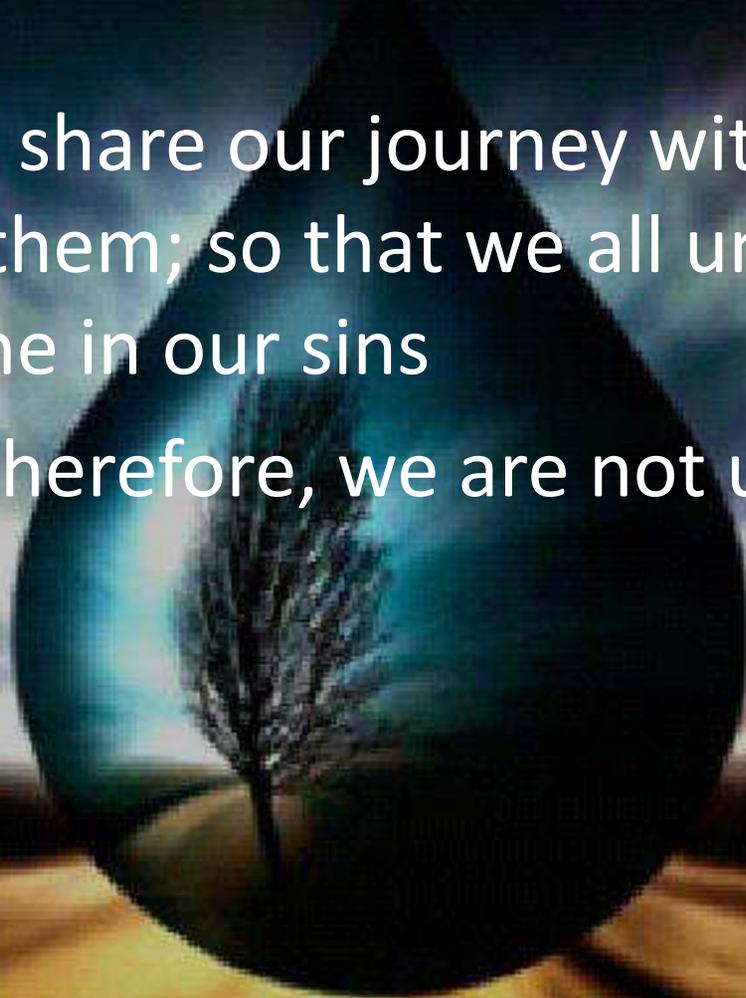
- We need to believe God when He says He forgets our sins.
  - Heb. 8:12 - “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”
  - Isa. 43:25 - “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.”

# Forgiveness IS Enough

- We need to realize that God does not want us to live in fear, but wants us to have a confident mind free of debilitating fear
  - 2Tim. 1:7 - “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”
  - Rom. 8:15 - “For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, Abba, Father.”

# Forgiveness IS Enough

- We need to share our journey with others to encourage them; so that we all understand we are not alone in our sins
- We all sin; therefore, we are not uniquely sinful.



# Forgiveness IS Enough

- God's completely altruistic love desires:
  - The wellbeing of the one loved
  - Rom. 5:8-11 - "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation."
  - Rom. 8:32 - "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

# Forgiveness IS Enough

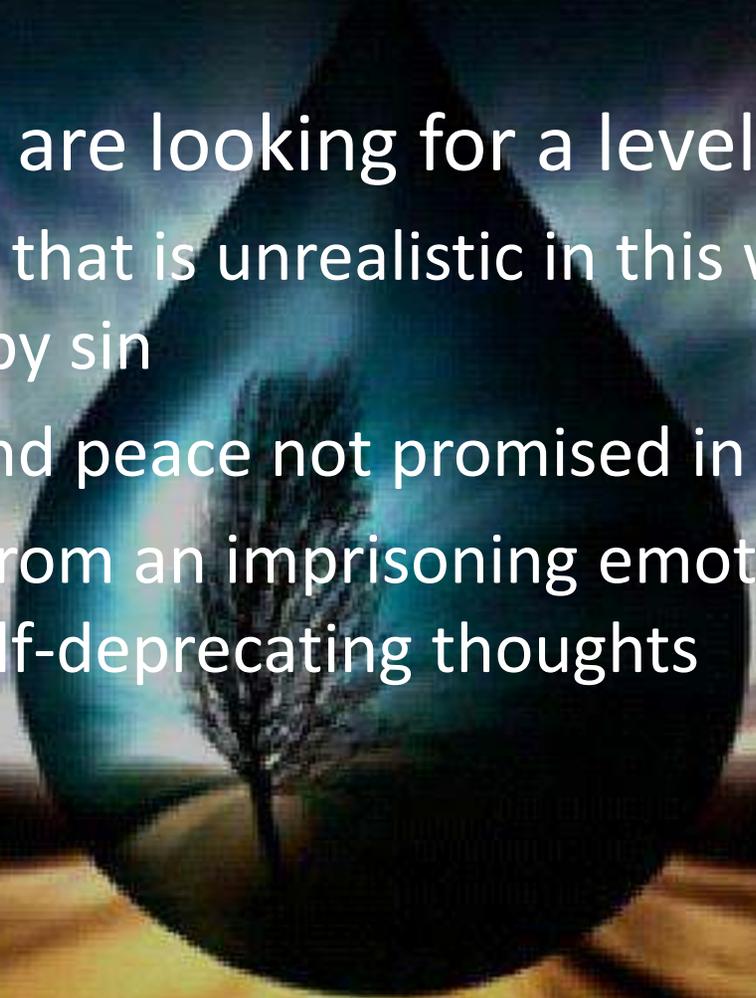
- God's completely altruistic love desires:
  - That the one loved grow up to love
  - 1John 3:16 - "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."
  - 1John 4:7, 17 - "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God... 17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world."

# Forgiveness IS Enough

- God is the source of love; there was no one before Him to teach Him to love.
- You cannot truly love another until you have experienced love.
- The fact that God is allowing you this time while He loves you unconditionally is evidence that He believes you have this capacity; He believes in you and your capacity for health and goodness.
- Therefore, He must see something in you to love; you must come to trust what God sees and loves in you.

# So Why Isn't Forgiveness Enough For Some?

- Perhaps we are looking for a level of:
  - Happiness that is unrealistic in this world damaged by sin
  - Security and peace not promised in this life
  - Freedom from an imprisoning emotional health cycle of self-deprecating thoughts



# So Why Isn't Forgiveness Enough For Some?

- In all likelihood, what we need is stronger faith in and a determined embrace of the blessing of grace
  - Rom. 5:20-21 - "... But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

# So Why Isn't Forgiveness Enough For Some?

- Often forgiven people don't feel forgiven, or soon fall back into feelings of guilt and uncleanness
  - Men who teach us that we are unworthy misguidedly present only partial truth
  - It is true that we cannot earn salvation by our own good works or personal goodness; we do not deserve forgiveness and grace
  - It is also and irrevocably true that because God loves us, He imputes worthiness to us through His Son.

# So Why Isn't Forgiveness Enough For Some?

- If God loves us enough to bestow grace and worth on us, who are we to call ourselves unclean and unworthy
  - Acts 10:11-15 - "...and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. 12 In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. 13 And a voice came to him, Rise, Peter; kill and eat. 14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean. 15 And a voice spoke to him again the second time, What God has cleansed you must not call common."

# So Why Isn't Forgiveness Enough For Some?

- If God loves us enough to bestow grace and worth on us, who are we to call ourselves unclean and unworthy
  - Rom. 4:20-25 - “He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. 22 And therefore it was accounted to him for righteousness. 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, 24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.”

# So Why Isn't Forgiveness Enough For Some?

- We are permitted to wonder at this; we can praise God for it; we can express surprise over how foreign it seems to our reasoning and experience
- But to grasp, for whatever reason, on our own vision of our personal evil and unworthiness to the point that forgiveness isn't enough for us, implies terrible things about God:
  - He doesn't have enough power to cleanse us from our sins
  - He lied about removing our sins
  - He was mistaken about us; we are the one exception among all people everywhere that confounds and confuses the Almighty

# So Why Isn't Forgiveness Enough For Some?

- God wants to forgive you of everything from your outside all the way to the core of your being. He has the means and power to do so
  - Heb. 7:25 - “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”
  - Psalm 103:12 - “As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

# So Why Isn't Forgiveness Enough For Some?

- When He forgives you, He imputes the condition of cleanliness and worthiness to you motivated by how much He loves you
- It is another of the great paradoxes of truth that we must accept these facts:
  - That we must accept by faith that in spite of our own unworthiness, God can make us worthy
  - That God's grace is more than enough to overcome our sin

## **Grace Greater Than Our Sin**

**Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,  
There where the blood of the Lamb was shed.**

**Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
Freely bestowed on all who believe!  
You that are longing to see His face,  
Will you this moment His grace receive?**

**Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that is greater than all our sin.**

## Eph. 3:14-21

- “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”