

Lesson Six: What Happens When We Believe We Are Fully Forgiven?

Faith in our full forgiveness unlocks our hearts

What Happens When We Believe We Are Fully Forgiven? (Continued)

Note: Numerous references are made in this section to passages within 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. You may wish to turn to this scripture to read these references in context.

1. Faith in our full forgiveness unlocks our hearts

a. Believe that you have received it and you cannot help but act on it!

i. Believe it and then you will act on it: Luke 7:47-50: *Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. ⁴⁸And he said unto her, **Thy sins are forgiven.** ⁴⁹And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? ⁵⁰And he said to the woman, **Thy faith hath saved thee;** go in peace.*

ii. God guarantees it!: John 14:23: *Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words:*

b. We no longer live for ourselves (Perform works with the motivation of gaining something for ourselves – glory, forgiveness, salvation, ...)

i. Our mind is set upon things of God: Romans 8:5: *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*

ii. We are zealous of good works: Titus 2:14 *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

iii. Because it is “not of ourselves” we have no need to work for ourselves. Instead we can perform truly good works (voluntary works which gain us nothing – because we already have it all!): Ephesians 2:8-10: *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

c. Our entire being is transformed

i. We change into a “New creature”: 2 Corinthians 5:17: *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

ii. **God works in us: Philippians 2:13:** *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure*

iii. **We change into a “habitation of God” – a holy temple built on the foundation of THE Apostles and Prophets: Ephesians 2:19-22:** *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; ²⁰And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; ²¹In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: ²²In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. **1 Corinthians 3:16:** *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?**

2. Recognition of God’s undeserved mercy not only transforms us but also compels us ...

a. to share our belief

i. **Compelled by Love for the one who paid our debt: 2 Corinthians 5:14:** *For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:*

ii. **Compelled by Love to share the message of reconciliation (full forgiveness): 2 Corinthians 5:20:** *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.*

b. to share the mercy and forgiveness God showered on us – as he has commanded

i. **Forgive others as Christ forgave us – because we were forgiven first: Ephesians 4:32:** *Be kind and compassionate to one another, **forgiving** each other, just as in Christ God **forgave** you. Colossians 3:13:* *Forbearing one another, and **forgiving** one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ **forgave** you, so also do ye.*

ii. **Show mercy to those who don’t deserve it: Luke 6:35-36:** *... for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. ³⁶Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.*

c. to be obedient – not because we have to but because we want to

i. **God’s mercy compels us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices: Romans 12:1-2:** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ²And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

ii. **God’s love for us compel us to love him back 1 John 4:19:** *We love him, because he first loved us.*

d. to give God all honor, glory and praise

i. **Because God did it all!: Revelation 1:5-6:** *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, ⁶And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

3. Examples

a. David's "Life after Forgiveness"

- i. **The rest of David's life shows he lived for God and shows God always delivered him. He remained a faithful servant through many trials, living his life for God and no longer for himself. 2nd Samuel chapter 22 records a song of praise written by David for God. Clearly David was loved and protected by God.: 2**

Samuel 22:20: He brought me forth also into a large place: he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

b. Paul

- i. **The Apostle Paul drew strength from the fact that he did not deserve the forgiveness he had received. He responded to God's undeserved mercy (Grace) with thankfulness by laboring to be God's faithful servant: 1 Corinthians 15:9-10:**

For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

c. Contrast Peter and Judas

- i. **Judas did not believe God could ever forgive him and even though he regretted his actions; his despair and guilt led him to take his own life.: Matthew 27:3-5:**

Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. ⁵And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

- ii. **Peter knew he was undeserving of forgiveness but he believed Jesus had forgiven him; a message Peter preached to others: Luke 22:61-62:**

*The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." ⁶² And he went outside and wept bitterly. **1 Peter 2:24:** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.*

- iii. **... and that led him to live a life feeding His sheep knowing it would lead to a martyr's death!: John 21:17-19:** ... And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. ¹⁹ This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

- iv. **He even boldly witnessed before Annas , Caiaphas and the Sanhedren – the same assembly from whom he had hid himself by denying Jesus. See Acts Chapter 4**