

# HOW TO WALK IN LOVE

## God Is Forgiving

### I. God is forgiving

- A. Psalm 99:8-He is a God that forgives, He is a forgiving God
  - 1. *KJ-**Thou answeredst them, O LORD our God: thou wast a God that forgavest them***
  - 2. *AMP-**You were a forgiving God to them***
  - 3. *Psalm 86:5 MSG-**You are well known as good and forgiving***
  - 4. *Isaiah 55:7 NLV-**Let him turn to our God, for He will for sure forgive all his sins***
- B. Psalm 85:2-He is a God who forgives people's faults, puts their sin far out of sight, carries it off and doesn't hold onto it – Think about that
  - 1. Definitions
    - a. **Forgiven**-To take away, to carry off
    - b. **Covered**-Hide, conceal (That means he's not looking at, holding onto it, paying attention to it)
    - c. **Iniquity**-Perversity, fault
  - 2. Translations
    - a. *KJ-**Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah.***
    - b. *CEB-**You've forgiven your people's wrong doing***
    - c. *MSG-**You put their sins far out of sight***
    - d. *AMP-**You have forgiven & taken away the iniquities of your people, You have covered all their sin. Selah [pause, & calmly realize what that means]***
  - 3. *Psalm 86:5-AMP-**For You, Lord, are good, & ready to forgive [our trespasses, sending them away, letting them go completely & forever]***
  - 4. *Psalm 103:3-VOICE-**Despite all your many offenses, He forgives and releases you***
  - 5. This is what God does with sin-Micah 7:18-God doesn't hold onto your mistakes
    - a. *ASV-**Who is a God like unto thee, that pardons iniquity and passes over the transgression...He will again have compassion upon us; he will tread our iniquities under foot; and you will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea***
      - 1) Passing over and casting into the depths of the sea is the opposite of harping on it and holding onto it
    - b. *BBE-**Who is a God like you, offering forgiveness for evil doing and overlooking the sins of the rest of his heritage...He will again have pity on us; he will put our sins under his feet: and you will send all our sins down into the heart of the sea***
      - 1) Overlooking and sending away is demonstrating a separation
      - 2) *CEB-**You will hurl all our sins into the depths of the sea***

- c. *MSG-Where is the God who can compare with you – **wiping the slate clean** of guilt, **turning a blind eye, a deaf ear**, to the past sins of your purged precious people? You don't **nurse** your anger and **don't stay angry** long, for mercy is your specialty. That's what you love the most.*
- 1) With God there's no marks against you because the slate is clean
  - 2) *NCV-You **don't look at the sins** of your people...You will not stay angry forever because you enjoy being kind.*
  - 3) *NIRV-Once again you will show loving concern for us. You will **completely wipe out** the evil things we've done. You will throw all of our sins into the bottom of the sea.*
- d. **God is making an on purpose effort to not harp on and hold onto the wrong you've done; He is overlooking and passing over and wiping the slate clean and completely wiping out and turning a blind eye and a deaf ear and not looking at your sins, and not nursing his anger and hurling your faults into the sea and sending them away**
- C. Daniel 9:9-Forgiveness belongs to God (*KJ-To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against him*)
1. *JUB-Of the Lord our God is **the ability to have mercy & to forgive** – The ability to have mercy and to forgive is of God; He has that ability*
  2. *GNV-Compassion and forgiveness is **in the Lord our God** – Forgiveness is in God*
  3. *DARBY-**With the Lord our God** are mercies and pardons – Forgiveness is with God*
    - a. *Psalm 130:4-There is forgiveness with the Lord*
- D. Psalm 103:3-God will forgive anything and everything (*KJ-Who forgives ALL your iniquities*)
1. The first benefit mentioned is God forgiving all your iniquities – This is a big benefit to have nothing between you and Him
  2. *AMP-Who forgives **[every one of]** all your iniquities*
  3. *CJB-He forgives **all** your offenses*
  4. *MSG-He forgives your sins – **every one***
  5. *Isaiah 55:7 BBE-Let the sinner give up his way, and the evil-doer his purpose: and let him come back to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him; and to our God, for **there is full forgiveness with him***
- E. Isaiah 55:7-God abundantly pardons; God is a big time forgiver; God is not tight when it comes to forgiveness; He lavishes it upon people
1. *KJ-Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly **pardon**-to forgive (Abundantly pardon-Greatly forgive)*
  2. *CEB-So that he may have mercy on them, to our God, because **He is generous with forgiveness***
  3. *MSG-Let them come back to God, who is merciful, come back to our God, **who is lavish (over the top, extravagant) with forgiveness***

4. *NLT-Yes, turn to our God, for he will **forgive generously***
  5. *VOICE-God will excuse our past wrongs. **Our God's forgiveness is inexhaustible***
- F. Psalm 32:5-God instantly forgives, He is quick to forgive
1. *KJ-I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.*
  2. *AMP-You instantly forgave me*
  3. *MSG-Then I let it all out: I said, "I'll make a clean breast of my failures to God. **Suddenly** the pressure was gone – my guilt dissolved, my sin disappeared*
  4. *Isaiah 55:7 GNT-Let them turn to the Lord, our God; he is merciful and **quick to forgive***
- G. Psalm 86:5-God is ready to forgive, plenteous in mercy
1. One of the goodest things about God is that he's ready to forgive; He instantly forgives because He's ready to forgive
    - a. *KJ-For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee*
    - b. *NLT-O Lord, you are so good, **so ready to forgive**. So full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help*
    - c. *TLB-You are so good and kind, **so ready to forgive**, so full of mercy for all who ask for your aid*
  2. **Read To Forgive**-Forgiving, ready to forgive
    - a. *Isaiah 55:7-GNV-He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he is **very ready to forgive***
- H. Micah 7:18-God delights in mercy, He desires to forgive, he takes pleasure in it and is pleased to do it
1. This verse reveals to us that forgiving is a mercy act and therefore if God delights in mercy, then he delights in forgiving
    - a. *KJ-Who is a God like unto you, that pardons iniquity, and passes by the transgression of the remanant of his heritage? He retains not his anger forever, **because** he delights in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and you will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea*
    - b. Not holding onto is a mercy act and that's why God doesn't hold onto and retain your wrongs because he likes mercy better
  2. God delights in mercy (**Delight**-Take pleasure in, desire, be pleased to do)
    - a. *MSG-For mercy is your specialty. That's what you love the most.*
    - b. *GW-You will not be angry forever, because you would rather show mercy*
    - c. *TLB-You cannot stay angry with your people, for you love to be merciful*
    - d. *GNV-Mercy pleases Him*
    - e. *CJB-He delights in grace*
    - f. *NCV-You enjoy being kind*

- g. *GNT-You take pleasure in showing us your constant love*
  - h. *NLV-He does not stay angry forever because he is happy to show loving-kindness*
  - i. *CEV-You are glad to have pity and pleased to be merciful*
3. It's God's will to forgive-Psalm 86:5-CEV-You willingly forgive
  4. Most people don't delight in mercy, instead there is attitude is, "Ugh I got to forgive."
- I. Exodus 34:7-When the Lord proclaimed his own name to Moses, the Lord chose to tell this about Himself, "forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin," and therefore this must be a huge part of who he is; He could have said a lot of things, but one of the things the Lord chose to say about Himself was forgiving
1. Numbers 14:18-Moses is trying to get God to forgive these people and he said remember God, you said you are forgiving

## II. God's forgiving ability on display

### A. Ahab

1. 1 Kings 16:30-33
  - a. 30-Up until this point he was more evil than anyone that came before him
  - b. 31-He married Jezebel and worshipped Baal and built an altar to Baal in the house of Baal that he built
  - c. 33-He did more to provoke the Lord to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him
2. 1 Kings 21:25-29
  - a. 25-There was none like him-He took wickedness to new heights
  - b. 26-He followed idols like the Amorites
  - c. 27-Word came from the man of God that judgment was coming and when he got light he repented
  - d. 27-A lot of us would have said he's too evil, he needs to go to hell, and never have forgiven him
  - e. 29-The evil came in his son's days because he was worse than Ahab was

### B. Manasseh-2 Chronicles 33:1-13

1. 2-He lived like the heathen
2. 3-He built altars to Balaam in the House of the Lord and worshipped them and served them
3. 6-He burned his children as an offering to his god
4. 6-He practice witchcraft
5. 6-He did MUCH evil in the sight of the Lord and provoked the Lord to anger
6. 9-He made the people do worse than the heathen
7. 2 Kings 21:16-He shed innocent blood very much until he filled Jerusalem from one end to the other; he's killing innocent people

8. 12-13-Inspite of all this the Lord forgave him when he repented and the Lord put him back in his kingdom and restored him

### III. God is like this, but what about us? Should we be like this? Can we be like this?

- A. We are supposed to imitate God-Ephesians 4:32-5:1
  1. He tells us to forgive the same way God has forgiven us and then says be an imitator of God (referring to forgiveness)
    - a. Be an imitator of God obviously means in everyway, but this verse is pinpointing that we need imitate God in how He forgives
    - b. Ephesians 5:1-This tells us to be like God and that means we need to be forgiving like he forgives
  2. And walk in love – The next thing he told you to do AFTER he told you to forgive is to walk in love and that’s because the walk of love begins with loves first act, which is to forgive; You can’t walk in love if you don’t first forgive
- B. \*\*\*We should be striving to be the forgivingest bunch of people on the Earth, that hold nothing against anybody\*\*\*
  1. That doesn’t mean that we don’t have standards and accountability, it just means hey we don’t have anything against you
    - a. Exodus 34:7-God never lets the guilty go unpunished so there are standards and accountability
  2. Psalm 130:4-If there is forgiveness with the Lord and we are to imitate him, there should be forgiveness with us
- C. \*\*\*Begin to cultivate the desire to forgive\*\*\*
  1. Matthew 5:6-If you don’t get hungry for this you’ll never develop in it
    - a. There is a life available to the believer where the sun can rise and they can roll out of bed and start their day and not have anything against anybody; And you don’t know what living is until you live not having anything against anybody
    - b. I want that life, I want to forgive like God forgives and be forgiving like He is
  2. If you don’t pursuit this you’ll never develop in it
    - a. 1 Timothy 6:11-Follow after-To seek after eagerly, earnestly endeavor to acquire
    - b. 1 Corinthians 14:1-You can’t “follow after” love without “following after” forgiveness
  3. Get excited about the results a forgive gets
    - a. Mark 11:24-25-Enhanced prayer life
    - b. 2 Corinthians 2:10-11-No advantage for Satan
    - c. Galatians 5:6-Working faith