

God's Forgiving Heart

Gods covenant (His loving kindness) is intended to lead us to repentance.

Feb 11, 2018



1). God is a Promise Keeper

Deuteronomy 7:6-9 (NIV)

- Text is Gods instructions to Israel prior to entering into the land promised to them (occupied by 7 stronger nations)

6 For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

*7 The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; **he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.***

- God called Israel holy, even before their behavior was holy (God sees your potential & future)
- You are never outnumbered with God (no prerequisite)
- God was preparing the Israelites to **sustain** their victory/blessing

2). God's Promise & our Commitment

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

- Gods response to Solomons prayer/temple dedication
- Gods guarantee

*14 if my people, who are called by my name, will **humble** themselves and **pray and seek my face** and **turn** from their wicked ways, then I will **hear** from heaven, and I will **forgive** their sin and will **heal** their land.*

Contract	Covenant
Based on Distrust	Giving of Oneself
Terms & Conditions	Promise
Broken when 1 of the parties fails	Repentance & Forgiveness

Believer	God
Humble	Hear
Pray & Seek	Forgive
Turn	Heal

- Fire came down/Glory of God filled the temple/People responded in bowing & worship
- My people - Disciples deny themselves and follow Christ
- God hears your prayers
- Turn (*shuwb*): To turn back, return
- We must turn our heart & our lives to God
- Church is called to be active and not reactive!

Jeremiah 31:33-34 (NIV)

33

“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord.

“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God, and they will be my people.

34

No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord.

“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

- Gods expressed will (old covenant) was written on stone
- Better covenant was through Jesus Christ
- New covenant brings transformation from the inside out
- Now we have 1 on 1 connection with God
- Through the blood of Jesus Christ, our sin has been dealt with and sent away
- God truly forgives & forgets
- Knowing that we are forgiven is the foundation for our Christian lifestyle
- Your past has been dismissed - leave your past in the past!

3). Repentance Leads to Restoration

Matthew 4:17 (NIV)

17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

- Repent (metanoēō) - to change ones mind, to think differently

Luke 15:11-24 (NIV)

- Jesus was conversing with the Pharisees & Scribes while publicans & sinners listened (Luke 15:1)

11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

*17 “**When he came to his senses**, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! **18 I will set out and go back**. to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. **19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.**’ **20** So he got up and went to his father.*

*“But while he was still a long way off, **his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.***

21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

- With each decision comes blessings or consequences
- Sin (hamartano): Miss the mark, violate God’s law
- We initiate, He responds
- Repentance is a radical change of Direction, Priorities, and our Internal Thought Processes
- God pursues us relentlessly
- God is quick to forgive
- The angels rejoice when a sinner repents

Galatians 6:1 (NIV)

6 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.

- Restore (katartizo): to mend (what has been broken), to strengthen, perfect or complete
- We are called to restore those that repent

“Repentance gives us the power to triumph over the very thing that tripped us up” - Dave Hess (Hope Beyond Disappointment)

Call To Action - God will hear you, forgive you & heal you

- Course correct - use GPS (Gods provisioning system)
- As believers we need to forgive and restore others
- Pray for repentance & prodigals to return home
- God can heal the deepest wounds/scars