

# *Is God Also Willing to Forgive my Sins?*

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## **I. Fundamental truth: God is ready to forgive—It is His delight to forgive sins**

**Psalm 86:4-5** Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. <sup>5</sup> For thou, Lord, art good, **and ready to forgive**; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

## **II. The Scriptural Confirmation that God is a God who is ready to forgive:**

### **1. God accepts Abel's sacrifice**

**Hebrews 11:4** By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, **by which he obtained witness that he was righteous**, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

### **2. Gods Self-revelation in Exodus 34:**

**Exodus 33:18-19** And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. <sup>19</sup> And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

**Exodus 34:6-7** And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, <sup>7</sup> Keeping mercy for thousands, **forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin**, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

### **3. The institution of the Morning & Evening Sacrifice:**

**Exodus 29:38, 45** Now this is that which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually. . . . And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God.

**Numbers 14:17-20** And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying, <sup>18</sup> The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation. <sup>19</sup> Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, **and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.** <sup>20</sup> And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word:

### **4. The testimony of Leviticus and the ceremonial law:**

**Leviticus 4:20** And he shall do with the bullock as he did with the bullock for a sin offering, so shall he do with this: and the priest shall make an atonement for them, **and it shall be forgiven them.**

### **5. The testimony of the Psalms:**

**Psalm 32:1-2** Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. <sup>2</sup> Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

**Psalm 65:3** Iniquities prevail against me: as for our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away.

**Psalm 85:2** Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah.

**Psalm 86:5** For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

**Psalm 99:8** Thou wast a God that forgavest them.

**Psalm 103:12** As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

**Psalm 130:3-4** If thou, LORD, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? <sup>4</sup> But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.

6. *The Testimony of the Prophets*

**Isaiah 1:18** Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: **though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.**

**Isaiah 43:24-25** Thou hast made me to serve with thy sins, thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities. <sup>25</sup> **I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.**

**Isaiah 55:7** 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.**

**Jeremiah 33:6-8** Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them. . . . **and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.**

7. *The astonishment expressed by the prophet Micah:*

**Micah 7:18-19** Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. <sup>19</sup> He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

8. *The testimony of the Song of Zachariah:*

**Luke 1:76-78** And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; <sup>77</sup> To give knowledge of salvation unto his people **by the remission of their sins,** <sup>78</sup> Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,

9. *The Lord Jesus Christ: The God who is ready to forgive, appearing in the flesh*

**Matthew 9:2-6** And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; **thy sins be forgiven thee.** . . . <sup>6</sup> But that ye may know that **the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins,** (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

**Luke 7:47-48** 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. <sup>48</sup> And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

10. *The parable of the unmerciful servant—70 x 7*

**Matthew 18:27** Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, **and forgave him the debt.**

11. *The Parable of (the prodigal son) the forgiving Father—A portrait of a God who is ready to forgive*

**Luke 15:20-23** And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: <sup>23</sup> And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

12. *The rent veil: The act of a God who is ready to forgive*

**Hebrews 9:22** And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

**Matthew 26:28** For this is my blood of the new testament, **which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**

**Matthew 27:50-51** Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. <sup>51</sup> And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

13. *Christ's commission to His Church—Luke 24*

**Luke 24:47** And that repentance **and remission of sins** should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

#### ***14. The testimony of the apostles:***

**Acts 2:38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

**Acts 5:30-31** The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. <sup>31</sup> Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, **and forgiveness of sins.**

**Acts 10:42-43** And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. <sup>43</sup> To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name **whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.**

**Acts 13:38** Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you **the forgiveness of sins:**

**Acts 26:17-18** Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, <sup>18</sup> To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, **that they may receive forgiveness of sins,** and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

**Ephesians 1:7** In whom we have redemption through his blood, **the forgiveness of sins,** according to the riches of his grace;

**Colossians 1:13-14** Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: <sup>14</sup> In whom we have redemption through his blood, **even the forgiveness of sins:**

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to **forgive us our sins,** and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

#### ***15. The testimony of the creeds***

- **Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 31**

*Question 84:* How is the kingdom of heaven opened and shut by the preaching of the holy gospel?

*Answer:* Thus: when according to the command of Christ, it is declared and publicly testified to all and every believer, that, whenever they receive the promise of the gospel by a true faith, all their sins are really forgiven them of God, for the sake of Christ's merits.

- **Belgic Confession, Article 23: Wherein Our Justification Before God Consists**

We believe that our salvation consists in the remission of our sins for Jesus Christ's sake, and that therein our righteousness before God is implied; as David and Paul teach us, declaring this to be the happiness of man, that God imputes righteousness to him without works. And the same apostle saith, *that we are justified freely by His grace, through the redemption which is in Jesus Christ.*

- **Canons of Dort, Head II, Article 5:** Moreover, the promise of the gospel is, that whosoever believeth in Christ crucified, shall not perish, but have everlasting life. This promise, together with the command to repent and believe, ought to be declared and published to all nations, a and to all persons promiscuously and without distinction, to whom God out of His good pleasure sends the gospel.

### **III. The promise of the forgiveness of sins: the cornerstone of the gospel!**

#### **VI. God's sacred commission to His servants:**

**Isaiah 40:1-2** Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, **that her iniquity is pardoned:** for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

#### **V. The wondrous invitation of a God who is ready to forgive:**

**Matthew 11:28** Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, **and I will give you rest.**

**Revelation 22:17** And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.