

# DAY 13 — FORGIVEN

Make Room for God's Heart  
30 Days of Repentance + Heart Preparation

## **Devotional: Receiving What We Could Never Earn**

**Scripture:** Colossians 2:13-14 | Ephesians 1:7-8 | Isaiah 1:16-18 | Psalm 130:1-4

There is something profoundly humbling about forgiveness.

We often understand the need for it long before we learn how to receive it.

We recognize our failures. We acknowledge where we've fallen short. We repent, turn away from what was wrong, and seek to make things right. Yet sometimes, even after bringing those things before God, we continue carrying the weight of them.

Almost as though forgiveness cannot truly belong to us until we've suffered enough to deserve it.

But Scripture tells a different story.

In Colossians 2, Paul describes something extraordinary. God did not wait for us to become spiritually alive before offering forgiveness. While we were dead in our sins, He made us alive with Christ.

The debt that stood against us was not placed in our hands with instructions to work harder until we could repay it.

### **It was nailed to the cross.**

Ephesians tells us that forgiveness comes according to the riches of God's grace, grace that He lavished upon us.

Not reluctantly. Not sparingly. Not as though God were calculating the smallest amount of mercy He could afford to extend.

His grace flows from the abundance of who He is.

And yet, receiving forgiveness can be surprisingly difficult.

Sometimes we become so accustomed to measuring ourselves by our failures that we struggle to accept that God is no longer holding those sins against us.

We continue rehearsing what He has forgiven.

We confuse remembering our mistakes with remaining accountable for them.

But accountability and condemnation are not the same thing.

**Accountability invites us to acknowledge what happened, take responsibility, and live differently. Condemnation keeps us imprisoned in what has already been confessed and forgiven.**

Isaiah 1 reminds us that forgiveness does not eliminate the call to repentance. God instructs His people to stop doing wrong, learn to do right, seek justice, and defend the vulnerable.

Then comes His invitation to cleansing.

Even sins described as scarlet can become white as snow.

The invitation is not to pretend that sin was harmless. It is to recognize that God's mercy is greater than the stain it leaves behind.

And then we arrive at Psalm 130.

The psalmist cries out from the depths.

There is no attempt to disguise his desperation or present himself as more righteous than he is. He simply brings his need before God.

He recognizes that if the Lord kept a record of sins, no one could stand.

Yet forgiveness is found with God.

That is the turning point.

**The depths are not beyond God's reach.**

We do not have to climb out of our brokenness before calling upon Him. We do not have to find perfect words or manufacture an acceptable version of ourselves.

We can come honestly.

We can confess what is true.

We can receive what He freely offers.

And perhaps that is one of the most important things we can make room for during this season of prayer and fasting.

Not simply more awareness of what needs to change, but a deeper willingness to receive the grace that makes change possible.

Because sometimes we become so focused on repentance that we forget its purpose is not to keep us permanently bowed beneath our guilt.

Repentance turns us back toward God.

Forgiveness restores fellowship.

Grace teaches us how to walk forward.

And reverence grows when we recognize just how much mercy we have received.

**We do not honor the cross by continuing to carry a debt Christ has already paid. We honor Him by receiving His forgiveness and allowing His grace to transform how we live.**

## **Today's Reflection**

What would change if I treated forgiveness as something to receive, not something to earn?

Consider whether there are things you have confessed to God but continue to use against yourself.

Are you allowing those experiences to teach you, or are you allowing them to define you?

What would it look like to take responsibility for the past without remaining imprisoned by it?

And where might God be inviting you to stop striving to deserve His mercy and begin living in gratitude for having received it?

## **Today's Invitation**

Bring God the things you are still carrying.

Not to convince Him to forgive what He has already forgiven, but to surrender your struggle to receive that forgiveness.

Let repentance produce change.

Let grace restore hope.

And let forgiveness make room for a deeper relationship with the One who has never required you to purchase His mercy.

**You cannot earn what God has chosen to give through grace. But you can receive it, trust Him, and allow it to change you.**

This is a guide, not a schedule for God.