

## THE MERCY OF GOD

There is no *Need* so great,  
 no *Sin* so grievous and  
 no *Grief* so severe that  
 we cannot find *God's Mercy.*

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<sup>9</sup>He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: <sup>10</sup>“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus:

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‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’  
<sup>13</sup>But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying,

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‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’  
<sup>14</sup>I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” —**Luke 18:9-14** ESV

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If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.—**Psalm 66:18** NKJV

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<sup>7</sup>“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.”

—**Matthew 6:7-8** ESV

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<sup>23</sup>“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. <sup>24</sup>You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

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<sup>25</sup>“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup>You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. —Matthew 23:23-26 ESV

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“I know of no better thermometer to your spiritual temperature than this—the measure of the intensity of your prayer. I am not speaking about the quantity of it, for there are some who, for a pretense, make long prayers. I am speaking about the reality of it, the intensity of it.”

—C. H. Spurgeon

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God's Mercy is Essential

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Christianity is wholly based on mercy—God has withheld the judgment we deserve and in grace provides the salvation—and the justification we need.

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<sup>4</sup>But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

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<sup>6</sup>whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. —Titus 3:4-7 ESV

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...<sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. —Romans 3:22-23 ESV

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<sup>4</sup>Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed.

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<sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all...  
<sup>10</sup>Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for guilt,

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He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. <sup>11</sup>Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the righteous One, My Servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities.

—Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-11 ESV

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God's Mercy is Transformational

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“The objective and substitutionary character of the death of Christ as the supreme demonstration of God’s love should result in a transformation of conduct that is effected by the constraining power of that love.” —Eldon Ladd

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<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

—Romans 12:1-2 ESV

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For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

—Romans 12:3 ESV

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God’s Mercy is Available

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GOD’S MERCY IS AVAILABLE WHEN WE SIN

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!... <sup>17</sup>The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

—Psalm 51:1-2, 17 ESV

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GOD’S MERCY IS AVAILABLE IN OUR STRUGGLES

<sup>15</sup>For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

—Hebrews 4:15-16 ESV

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## GOD'S MERCY IS AVAILABLE IN OUR STRUGGLES

<sup>22</sup>The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; <sup>23</sup>they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup>"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in Him."

—Lamentations 3:22-24 ESV

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## GOD'S MERCY IS AVAILABLE IN OUR SERVICE

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart... <sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

—2 Corinthians 4:1, 7 ESV

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## GOD'S MERCY IS AVAILABLE FOR OUR SALVATION

<sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us... <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

—Ephesians 2:4, 8-9 ESV

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## GOD'S MERCY IS AVAILABLE FOR OUR SALVATION

"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

—Luke 18:14 ESV

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United States vs. George Wilson:  
Chief Justice John Marshall said,  
"A pardon is a paper, the value of which depends upon its acceptance by the person implicated. It is hardly to be supposed that one under sentence of death would refuse to accept a pardon, but if it is refused, it is no pardon."

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