

The Amazing, Remarkable, Unbelievable Wonder of Forgiveness

Psalm 103:2–5 (NIV84®)

² Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—

³ **who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,**

⁴ who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,

⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Matthew 9:4–8 (NIV84®)

⁴ Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? ⁵

Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk?' ⁶ But **so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....**" Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home."⁷ And the man got up and went home. ⁸

When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men.

I. How to Receive Forgiveness

Acknowledge Sin, Repent, Accept, Live a New Life

1 John 1:9–10 (NIV84®)

⁹ **If we confess our sins**, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

Proverbs 28:13 (NIV84®)

He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Acts 3:19 (NIV84®)

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

Psalm 32:5 (NIV84®)

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"— and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Acts 2:38–40 (NIV84®)

³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."⁴⁰ With



many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

The Prodigal

Luke 15:17–21 (NIV84®)

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men 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 men.'** 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.'"**

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge my sin to You. I choose to repent and walk a new path. Thank You for Your provision on my behalf. I boldly declare what Your word says about me: Through the blood of Jesus, I am redeemed out of the hand of the devil, I am justified — acquitted, forgiven, and declared not guilty; Through the blood of Jesus I am sanctified, set apart to God. My body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, Satan has no place in me, no power over me, through the blood of Jesus.

II. If God Has Forgiven Me?

Psalms 118:6–7 (NIV84®)

⁶ The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

⁷ The LORD is with me; he is my helper. I will look in triumph on my enemies.

A. Jesus bore my shame that I might share His glory.

Hebrews 12:2 (NIV®)

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Prayer

God, if there is shame in my heart or my life that hinders, I want to be free that I can be unashamed. I believe that Jesus bore my shame that I might share His glory.

B. Unhealthy Guilt/Destructive Guilt

Isaiah 53:10 (NIV84®)

Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though **the LORD makes his life a guilt offering**, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

Revelation 12:10 (NIV84®)

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For **the accuser of our brothers**, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

C. The Remedy for Guilt

Revelation 12:11 (NIV84®)

They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

Ephesians 1:7 (NIV84®)

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your great provision for my life. Open my heart and soul to what Jesus has done for me. Holy Spirit, grant me a revelation of my Lord and redeemer. I believe that through Jesus' sacrifice I have been redeemed out of an empty way of life, delivered from satanic bondage, and welcomed into the eternal kingdom of God. I rejoice today in my Lord and the great liberty He has brought to my life. In Jesus' name, amen.